This rare, first edition book collection features culturally perceptive novels, historically significant biographies, iconic poetry, and famously critical essays from some of the most prominent black authors of our time. The collection of black literature spans midnineteenth century slave narratives, the artistic heights of the Harlem Renaissance, and 21st century essays on racism in the United States. Each book is astounding in both its timelessness and striking modern relevance.

The collection is being shared by broadcast journalist Alvin Patrick, a 1986 alumnus of Marist College and a member of the Board of Trustees. Patrick is a passionate book collector who appreciates the stories behind the books as much as those within the covers. The debates between authors like W.E.B. DuBois and Booker T. Washington, and inspirations between writers like Langston Hughes and Lorraine Hansberry are what allow these books to transcend their binding and create the African American Narrative.

Alvin Patrick '86 is a veteran of broadcast and cable television. Patrick is a Senior Producer for CBS where he produces high profile stories with CBS News Special Correspondent James Brown for 60 Minutes, CBS Evening News, Sunday Morning, CBS This Morning, and 48 Hours. In his impressive career, he has produced news, sports, and entertainment programming at ABC, CBS, ESPN, HBO, and MTV.

The collection includes:

Toussaint L'Overture: Biography and Autobiography (1863) Authors: John Relly Beard and Toussaint L'Overture Publisher: James Redpath

The Uncalled (1898) Author: Paul Laurence Dunbar Publisher: Dodd, Mead & Co

Poems of Cabin and Field (1899)

Author: Paul Laurence Dunbar Publisher: Dodd, Mead & Co

Up From Slavery (1901) Author: Booker T. Washington Publisher: Doubleday, Page & Co

Souls of Black Folk (1903)

Author: W.E.B. DuBois Publisher: A.C. McClurg & Co (second printing)

Twilight (1916)

Author: Frank Danby Publisher: Dodd Mead & Co

Black Manhattan (1930)

Author: James Weldon Johnson Publisher: Alfred A Knopf

St. Peter Relates an Incident (1935)

Author: James Weldon Johnson Publisher: The Viking Press

Grapes of Wrath (1939)

Author: John Steinbeck Publisher: The Viking Press

Native Son (1940)

Author: Richard Wright Publisher: Harper & Brothers

The Living is Easy (1948)

Author: Dorothy West Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Co

Annie Allen (1949)

Author: (signed by) Gwendolyn Brooks Publisher: Harper & Brothers

Nineteen Eighty-Four (1949)

Author: George Orwell Publisher: Secker & Warburg London

Montage of a Dream Deferred (1951)

Author: Langston Hughes Publisher: Henry Holt & Co

Invisible Man (1952)

Author: Ralph Ellison Publisher: Random House

The Theory of Economic Growth (1955)

Author: W. Arthur Lewis Publisher: Richard D. Irwin

History As You Heard It (1957)

Author: Lowell Thomas Publisher: Doubleday & Co

A Raisin in the Sun (1959)

Author: Lorraine Hansberry Publisher: Random House

To Kill a Mockingbird (1960)

Author: Harper Lee Publisher: J.B. Lippincott (14th printing)

The Autobiography of Malcolm X (1965)

Author: (inscribed to his landlords by) Alex Haley Publisher: Grove Press (second printing)

The Amen Corner (1968)

Author: James Baldwin Publisher: Dial Press

Talk About America (1968)

Author: Alistair Cooke Publisher: Alfred A Knopf

A Hard Road to Glory - 3 volumes (1988)

Author: (vol. 1 inscribed to Alvin Patrick by) Arthur Ashe Jr. Publisher: Warner Books

Race Matters (1993)

Author: (inscribed to Alvin Patrick by) Cornel West Publisher: Beacon Press (paperback, uncorrected proof)

The Little Friend (2002)

Author: (signed by) Donna Tartt Publisher: Alfred A Knopf (paperback, uncorrected proof)

Nancy Drew Books:

Author: Carolyn Keene Publisher: Grosset & Dunlap

The Secret of the Old Clock (1930) (1st volume in the series)

The Secret of Red Gate Farm (1931) (6th volume in the series)

The Secret of the Old Clock (1944) (21st volume in the series)