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Bookmark: The magazine of the UMass Amherst Libraries

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New England J U D G E D.

The Second Part.

BEING,

A Relation of the cruel and bloody Sufferings of the People called Quakers, in the Jurisdiction chiefly of the Massachusetts; Beginning with the Sufferings of William Ledra, whom they murdered, and hung upon a Tree at Boston, the 14th of the first month, 1669, barely for being such a one as is called a Quaker, and coming within their Jurisdiction; And ending with the Sufferings of Edward Wharton, the 3d month, 1665. And the remarkable Judgements of God in the Death of John Endicott Governour, John Norton, High Priest, and Humphry Adderton, Major General.

By George Bishop.
“If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need.”
—Marcus Tullius Cicero

The recently acquired New England Yearly Meeting collection provides source materials on:
• New England history
• Early American history
• Development of the abolitionist movement
• Evolution of women’s suffrage and feminism
• Roots of separation of church and state
• Pacifism
• Religious and mystical strains of America’s ideological makeup and its entrepreneurial spirit

UMass Amherst Libraries are on a mission to save students money by helping professors reimagine traditional course materials.

Wolf Whisperer Rick McIntyre ’71, has been running with the wolves of Yellowstone Park since 1994, helping to study the results of the reintroduction of the species to two million acres of publicly owned lands.
Creating a Transformative Space

EVERYONE WHO HAS ENDURED A MOVE OR A RENOVATION KNOWS IT CAN BE simultaneously cathartic and challenging. This was true in the case of renovating the former Horace Mann Bond Center for Equal Education into an expanded W. E. B. Du Bois Center on Floor 22 of the Du Bois Library. Cathartic in that the Library was repurposing a much-needed space that had been little used for years, and challenging in that we had a lean budget, a bold deadline, and mountains of paper and materials that needed sorting. The expansion made way for increased fellowships and outreach activities in the Center thanks to an Andrew W. Mellon grant awarded last year.

Much of the initial task of cleaning out the Bond Center fell to Professor emeritus and former chair of the W. E. B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies at UMass Amherst, John Bracey who, over the course of his career, oversaw and was involved in both the Bond and Du Bois Centers. While sorting through materials, Bracey uncovered several treasures, the grand prize being a photograph of Du Bois and Bond, with E. Franklin Frazier in the middle, and two of the Bond children, Julian and Jane. “I was thrilled to find this photo,” said Bracey, “as it makes a visual connection between Bond and Du Bois.”

The photo has been enlarged and now hangs in the Center. The expansion allowed for other Du Bois related items to come out of storage and be displayed including a collection of various medals and honors given to Dr. Du Bois, including the Springarn Medal awarded to Du Bois in 1920 by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) for outstanding achievement, and the original wooden sign from the Du Bois homesite in Great Barrington.

The filing cabinets lining the walls of the renovated Center house research materials related to desegregation in every state in the U.S. and around the world. The items were assembled by Meyer Weinberg, a civil rights activist and author who founded the Horace Mann Bond Center while a professor at UMass Amherst (1978-1990). Library student workers will catalogue and digitize them in the coming months. Weinberg’s own papers are held in Special Collections & University Archives.

Forward,
Dr. Whitney Battle-Baptiste
Director, W. E. B. Du Bois Center

ESSENTIALS: The Du Bois Center, Floor 22, W. E. B. Du Bois Library, is open to all, Monday through Friday, 10am - 2pm, and for special events, classes, and programs.

Carol Connare
Director of Development & Communication
UMass Amherst Libraries
“The Library is one of the best resources we have on campus, and I love being able to help by telling people about all the services we offer.”

—Emily Behn ’16, G’20, Library Ambassador

Library Ambassadors are library student employees who advocate on behalf of the Libraries. They give library tours and represent the Libraries at Admissions events and at other outreach opportunities.

Two Minutes to the Top

Tower Run is an annual student-sponsored event offering the opportunity to run the 440 steps of the Du Bois Library from the Lower Level to Floor 26. The top five runners received a library mug and all runners received a Tower Run t-shirt. Began in 2015, Tower Run is a collaboration of the Libraries, UMass Student Recreation and UMass Campus Recreation.

Proceeds from the Run support the Facilities Fund which enables the Libraries to continually upgrade, improve, and re-imagine learning spaces.

“I’ve been a runner my whole life, but I’ve never experienced anything like the Tower Run. Despite my burning legs, I knew I had to keep moving... even if it meant dragging myself up by the railing for the last couple of flights.” —First place winner Karl Frohlich ’20, with a time of two minutes and 13 seconds.

Natalie Argueta ’17, a psychology and sociology major, worked in the Stacks Management department of the Du Bois Library for three years, re-shelving, shifting, sorting, and pulling books, assisting patrons, and supervising the work of other students. She graduated in December and will walk with her class during commencement this May. In the meantime, she is working full-time in a temporary position in Access Services during the spring semester.

When asked to describe herself, Natalie says, “I am very passionate! I get it from my mom; she’s a little fireball.” Then she laughs and continues, “This is both good and bad. I get either very angry or very excited!”

Natalie is from Culver City, CA, in Los Angeles County. Her parents came to America from El Salvador. She has two siblings and a grey and white cat, Angel, whom she cannot wait to see again, “When I left for college, I told him, ‘Four years!’”

Natalie is trilingual in English, Spanish, and Italian.

When investigating colleges she picked up a UMass Amherst pamphlet that featured a photo of Old Chapel in the autumn and thought, “OMG! That looks awesome! In California, the leaves go from green, to brown, to off. I had a gut feeling about UMass, the place just felt right.”

That looks awesome! In California, the leaves go from green, to brown, to off.

The summer before sophomore year, Natalie told her that it was a great place. “I had a gut feeling about UMass, the place just felt right.”

The summer before sophomore year, a classmate who worked at the Library told her that it was a great place. Natalie found this to be true, reflecting that she made friends with staff and librarians. “We talk about so many things – art, golf, music.”

On the subject of music, Natalie confesses that she is “a real ‘fan girl’ of the Beatles. During a recent road trip, she listened to 10 Beatles discs in a row. “I love them because their music has so many different moods.”

Natalie volunteers as an activities assistant at the Center for Extended Care at Amherst, in the Dharma Unit, working with people who have Alzheimer’s and dementia. She visits with the residents, chatting, watching television, doing arts and crafts. In the spring and summer they visit the gardens on the premises. “These are people who grew up in a completely different era from my own. My interactions with them are eye-opening and inspiring.”

As a little girl, Natalie would tag along with her mother, who worked in a nursing home, and she believes that her academic interests and her volunteer work are a natural extension of this time, saying, “It fills a void in me. It became my passion.”

Eventually she will return to California to continue her academic career in the field of geropsychology, ultimately teaching and researching socialization and quality of life in nursing homes.

—A.K.
The Wolf Whisperer

FRIEND OF THE LIBRARY RICK MCINTYRE ’71 (Forestry) has been running with the wolves of Yellowstone Park since 1994, helping to study the results of the reintroduction of the species to two million acres of publicly owned lands. In his work as a biological technician for the National Park Service, he has observed Yellowstone wolves for more than 7,100 days in the field, recording 92,000 sightings—more than anyone else, ever. Locating them through telemetry, he observes and records their behaviors, ranging from play and pup-rearing to hunting and warring with rival packs. He introduces park visitors to the wolves, often giving them a peek through his spotting scope. No matter the age of the onlooker, their eyes never fail to widen at the wonder of watching wolves in the wild, says McIntyre. There are currently 10 packs in the park, comprising about 100 wolves, and McIntyre knows their personalities, peccadillos, and family dynamics intimately.

Libraries are something else McIntyre knows about. “On a very first-hand level, libraries have always been an important part of my life,” says McIntyre. He grew up in then rural Billerica, Massachusetts, in the 1950s, and he has many memories of going to town to check out books from the library—on dinosaurs and science fiction in those days; he was reading at an adult level by fourth grade. During his first year of high school McIntyre worked after school as a page in the Framingham Town Library. While studying forestry at UMass Amherst, he saw the Du Bois Library being built while using the library in Goodell Hall. After graduation he went to work for the park service as a naturalist/wildlife biologist. While writing books before the digital age, Rick relied heavily on library staff and always found them to be extremely helpful.

He is the author of Denali National Park: An Island in Time (Legacy Pub, 1986); Grizzly Cub: Five years in the life of a bear (Alaska Northwest Books, 1990); Society of Wolves (Voyageur, 1993); and with Bruce Babbitt, War Against the Wolf: America’s Campaign to Extirpate the Wolf (Voyageur, 1992). McIntyre is currently at work on another book about wolves.

—C.C.

Learning from Wolves...

Alpha Male: The main characteristic of the alpha male wolf is a quiet confidence, quiet self-assurance. He knows what he needs to do; he knows what’s best for the pack. He leads by example and is very comfortable with that. He has a calming effect.

Alpha Female: “It’s the alpha female who really runs the show.” They do most of the decision making including where to travel, when to rest, and when to hunt.

Your Inner Wolf: “Similarities between male wolves and male humans can be quite striking. Males of very few other species help procure food year-round for the entire family, assist in raising their young to full maturity, and defend their pack year-round against others of their species who threaten their safety.”

Returning Wolves to Yellowstone: “It rectified the wrong done by the earliest rangers who killed off the original wolf population, destroying a completely intact ecosystem. Now, Yellowstone is as close as you can get to a totally undisturbed wild area of two million acres.”

The Perfect Wolf: “Twice I saw a particular wolf take on six wolves from an attacking rival pack—and rout them all… it was like seeing Bruce Lee fighting. He never lost a fight and never killed a vanquishing rival.”

Wolves’ Cooperative Nature: “They work together… cooperating and trading off duties such as hunting and caring for the pups.”

Q&A: Dean of Libraries Simon Neame

Q: What interested you most about becoming the Dean of Libraries at UMass Amherst?

Having worked at the University of British Columbia (UBC) Library for most of my career I really enjoy the incredible range of activities and projects happening every day in a research library. When I learned about the opportunity at UMass Amherst, I was ready for a new adventure. I was excited to take a next step in my career having been greatly influenced by the experience of being an Association of Research Libraries (ARL) Leadership Fellow from 2013 to 2015.

The UMass Amherst Libraries are known for their innovative approach to developing new services and meeting emerging campus needs, and the chance to work in the Northeast region, among so many great institutions, was also part of why I decided to come here.

Q: What do you think are some of the biggest challenges for academic libraries today?

I see both challenges and opportunities! One key challenge is finding a balance between meeting the current needs of the campus through existing services and collections, while thinking about new trends and anticipating emerging needs. Change is constant, and libraries need to learn how to thrive in an environment of change and turn challenges into opportunities. For example, libraries are often a bellwether for changes that are going to impact our campuses in terms of new technologies and approaches to learning. We have many opportunities to provide leadership for the campus in these emerging areas, and this is an exciting role for libraries and something we should celebrate. We need to do a better job communicating to our users the new things that we do, the ways we can help support their work, and that we are always open to new ideas.

We are also fortunate to have strong support on campus as well as a wonderful community of donors—our Friends—whose generosity allows us to expand our services and collections in new ways.

With more than 1.5 million visitors last year, the Du Bois Library is the busiest place on campus.
UWAmherst Libraries are on a mission to save students money by helping professors reimagine traditional course materials.

By Katherine Davis-Young

When Electrical and Computer Engineering student Sean Turner '17 enrolled at UMass Amherst, he ran into a predicament. "They kind of kill you with textbook costs especially in Engineering," Turner said. "Textbooks can cost up to $400 each, and you only use them for a semester...it's a waste of money."

Turner's parents are helping him pay for his college expenses, but he still felt the cost of books was too high. He couldn’t avoid taking his required engineering courses, and in some cases he simply gave up buying the textbooks.

In the fall of 2016, Turner was pleasantly surprised when he enrolled in ECE 314: Introduction to Probability and Random Processes, there was no textbook at all, instead there was a free online guide written by his professor.

It's a concept known as an "open textbook," and, thanks in large part to the efforts of the Libraries, it's the kind of low-cost digital resource that is showing up in more and more in UMass Amherst classrooms. By encouraging professors to swap costly traditional textbooks for freely available online resources, the Libraries have helped students save an estimated $1.6 million in textbook costs since 2011.

That's welcome news for students. It's no secret that a college education comes with a bigger price tag every year. Student loan debt in the United States now tops $1.3 trillion. And, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the cost of textbooks is rising even faster than big college expenses like tuition or housing. Textbook prices have skyrocketed, increasing more than 945 percent since 1980. The College Board estimates students at four-year colleges now need to budget more than $1,200 per year just for textbooks.

According to a 2014 report from the U.S. Public Interest Research Group Education Fund, a number of factors push textbook prices higher each year. First, textbook manufacturers don't have to answer directly to the consumers of their products since professors assign the book, and the book's cost is passed onto the student. The report also points out that just five companies control more than 80 percent of textbook publishing, allowing for a monopoly-like effect on the market. Finally, books are updated frequently, ensuring cheaper used editions quickly become obsolete.

"The cost of textbooks is an issue that's important to both students and the Library," said Jeremy Smith, the Libraries’ Digital Projects Manager. Smith and Scholarly Communication and Special Initiatives Librarian Marilyn Billings are behind the Libraries' open education resources initiative.

The idea of making things "open," or free to share, with limited copyright or licensing restrictions, goes back about as far as the history of the internet. Load any web browser and it won't take long to find a website built from a design shared freely among coders, or a royalty-free image in a Wikipedia article. Increasingly, that free, shareable concept is making its way into textbook production.

Billings learned about the concept in 2009 but said at first it wasn't obvious to her how the Libraries could help; it is professors, not librarians, who choose course
materials, after all. But it wasn’t long before Billings, Smith, and their team arrived at an idea.

“One of the stumbling blocks is that faculty say theoretically they’re into open education resources—they like the idea—but they don’t have the time or the resources to do this,” Smith said. “So we thought, the Libraries could buy them time, essentially.”

The Libraries designed small grants of $1,000 or $2,500, depending on the size of the course the professor teaches. Professors would still be the ones designing their courses, but the Libraries could pay them for the extra hours it would take to rework their syllabi and adapt lesson plans to use alternatives to the expensive textbooks they had required before.

Billings approached the UMass Amherst Office of the Provost with the idea in the fall of 2010, and by February 2011 the program was approved and launched.

“I couldn’t believe it. It was just so fast. It clearly hit a nerve that mattered to the administration here at the university,” Billings said.

Library donors have funded the grants so the amount of grant money available has varied yearly. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, since 2011, more than $100,000 in grants has been given to faculty. And the grants won’t stop there. Smith’s job description changed to faculty. And the grants won’t stop either. Since launching the site in fall of 2014, more than 100 professors around the world have created accounts. Not every professor wants or needs to create something from scratch, though.

One of the appeals of open educational resources, Smith said, “If you make this freely available, it’s going to impact way more people than a traditional textbook would.”

Not every professor wants or needs to create something from scratch, though.

“Is so much material available on the web, I thought, ‘why should I add to material that’s already there?’” said Shubha Tewari, a lecturer in the Physics Department.

Tewari teaches from an open textbook created by a nonprofit organization at Rice University called OpenStax. Students can access the book for free online, or order a hardbound copy for about $50–cheap, compared to traditional textbooks.

Tewari also used the Libraries grant money to record some of her lectures that students can watch for free on YouTube.

Tewari said the important thing is to get students to do their readings and homework—something that wouldn’t happen if they weren’t buying the books.

“‘I can give them context and deeper insights; that happens in the classroom. But that cannot proceed unless they have some grounding outside the classroom,’” Tewari said.

Tewari said the OpenStax textbook she uses isn’t perfect. She would like to be able to tailor the material a little more, for example, and she wishes the online homework system that accompanies the text was more user-friendly. Like any technology, she hopes free online textbooks will change and improve over time.

Billings agrees that keeping up the momentum and interest in developing open education resources will be important if the concept is to continue to grow.

The surprising thing, Pishro-Nik said, is how popular his site has become outside UMass. He allows other teachers to register on the site to use it in their classrooms; since launching the site in fall of 2014, he said more than 100 professors around the U.S. have created accounts.

With the Libraries’ help he created a website, ProbabilityCourse.com. On it, he features all of the text you might find in a traditional textbook under a Creative Commons license, in addition to video lectures, sample problems, and a calculator tool.

“I’ve never had a complaint from students,” Pishro-Nik said, of his site.

Turner and other students from Pishro-Nik’s class said they liked that they could access the site from anywhere, and that it didn’t cost them a dime.

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be sustainable long-term. “As we hear comments from faculty, we take them to heart really quickly and start working on things they see as barriers to what they want to be able to accomplish,” Billings said. Quality of the materials is also a priority moving forward, Smith said. “Professors think, ‘Are they any good? Do they’re free they must be crappy,’” Smith said, “But there’s a lot of effort that’s been made in the open community to replicate the traditional publishing models of peer review and rigorous scholarship.”

The biggest challenge, Billings and Smith said, is simply making faculty aware of the wealth of free resources that are now available to students and professors. The Libraries have hosted several outreach events to spread the word. The UMass Student Government Association (SGA) and MASSPIRG, the UMass branch of a national student-run public interest group, have also joined the Libraries in promoting the concept across campus. The Libraries, SGA, and MASSPIRG don’t expect every course to switch over to open textbooks. A literature course, for example, might require copyrighted novels, or an upper-level course might focus on a topic too specific for a basic textbook. So for now, the goal is to promote open education resources among the university’s large introductory courses. “Those courses have 200 or 300 students in them, and they’re classes everyone has to take. It would be great if we could take the textbook cost out of those classes,” Patenaude said.

To date, more than 60 UMass faculty have received grants from the Libraries. All told, that accounts for about 100 courses that have traded traditional textbooks for open textbooks or other money-saving alternatives. Billings said one of the most exciting parts of the project has been seeing other universities reach out to find out how they might replicate UMass Amherst’s program. Billings said she’s spoken to librarians and administrators around the country and sees the trend spreading. “You start to do something to try to engage and when you’re starting to do it you don’t realize how important it is or how impactful it can be,” Billings said.

“IT’S A SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUE. The price to attend college is on the rise. But textbooks, that’s an area where students have some input. Students can make some changes,”

—Lucas Patenaude ’18, Secretary of University Policy, UMass Student Government Association.

The Libraries’ Scholarly Communication office surveyed undergraduate students enrolled in classes participating in the Open Education Initiative.

WHAT DO STUDENTS THINK?

The Libraries’ Scholarly Communication office surveyed undergraduate students enrolled in classes participating in the Open Education Initiative.

458 STUDENTS ANSWERED THE SURVEY

58 FIRST-YEARS • 231 SOPHOMORES

101 JUNIORS • 67 SENIORS

“IT’S A SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUE. The price to attend college is on the rise. But textbooks, that’s an area where students have some input. Students can make some changes,” said Lucas Patenaude ’18, Secretary of University Policy, SGA.

SGA has sent emails about open education resources to deans and reached out to professors individually. MASSPIRG has placed editorials in the Daily Collegian. Both organizations have helped with Library outreach events.

“I love this method of textbook requirements. If we had to purchase another $300 textbook for a class because it was too expensive, I may have considered dropping French as a minor.”

—Quotes from the Open Education Resources survey, 2016
Media is the Message

Senior music education major Richard Cucco ’17 is passionate about instrumental music—his specialty is the French horn. You can find him playing in the UMass Wind Ensemble and Symphony Orchestra. He is also enthusiastic about photography and filmmaking.

Richard has spent his entire undergraduate career as a student employee in the Libraries’ Digital Media Lab (DML). Located in the Du Bois Library, the DML is home to dozens of computers, multimedia equipment for checkout, sound-proof recording booths, green screen rooms, and a 3D printing center. He has learned valuable media production skills through experience and practice and has, in turn, taught dozens of curious minds as well.

Richard says one of his favorite aspects of working in the DML has been the opportunity to learn more about topics that interest him during slower times of the year. Last summer, he explored all the DML has to offer, including both software and hardware.

Photography has captured Richard’s imagination in a significant way. “Most people don’t realize how much planning, preparation, and post-processing can go into a single shot. Every photo has a story and a message.” Richard says he prefers still photography to film, since it is usually a one-person job and allows for a greater sense of control, whereas filmmaking requires a whole team of people to create one piece. “Creativity and collaboration often go hand in hand, but photography allows me to realize my own artistic vision. It’s very personal.”

Richard’s photography has generated business from campus administration, student organizations, and faculty. Most recently, the Libraries purchased three of his photos for use online and in publications. From landscapes of the campus pond to photos of the towering Du Bois Library, Richard is continually inspired by what he sees around him. He recently launched an online store where customers can purchase prints of his work.

Photos by Richard Cucco: richardcuoco.com/

During his high school years in Townsend, Massachusetts, Richard experimented with filmmaking tools like iMovie, which led him to his first job with a local public access TV station. He learned about the DML in 2013 during New Student Orientation just before the lab opened, and he remembers how excited he was to learn more.

Now a senior, Richard Cucco advocates for media resources at the Libraries, as he feels they have significantly shaped his future. He attributes much of his happiness, friendships, and achievement as a photographer to his workplace. “I made some of my best friends working here, and lifelong connections like these are invaluable.”

—C.K. ’19

Photos by Richard Cucco
richardcuoco.com/
Thanks to our donors, the Du Bois Library created the first Makerbot Innovation Center for 3D Printing in a university library anywhere. Open to students in any major and the campus community, here is a sampling of what has been created.

In February 2017, UMass Amherst was named one of the Top 3D Printing Colleges and Universities by 3D Forged.
Three hundred and fifty years later, another wave of Quakers arrived in Massachusetts when the UMass Amherst Libraries’ Department of Special Collections and University Archives (SCUA) took on responsibility for stewarding the records of the New England Yearly Meeting (NEYM). By most measures the NEYM collection is massive, containing nearly 600 boxes and 800 bound volumes of manuscripts spanning 350 years of history, not to mention thousands of printed books and pamphlets. Its depth and diversity are stunning. Side by side with the typically terse minutes of meetings and committees and dry-as-dust financial records are vital notices of births, marriages, and deaths; personal letters and diaries; and tracts on religious and social controversies that bring the past to life. As large as the collection is now, it will grow, as SCUA will act as the repository for future records generated by NEYM.

To understand what the collection represents requires a bit of background on the term Yearly Meeting, which demonstrates, if nothing else, that an egalitarian ethos does little to immunize one against bureaucratic tendencies (see sidebar).

Non-archivists seem to enjoy telling archivists how much fun their jobs must be, and truth be told, they are not wrong. After all, archivists get paid to sit around all day, reading other people’s mail. But a collection like NEYM brings a whole different level of enjoyment. From the moment the collection arrived, SCUA staff threw themselves into the joyful task of arranging the dozens of vellum ledgers polished smooth by years of handling and the heavy leather tomes decorated in spare Quaker style. A gently incised rule around the edge of a binding or a delicate red label is what counts as ornate. To an archivist, there is little more pleasurable than reading a spidery 17th-century hand tracing its sepia way across the page or a sheaf of 18th-century paper, turned the color of weak tea, and as supple as the day it was laid. It is the surprises in the Collection that truly elevate the experience. SCUA staff already knew of some gems in the collection, such as the record book of one of the country’s oldest antislavery societies, the Providence Society for Abolishing the Slave Trade, and it was clear that the earliest records would somewhere include a firsthand account of the 1672 visit to Rhode Island by George Fox, one of the founders of the Society of Friends.

Primed as they were, however, the archivists were truly surprised when on the first day of work in the collection, they chanced upon a ratty-looking missive written from the Boston House of Correction—the jail—on August 1, 1657, barely a year after Quakers arrived in New England. The writer of this piece, Christopher Holder, begins his screed in high 17th-century style, calling out Puritan leaders who “hath not a bridle to there tongues” and owning the slanders they heaped upon his fellow Quakers: “Blaspheamers heretickes & deceivers.” As Holder hints, Puritan authorities were less than enthused by having Quakers in their City Upon a Hill. John Norton, the minister of the prominent First Church of Boston, put it succinctly: “I would carry fire in one hand and faggots in the other to burn all the Quakers in the world.”

For the temerity of appearing in Boston, Holder and two of his compatriots were arrested, imprisoned, and then banished from the colony, yet they were not so easily dissuaded. In an act of civil disobedience,
Massachusetts authorities executed four Quaker missionaries for their beliefs. The Holder letter was hardly the only surprise. A box with the uninspiring label “miscellaneous,” for example, turned out to contain a neatly folded map encased in marbled-paper covers. This was not some gas of the New England Yearly Meeting is actually two decades older, dating back to 1661, and in the relatively non-hierarchical Society of Friends, it has gone through its own unique and sometimes turbulent history. The Yearly Meetings are in turn organized into Quarterly Meetings (which meet for business four times per year) and Monthly Meetings, which meet monthly for business, of course, but which are also the places where Quakers gather weekly for worship. The bureaucracy does not end there. At every level meetings have their own committees, boards, and working groups in which members take part, and the NEYM collection contains not only the official records of the yearly itself, but also records of most of the constituent monthly meetings, as well as those of Quaker schools, trusts, committees, and even some individual Friends.

YEARLY MEETING DEFINED

Early in their history, Quakers built a distinctive geographically-based organizational structure for their church roughly analogous to Catholic dioceses and parishes, though without a Pope or strongly centralized authority. In the United States today there are about two dozen “Yearly Meetings,” bodies of the church that meet annually to conduct business. Most people assume that since the Philadelphia region is the center of American Quakerism, it must be the oldest, but the New England Yearly Meeting is actually two decades older, dating back to 1661, and in the relatively non-hierarchical Society of Friends, it has gone through its own unique and sometimes turbulent history. The Yearly Meetings are in turn organized into Quarterly Meetings (which meet for business four times per year) and Monthly Meetings, which meet monthly for business, of course, but which are also the places where Quakers gather weekly for worship. The bureaucracy does not end there. At every level meetings have their own committees, boards, and working groups in which members take part, and the NEYM collection contains not only the official records of the yearly itself, but also records of most of the constituent monthly meetings, as well as those of Quaker schools, trusts, committees, and even some individual Friends.

Quakers began the dialog and arguments related to abolition of slavery. They laid the intellectual foundation for the discussion of the issue, and they were able to outlaw slavery because they were at the center of power and commerce.

Barry Levy, UMass Amherst history professor Barry Levy says, “That is, they thought it better to reconcile differences within the religion, through committees, meetings.” According to Levy, our modern methods of talking and working things out are rooted in these processes: “The Quakers invented the language of social work, … mediation, counseling,” he says.

Given that the Puritans often preferred to cut off transgressors’ ears, we should be grateful that the Quaker strain proved so influential. As a process, though, “working out” could create serious conflict, both within the meeting and between Quakers and the larger society. The “unprogrammed” silent worship for which they are known, for example, where members sit quietly and speak only when moved by the inward light, was buffeted by severe challenges from evangelically-oriented “Gurneyites” who were not approved by the Yearly Meeting. They were not “unprogrammed” silent worship, but rather a form of religious practice that was distinctly Quaker.

Right, above and below: Close-ups of bound NEYM manuscripts including records of marriages.
A box with the uninspiring label “miscellaneous,” for example, turned out to contain a neatly folded map enclosed in marbled-paper covers. This was not some gas station handout: John Melish’s map of the United States is considered one of the cartographic landmarks of the nineteenth century, and every edition, including the 1820 edition owned by NEYM, is exceptionally scarce.

Map of the United States with the Contiguous British and Spanish Possessions, Compiled from the Latest and Best Authorities. Philadelphia: John Melish, 1820.
issues. Although their numbers in New England were relatively small, Friends were significant. Levy notes that they were “hegemonic” in 18th century Rhode Island, where they were “leaders of the colony, and they began the dialog and arguments related to abolition of slavery. They laid the intellectual foundation for the discussion of the issue, and they were able to outlaw slavery because they were at the center of power and commerce.”

Indeed, as early as the 1670s, Quakers spoke out against slavery as a particularly brutal form of inequity, even as some of their members owned and trafficked in humankind. In addition to the Abolition Society records, the NEYM includes dozens of books, pamphlets, and unpublished letters on the abolitionist cause, written as Quakers attempted to persuade their fellow Quakers—and fellow Americans—to act on the injustice. Through books such as the diminutive Baxter’s Directions to Slave Holders (1785), Quakers argued that slaves have “as moral soul birth, the same as whites and are “equally capable of salvation,” and they lamented the “long trail of cruelties” that accompanied the enslaved as they were “dragged away from their homes to slave ships.”

Several personal narratives in the collection show how deeply the argument went for many Quakers. In a series of letters to the noted Rhode Island Quaker Thomas Howland, a young woman, A. Pierce, announced that she wished to be “ranked with the fanatick Abolitionists...I can not help it. The right to enjoy life, liberty & the pursuit of happiness appears to be the unchangeable truth & if I try to get away from the subject, it will follow me.” Pierce saw firsthand the impact of slavery through her brother Joseph, a stationmaster on the Underground Railroad. “Brother Joseph’s house with whom I sojourn a part of the time, [is] one known to fugitives, and many within a year have been refreshed with bread & cheese & the barn when that was safest to escape the pursuer, & sometimes assisted in the darkness of the night with a conveyance to another friend who in turn shall aid him, until he shall arrive at a land where his letters fall & female sovereignty pronounce him free….”

As Pierce’s letters suggest, Quaker ideas of equality also extended across the gender line. From the start, Quaker women had authority to speak in meetings, they were recorded as ministers, and most New England monthlies organized separate women’s meetings with their own authority to discuss matters such as relief for the poor.

“Quaker women were used to running things,” says Levy. On Nantucket, for example, the Quaker wives of sailors away at sea for years were very powerful. Levy says that Susan B. Anthony’s lineage can be traced back to those island ancestors. It is this confluence of the religious, the social, the personal, and cultural that makes the NEYM collection such a remarkable fit for SCUA, which specializes in documenting New England as well as the histories and experiences of social change in America. SCUA’s dedication to the principle that social justice movements are deeply interconnected was also a key reason that the New England Yearly Meeting decided to place the collection with UMass Amherst.

“We wanted to ensure the long-term care of this treasure. It is part of our spiritual heritage, but we also recognized its broader historical value, and we wanted it to be a resource not only for Quakers but also for others. We needed to find an institution to own it, with more resources than we could give it,” explains NEYM Secretary Noah Merrill. “We thought it was wonderful that the collection could stay in New England and remain accessible to Quakers in New England. We also liked that it would be digitized—so that you don’t have to go to it to use it—and available worldwide. And we appreciated that it would be framed historically at that intersection of Quaker history and social justice.”

As SCUA processes the collection, Merrill anticipates that Quakers will encounter “those stories and histories that give us an understanding of our ancestors and of how to engage with the world in the future.” Even in something as small as a set of receipts for boarding school tuition from Job Scott, a prominent 18th-century Quaker minister, one can get a glimpse into Quaker ideals and values: Scott was eager to ensure his children’s education should he die, a worry since he traveled extensively as a preacher. It is not hard to imagine the emotions behind such an act—and how it might resonate for Merrill, a descendant.

From the beginning of their time in New England, Quakers felt compelled to change the world in which they lived for the better, and they have continued to be a force for change through education and advocacy for civil rights, social justice, and peace. The beauty of the NEYM Collection is that it offers insights into the daily lives and beliefs of individuals that illuminate so many broader trends in society, and it offers researchers—and SCUA archivists—a way to spark inquiry into where we are now and where we may be heading.

EXHIBIT

ALL THAT DWELL IN THE LIGHT: 350 YEARS OF QUAKERS IN NEW ENGLAND

The UMass Amherst Libraries host an exhibit examining the history of Quakers and Quakerism in New England drawing upon the extraordinary records of the New England Yearly Meeting of the Society of Friends. Containing nearly 400 linear feet of archival records and thousands of books and pamphlets, the collection is open to researchers and digitized selections are available at:

bit.ly/QuakerCollection

credo.library.umass.edu
EXHIBIT

COLOR WOODBLOCK PRINTS

An Exhibition by Linda Mahoney ’79

Linda Mahoney’s artwork has been exhibited locally, regionally, and internationally through the Art in Embassies Program which promotes the cultural identity of America’s art and artists by borrowing original works of art by U.S. citizens for display in approximately 180 U.S. embassy residences worldwide. During the last five years she has been exhibiting her Moku Hanga—Japanese watercolor woodblock prints—in art shows throughout New England, and has received several awards for her prints.


AFTER WORDS

Students Asked, We Listened!

In response to requests for additional locations at which to return UMass and Five College books and media, two new book drops were installed on campus during the Fall 2016 semester. One is located at the Science and Engineering Library at the north end of the Lederle Lowrise, and the other is a drive-up location, curbside at the Robsham Visitor’s Center.

Art with Integrity

BRIAN SHELBURNE, HEAD of the Image Collection Library (ICL), has a bachelor’s degree in Classics, Anthropology, and Archaeology from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, a master’s in Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology from Bryn Mawr College, and a Master of Library and Information Science degree from the University of South Carolina. He came to UMass Amherst in 2006 from Virginia Tech to head the newly created ICL, which moves into the Du Bois Library this summer. After the move, he will take a sabbatical, cataloging images from the Poggio Civitate archaeological excavation in Tuscany. Brian sat in his office, amidst boxes of slides and a collection of finger puppets of artists and historical figures, to chat about life, art, and the ICL.

What types of archaeological digs have you been on?

In ’85, ’89 and ’91, I worked at Mochlos, Crete, a site known for Minoan and Mycenaean material. I was a trench supervisor and ran the water-sieving operation. From ’93 through ’97, I dug at Yeronisos, Cyprus, where I was an assistant to the director, trench supervisor, and driver. I still serve on the board of trustees of an archaeological research institute in Cyprus as their library advisor. And I got married in Cyprus at the end of the ’97 dig season.

To someone you met in Cyprus?

No, Erika and I met at Bryn Mawr when she was looking at grad schools. Prospective students went to lunch with current ones, and we met over lunch. She ended up choosing another career. [Director of Principal and International Giving at Amherst College.]

What are the advantages of the ICL moving to the Du Bois Library?

The move will increase the visibility of the ICL as a project partner in the Libraries. We’ll be integrated into the daily life of the library, and more accessible to a wider group of people. It’ll be an opportunity to broaden our services in ways that we’re still discussing. We’re excited about the possibilities.

What are some of the ICL’s current projects?

We’re working with the UMass Archaeological Services Unit to photograph a collection of old bottles from Eastern Massachusetts sites. And we’ve just built a collection of photos of the Inter-Allied Games, which took place in Paris in 1919. We’re helping faculty prepare images for publications. We also want to move into the realm of digital scholarship, teaching faculty and students to use visual tools in instruction and research.

How many motorcycles do you own?

Two, a Piaggio MP3 and a Royal Enfield. The Royal Enfield needs a bit of an engine rebuild. If anyone reading this can offer advice on timing advance, that would be great!

You love the Brimfield Flea Market. What is the most exciting thing you’ve found there?
The best bargain I found a very old Tewhatewha [pronounced ‘teffa teffa’], which is a Maori club shaped like an axe. My best bargain is a very old Aboriginal shield for $1.00. I also like Southwest Native American art, but that doesn’t have to be old. It’s what I call “art with integrity”—pieces that are made in traditional ways with respect for history and culture.

—A.K.
With Thanks

The Late Robert Shanley (1922-2017), Professor Emeritus in the Political Science Department at UMass Amherst, retired in 1994 after 32 years of teaching and research.

In the Political Science Department, Shanley concentrated his teaching and research on the American Presidency, as well as environmental and energy politics. His research was focused particularly on presidential executive orders and their role in shaping environmental policy. After his retirement in 1994, his volunteer activities included assisting immigrants in passing their citizenship exams, reading aloud to fourth graders, Meals on Wheels, and Rachel’s Table. He also sponsored children in developing countries whose parents had died of AIDS, and children in the Philippines who were abandoned by their American soldier fathers.

Professor Shanley gave a six-figure bequest to the UMass Amherst Libraries’ Sustainability Fund for science and public policy materials in the areas of global warming, energy efficiency, green technologies, and for educational programs promoting sustainability.

SUNSHINE DAYDREAM

"WHAT IS IT GOING TO TAKE TO MAKE SOLAR PANELS COOL?" by Cameron Lane ’16; Luke Fattiger ’18; Matthew "Donnie" Rollings ’18; and Cameron Smith-Freedman ’18 won the 2017 Undergraduate Sustainability Research Award, a $1,000 scholarship. Since solar panels operate more efficiently at lower temperatures and when clean, the winners’ paper proposes a system of collecting rainwater to be reused to cool and clean panels, improving their output by at least 15 percent. The winning projects (and the previous two years’ winners) will be included in the Sustainable UMass Student Showcase in ScholarWorks, the university’s digital repository: bit.ly/sustaward2017.

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SUSTAINABILITY STUDIES LIBRARIAN

MADELINE CHARNEY WOES THE 2017 Library Journal’s Movers and Shakers Award, “which profiles individuals from around the world who are innovative, creative, and making a difference. From librarians and other library workers to vendors, publishers, and others who impact the library field, Movers and Shakers 2017 celebrates the people moving all types of libraries forward.”

“Charney spearheaded the Library Sustainability Fund, which provides philanthropic support for faculty grants, student scholarships, programming, and more; the fund has received nearly $350,000 in donations as of January. It also financed the first three years of the Sustainability Curriculum Fellowship—a yearlong program that empowers select faculty members to integrate sustainability themes into their courses.”


RESEARCH REFLECTION AND ACTION AROUND CLIMATE CHANGE

SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2017

4 - 7 P.M.
LOWER LEVEL, Du Bois Library

A CLIMATE FOR CHANGE: Research, Reflection, and Action Around Climate Change

SUNSHINE DAYDREAM

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UMass Amherst Libraries
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University of Massachusetts Amherst
154 Hicks Way
Amherst, MA 01003-9275
www.library.umass.edu/giving

Built in 1885, and renovated and reopened in 2016, Old Chapel housed the first library on campus. Photo courtesy of Special Collections and University Archives and digitally colorized by Chloe Deeley ’17.

BY THE NUMBERS

$45,977,921
Raised for the Libraries in the UMassRising Campaign from 2010-2016—Thank you!

$2,912,805
RAISED
from 1,920 gifts

$600,000
AWARDED:
Andrew W. Mellon Grant for the Du Bois Center

1,762,263
VISITORS
An increase of 16%

179,232
FALCON CAM page views

171,000
Digital objects in CREDO, the online depository for Special Collections to date, 20,000 objects added in 2016.

94,786
number of times course materials on reserve were used

5,887
LAPTOP LOANS, an increase of 134%

932
POSTERS PRINTED

RAISED
from 1,920 gifts

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Andrew W. Mellon Grant for the Du Bois Center

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