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To the Members of Provost's Curriculum Diversity Grant Committee:

Dr. Mollie Godfrey (English) and Dr. Brian Flota (Libraries) were the recipients of a 2017-2018 Provost's Curriculum Diversity Grant, titled "African American Comic Books and Graphic Novels," valued at \$3,000. The money was transferred to JMU Libraries' Special Collections and was subsequently spent in full to purchase 210 comic books. Here is a list of the comic books that were purchased:

Action Comics 521 (1st Vixen)
All-New Collectors' Edition C-56 (Superman vs. Muhammad Ali)
The Amazing Spider-Man 51 (1st Robbie Robertson), 172 (1st Rocket Racer)
Batman 230 (Black Panther-style group on cover)
Bitch Planet 3-5
Black Lightning 1 (1st Black Lightning)
The Black Monday Murders 1, 2
Black Panther [1977] 1-7
Black Panther [2005] 1A, 1B, 2-20, 23-34, 36, 38, 40, 41
Black Panther [2016] 1, 2
Black Panther: World of Wakanda 1, 2
Captain America 117 (1st Falcon), 152, 182, 184, 186, 188, 189, 191
Captain America: Sam Wilson 2-5
Classics Illustrated 169 (Negro Americans: The Early Years)
Cyborg 1-4
The Falcon [1983] 1
Falcon [2017] 1
Fantastic Four 52 (1st Black Panther)
Gasolina 1
Giant Size Power Man 1
Golden Legacy Illustrated History Magazine 4 (Benjamin Banneker)
Gunhawks 1 (1st Reno Jones)
Harlem Globetrotters 8
Hero for Hire 1 (1st Luke Cage and Diamondback), 2 (1st Claire Temple), 3, 6
Iron Man 283
Jungle Action 7-10, 12 (Black Panther appearances), 21 (Black Panther; KKK issue)
Justice League of America 95 (1st Johnny Dune)
Luke Cage [2017] 1
Midnight Tales 1 (Created by Wayne Howard – first "Created by" credit in comics)
Mosaic 1, 2, 4
Power Man 18, 22, 23, 26, 28, 29, 31, 33, 34, 38, 39, 41-44, 47, 49, 51, 55, 57-63, 65, 67

Power Man and Iron Fist 68, 69, 72-75, 77, 79-101, 103-105, 107-112, 115, 116, 121, 122, 125
Steel 10, 11, 16
Superboy 216 (1st Tyroc)
Supergirl 9 (Nubia cameo)
Superman's Girlfriend Lois Lane 106 (Lois Lane becomes black for a day)
Super Soul Comix 1
Teen Titans 45 (1st Bumblebee)
Truth: Red, White & Black 1-7
Weird Fantasy 18 (Features anti-racist black astronaut story "Judgment Day")
Wonder Woman 202, 203 (Samuel Delany scripts), 204 (1st Nubia)
Xombi 1-5, 7-12, 14, 15

For complete list of our collection of African American comic books, look at the following link:
http://guides.lib.jmu.edu/ld.php?content_id=36737275

For more information about Comics and Graphic Novels in the Libraries, click on the following link:
<https://guides.lib.jmu.edu/comics>

These comic books supplemented Dr. Godfrey's Fall 2017 course ENG 359: African American Graphic Novels, in which 23 students were enrolled. Dr. Flota gave a guest lecture to the class on September 1, 2017, titled "A Brief History of Comic Books." Dr. Godfrey also invited Dr. Jonathan Gray (CUNY)—editor of the *Journal of Comics and Culture* and author of *Illustrating the Race: Representing Blackness in American Comics* (Columbia UP, forthcoming)—to give a talk for the Special Collections Speaker Series on October 20. The talk was attended by Dr. Godfrey's students along with approximately 75 other faculty and students, and gave Special Collections the opportunity to showcase several of their new acquisitions, many of which Dr. Gray discussed in his talk. Dr. Godfrey's class then met with Dr. Flota and Head of Special Collections Kate Morris for two "hand's on" sessions with the comic books in Carrier Library on November 8 and 10, 2017.

Based on Dr. Godfrey's students' subsequent work with the African American Comic Book Collection, they wrote final research papers on a topic of their choosing, in which they combined their research in Special Collections with independent research in existing comic book scholarship. Several secondary education minors wrote papers on how and why African American comic books should be used in a secondary education classroom to teach difficult topics such as race. A few students chose to explore representations of black male and/or female sexuality across a range of comic book series, versions, or publishers. Others investigated the politics behind the introduction or representation of certain characters, the impact of white or black creators and publishing houses, or the relationship of comic narratives to the advertisements or letters to the editor that accompany them. Dr. Godfrey invited the five most successful students to present their work at the 2018 MadRush Conference, one of which was selected to appear in the ["Proceedings of the Ninth Annual MadRush Conference: Best Papers, Spring 2018."](#) The African American Comic Book Collection helped JMU students access

rare materials, understand these materials' research value, and produce original research in a growing field of inquiry.