FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 8, 2020
Media Contact: Jessica Clark, jclarkw@gmu.edu

Mason Libraries receives grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities

FAIRFAX, VA: The George Mason University Libraries is the recipient of a grant in the amount of $334,720 from the NEH’s Humanities Collection and Reference Resources program for the “Preserving the Legacy of James M. Buchanan” project. The project’s purpose is to preserve and make accessible the extensive James M. Buchanan Papers – the largest and most significant holding in existence of unique, primary source material related to James M. Buchanan (1919-2013). The archive, held in the Libraries’ Special Collections Research Center (SCRC), chronicles the legacy of Professor Buchanan, esteemed economist and Mason faculty member. Buchanan is well-known for his development of public choice theory, for which he received the 1986 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences.

Of the award, NEH Chairman Jon Parrish Peede says, “NEH is pleased to support the processing of James M. Buchanan's papers, which will be accessible to scholars as a result of this project. In his lifetime, Buchanan received accolades including the Nobel Prize and the National Humanities Medal, and his work continues to have wide-reaching impact on American life.”

The work of the grant will take place over the next two years, with the Libraries’ communicating updates along the way. The project will produce a completely arranged and described collection, create a detailed finding aid, and provide internship opportunities for Mason graduate and undergraduate students.

John Zenelis, Dean of Libraries and University Librarian, remarks, “Preserving primary source materials such as the Buchanan Collection and providing access to them are key to the mission of SCRC and the Mason Libraries overall. We are pleased to receive the endorsement of our colleagues in Mason’s College of Humanities and Social Sciences for this project and the validation of the NEH on the importance of this work to the nation and beyond.”

“CHSS students have gained valuable experience from employment with the Libraries, and working with a collection of this significance opens up remarkable opportunities for them,” says Ann Ardis, Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. “CHSS looks forward to such a valuable and essential resource being available to future scholars.”

ABOUT THE GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES: An intellectual nexus for George Mason University, the Libraries fosters innovation, creativity, and imagination by facilitating access to scholarship and information, providing expert consultation in the research process, actively teaching the effective and critical use of information, and fulfilling a critical role in the creation, dissemination, and preservation of knowledge. The Special Collections Research Center (SCRC), within the University Libraries, acquires, documents, preserves, and provides access to primary research collections and documents; manages the archival records of the university; and creates audiovisual documentary resources through its Oral History program. Additional information about the Libraries may be found at library.gmu.edu and about SCRC at scrc.gmu.edu.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES: Created in 1965 as an independent federal agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities supports research and learning in history, literature, philosophy, and other areas of the humanities by funding selected, peer-reviewed proposals from around the nation. Additional information about the National Endowment for the Humanities and its grant programs is available at: www.neh.gov.