

Friends of the Library Lecture Series: Specialty Coffee Growth and Expansion | Libraries

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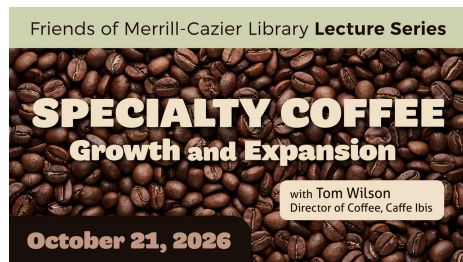
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Friends of Merrill-Cazier Libraries Lecture Series: Specialty Coffee Growth and Expansion

**Oct. 21, 2026 | 7-9 p.m. | 154
Classroom, Merrill-Cazier Library**

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Coffee is one of the largest traded agricultural commodities in the world, with a presence in the daily lives of people everywhere. Why is coffee so endeared the world over?

Drawing connections to themes explored in the Eating the Past exhibit in the library atrium, this lecture will examine coffee's remarkable journey through history and the stories that have shaped its place in society. As Caffè

Ibis celebrates its 50th anniversary this December, this is also an opportunity to explore the evolution of the modern specialty coffee movement and the continuing impact of coffee on our world.

About the Speaker

Tom Wilson

Tom has spent the past 16 years pursuing his passion for coffee at Caffè Ibis. Now serving as General Manager, and at the company's nearby roasting facility as Director of Coffee, Tom earned a Q Grader certification in 2025. His experience spans green coffee sourcing, roasting, and café service, disciplines he continues to refine and master.

Tom believes coffee has the power to change the world, and that the coffee industry continues to change and evolve as understanding of this remarkable agricultural product grows. The complexity, history, and potential of specialty coffee have made it a lifelong source of fascination and learning.