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"success is the word..."
When I saw the cover of this newsletter in draft, my initial reaction was that champagne is not an image traditionally associated with research libraries. Where are the books? Where are the computers? Where are the smiling faces of our generous Friends? Then I rattled my chains of “Librarian Past” and realized that as “Librarian Future” champagne is the perfect symbol to celebrate the recent successes of the UMass Amherst Libraries.

And success is the word that captures the events of the past several months. In a very short time, the Learning Commons has transformed the image, the “buzz” and the energy surrounding the UMass Amherst Libraries. You will read about these successes… Dinner with Friends breaks all records, library usage continues to rise, 21st Century Library Technology Fund launched, library receives $600,000 grant from Microsoft.

What you don’t see here is the extraordinary hard work performed by all the library staff and volunteers to make these “successes” happen. Like any successful “show,” we have a long list of credits, from associate directors to student employees, who create the magic for our users.

Enjoy our successes as you turn these pages. At the end, please give a standing ovation to the dedicated individuals who work long and hard to make it so. Or, raise a glass … champagne?

Message from Jay

www.library.umass.edu/friends
At the Fourth Annual “Dinner with Friends” on April 1, 2006, Lorrey Bianchi ’69 announced that he and his wife, Kathy Casey-Bianchi, were donating $10,000 to help establish the new 21st Century Library Technology Endowment Fund and challenged others to join them. Many attendees accepted the challenge.

The proceeds of the 21st Century Library Technology Endowment will help fund the expansion of the Learning Commons, installation of wireless access throughout the Du Bois Library, and creation of a multi-media center. The new fund is an important complement to the Library’s numerous collections-based endowments. Join us in this exciting initiative! Check the 21st Century Library Technology Endowment box on the enclosed envelope.

“The technology, while not the most important part of the Library (books still are), is a key enabler for access by students to the wealth of information and knowledge available to them at UMass Amherst. The Library staff has made the Library into a good university library; with improved technology, we want to help them to grow it into a great university library! With our support and with support from others who love the Library, we can help them to make it happen. Through the 21st Century Library Technology Endowment Fund, funds can be made available for ‘off-budget’ technology improvements that otherwise wouldn’t happen.” Lorrey Bianchi ’69

Library Wins Grant for $600,000 from Microsoft

The Learning Commons was created as a pilot in fall 2005 and has been very well-received. Use has exceeded expectations and the plan is now to expand the facility to double its current size. A significant component of that expansion is the addition of 150 computer stations, in addition to more collaborative study rooms and a second electronic lab/classroom. Microsoft is donating software needed to make this expansion possible.

There is a commitment in the 21st Century Library Technology Fund of the UMass Amherst Library to build on the campus’s strong IT foundation to help students and the community. The Learning Commons is a cornerstone of this effort. Microsoft software will enable the Learning Commons to offer more information technology resources and instruction, and meet the needs of its target audience - underserved users in our community, including the public, students at risk, and those with disabilities. The Learning Commons, with Microsoft’s software support, will train the constituents of the Learning Commons in an environment that mirrors that of the corporate workplace. Included in the grant from Microsoft are software updates for at least 2 years through their Software Assurance program. The updates contribute greatly to the success of the software adoption as it ensures a level of sustainability and support for the implementation. Microsoft’s total support to campus since 1998 is approximately $12 million dollars.

Learning Commons Update

Joan Lippincott, Associate Executive Director of the Coalition for Networked Information, helped generate excitement about building the Learning Commons in April of 2004 and returned in January 2006 to give a presentation titled “Accessing Learning Spaces.” Learning Commons service providers also gave updates on the first semester’s operations. The Learning Commons is generating lots of interest on campus and at other colleges and universities. In recent months, we have hosted tours for librarians and faculty from Boston University, Brandeis University, Dartmouth College, Framingham State College, Harvard Business School, Lesley University, the Lewis School of Business, and many others.

New services and resources continue to be added, laptop computers and projectors for students to borrow, an office supply vending machine, more computer availability, a Web page to locate available computers, scanners, expanded café hours, and a discount rate in the parking garage for Learning Commons users.

The Du Bois Library has seen a huge increase in visitors since the Learning Commons opened in September and again in March 2005. We are now open 24/5 (Sunday through Thursday) and the Commons service providers also gave updates on the first semester’s operations. The Learning Commons is generating lots of interest on campus and at other colleges and universities. In recent months, we have hosted tours for librarians and faculty from Boston University, Brandeis University, Dartmouth College, Framingham State College, Harvard Business School, Lesley University, the Lewis School of Business, and many others.

A Romance in Lower Mathematics (1963) described by one reviewer as “compelling, maddening, hilarious, and mostly remarkable,” while another spoke of “a grisly thriller.” Her short story collection, The Caprices (2002), marked by “baroque imagination and scalpel-like prose,” was winner of the 2002 PEN/Faulkner Award. She wrote the screenplay for the 2004 film, “The Beautiful Country.” Ms. Murray has been on the MFA faculty at UMass Amherst since 2003. She has a B.A. in Art History from Mount Holyoke College.

Norton Juster, the author of “the beloved classic” The Phantom Tollbooth (1961) and the 2006 Caldecott Medal winning The Hello, Goodbye Window, lives in Amherst. He is a retired architect, having co-founded an architecture firm in Shelburne Falls in 1970. He also served as professor of architecture and environmental design at Hampshire College from 1970-1992. Though famous as a children’s book author, his books, including the utterly charming The Dot and the Line: A Romance in Lower Mathematics (1963), reach out uniquely to both adults and children. The Hello, Goodbye Window has been on the New York Times Bestseller List for Children’s Books since February 6, 2006.

Sabina Murray is author of the novels A Camarone’s Iniquity (2004) and Slow Burn (1990). Carnivore in this case means cannibal, in a book described by one reviewer as “compelling, maddening, hilarious, and mostly remarkable,” while another spoke of “a grisly thriller.” Her short story collection, The Caprices (2002), marked by “baroque imagination and scalpel-like prose,” was winner of the 2002 PEN/Faulkner Award. She wrote the screenplay for the 2004 film, “The Beautiful Country.” Ms. Murray has been on the MFA faculty at UMass Amherst since 2003. She has a B.A. in Art History from Mount Holyoke College.

Ilan Stavans is the Lewis-Sebring professor in Latin American and Latino Culture at Amherst College and Professor of Poetry at Columbia University. He is the author of On Borrowed Words: A Memoir of Language (2001), Dictionary Days: A Defining Passion (2005), The Hispanic Condition (1995), and many other books. He has received numerous honors, including nomination for a National Book Critics Circle Award, the Latino Hall of Fame Award, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and the Rockefeller Dario Medal. A film will come out based on a story in his forthcoming book, The Disappearance: A Novella and Stories. Stavans has been a member of the faculty of Amherst College since 1993.
Why My Mother Doesn’t Tell Me Stories

by Sabina Murray

I am a writer of fiction. I make things up. I make people up and I make up the things they say, but as someone who is inspired by the past, I always listen for what actually happened to ground those invented things—those things that might have happened—to make them ring true on an emotional level. I want my stories to feel authentic to people who experienced first hand what I must experience through research—my reading and through the stories I hear.

I had decided to read the story “Guinea,” which follows two soldiers—Francisco, an Italian American from Brooklyn, and Burns, who is Boston Irish—who have become lost in the jungles of Papua New Guinea. As they try to find their way back to the Allies, they encounter a dying Japanese soldier and take him prisoner. I chose to read “Guinea” because a number of my husband’s relatives, Irish on his father’s side and Italian on his mother’s, were going to attend. Of the Italian American relatives (Sicilian American, they will tell you) the guest of honor was Charlie Cusumano, my husband’s grandfather, who had told me a couple of anecdotes of his time as a soldier. He had fought bravely in New Guinea during the war and these incidents had found their way into my story. The Caprices is a collection of short stories about the Pacific Campaign of World War II.

I had spent the weekend before the reading in my mother-in-law’s house in Belmar, New Jersey. My husband and I had a new baby and Grandpa Charlie and Grandma Kay were up from Maryland to see the baby and attend the reading. Because of this, I’d had a chance to talk to Grandpa Charlie and knew that he approved of my book. Despite this, it was still unnerving having him—the soldier—listen and as I read to the crowd I felt that, in a way, I was reading to him. When I was finished, his was the first face I looked at to see how I’d done. He looked pleased in a satisfied way, which I took to mean that I’d done well.

When the applause died down, I said, “I’d like to take a moment to point out that my husband’s grandfa-
ther, Charlie Cusumano, is here today. Mr. Cusumano is a veteran of World War II and fought in New Guinea. Two of the anecdotes that appeared in my story come from his life.” And Grandpa Charlie stood up and received a round of applause that at least equaled what I’d received. Grandpa Charlie is no longer with us. He died about a year and a half ago.

Important to note here is that Grandpa Charlie did not speak much of the war. This is not surprising. Better years replaced those spent in battle. The occasions he presided over were usually filled with screaming grand-
children, great-grandchildren, and an often frightening proliferation of food. His two stories—one about a dance contest, and another of encountering a group of Australian stories—were occupied by people neither of us knew at all. Valerie read an inspiring passage about the life of Saint Francis and I followed with my story. At the end of our reading there was the applause.

So Nay,” I said, “how are they all doing?”

“They’re all fine?”

“Couldn’t be better.”

“I don’t believe you.”

“Christina is done with medical school and is now in her residency.”

End of story.

My whole Filipino family has thrived in an extraor-
dinary way for the last fifteen years, which is roughly how long I have been publishing. Nothing bad has hap-
pened to anyone. Which is wonderful, to be sure, but slightly suspicious. My mother is even careful to remind me that what I know from having grown up in the Philippines is not suitable for writing. When I point out that these “things” aren’t particularly interesting and don’t make for good fiction, she frowns at me with a pointed look and nods to God—her constant witness—as if this will cement some pledge of silence between the three of us. And it does.

Besides, I am a writer of fiction. I make things up. I don’t need the lives of my cousins, aunts, uncles, to keep the pages coming. I really only want to hear about them because I love them, but no amount of protest will move my mother, not even when I point out that the majority of my last book was set in the early sixties in Greece, the one before that dealt with cubanillas—which

Grandpa Charlie told me that now that I’d put him in a story, he would live forever. I was a writer and he felt compelled to tell me more. Some people react that way. It was of the “tell the writer stories” camp.

In the opposite camp is my mother. Not that she isn’t inspirational. In fact, she inspired the whole collection, The Caprices is dedicated to her. She lived through the Japanese occupation of the Philippines. Her philosophy, personality, and way of life are all a testament to surviving the war. I know that her father and brother died as prisoners of the Japanese, but she doesn’t speak about her experiences. Not any more. She is quiet now that she wasn’t before. She is quiet in ways definitely connected to my being a writer. My mother is in the “careful what you say around the writer” camp.

I had been prepared by my friend Valerie Martin, a writer of fiction. I make things up. I make up the things they say, but as someone who is inspired by the past, I always listen for what actually happened to ground those invented things—those things that might have happened—to make them ring true on an emotional level. I want my stories to feel authentic to people who experienced first hand what I must experience through research—my reading and through the stories I hear.

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Author Jane Yolen Awarded Honorary Degree

UMass Amherst awarded an honorary doctorate to children’s author Jane Yolen in the Library.

On April 4, 2006, Chancellor John V. Lombardi and President of the University Jack Wilson presented Yolen with an honorary doctor of humane letters degree, and Provost Chalena Seymour read the citation. Yolen is the author of nearly 300 books and has been called “the Haus Christian Andersen of America.” She received a bachelor’s degree from Smith College in 1960. She has done extensive graduate work at UMass Amherst and she strongly supported the creation of the Massachusetts Center for the Book, a satellite of the national center at the Library of Congress. She also founded and for 10 years directed Perspectives in Children’s Literature, an annual conference long presented by the School of Education at UMass Amherst.

Jane Yolen is an extraordinary and prolific author whose work ranges from picture books to poetry, from dragon fantasy to the horrors of the holocaust, from the beauty of the natural world to toads in outer space. We honor her the holocaust, from the beauty of the natural world to toads in outer space. We honor her

Among the doz ens of honors bestowed upon Yolen’s books and stories are the Caldecott Medal, two Nebula Awards, two Christopher Medals, the World Fantasy Award, three Mythopoeic Fantasy Awards, the Golden Kite Award, the Jewish Book Award, and the Association of Jewish Libraries Award. Yolen’s other literary endeavors include teaching writing and literature and reviewing children’s literature. Yolen served on the board of directors of the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators, was president of the Science Fiction Writers of America from 1986-88, and is on the editorial board of several magazines.

Her husband, the late David W. Stemple, was a professor and chair of the computer science department at UMass Amherst.

Chancellor John V. Lombardi

Five Tips On Writing A Poem

1. Look at the world through metaphor, seeing one tree in terms of another.
2. Let two words bump up against another Or sense a single line.
3. Tell the truth inside out Or on the slant.
4. Remember that grammar can be a good friend And a mean neighbor.
5. Let the poem rhyme in the heart, Though not always on the page.

c 1999 Jane Yolen

Editor of Martin Luther King Papers Speaks

Clayborne Carson, Professor of History at Stanford University and Director of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Research and Education Institute gave a talk in February. Since 1985, Dr. Carson has directed a long-term project to edit and publish the papers of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The King Papers Project has produced five volumes of a projected fourteen-volume comprehensive edition of King’s speeches, sermons, correspondence, publications, and unpublished writings. In addition to these volumes, Carson has written co-edited numerous other works based on the papers. The event was held in honor of W.E.B. Du Bois’ birthday.

The Distinguished Alumni Awards are the most prestigious awards conferred by the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Alumni Association upon its alumni, faculty, and friends. Ed Klewicki, Professor Emeritus of Biotechnology and head of the Library was presented with the Distinguished Faculty Award. During the past ten years Ed has conducted the first underwater explorations of the Connecticut River, his team of UMass Amherst student divers documented the historical, geological, and biological resources of the 400-mile-long waterway. He co-produced three very popular PBS historical documentaries about the Connecticut River watershed. Under Quabbin, The Coast Flood Of 1936 (nominated for an Emmy Award), and Dynamite, Whiskey And Wool–The Connecticut River Log Drives 1870-1915.

Robert Rothstein is giving a walking tour of the exhibits.

Russian Children’s Books from the Collection of Halina and Robert Rothstein were on display in the Du Bois Library. Robert A. Rothstein is Professor of Comparative Literature and of Slavic and Judaic Studies at UMass Amherst. Among the books displayed were works originally written in Russian, French, German, Italian, and English. Russian authors represented included nineteenth-century classics such as Alexander Pushkin, Vladimir Mayakovsky, Samuil Marshak, and Korrei Chukovskii.
**SUPPORTING THE LIBRARY**

The Class of 2006 is devoting its senior class gift to the Library to renovate the 26th Floor for a Special Collections Reading Room. They hope to raise $1,000 for each floor of the Library. See http://www.umass.edu/seniorcampaign/ to watch the floors of the Library “light up.”

The Class of 1957 has targeted their 50th Reunion gift for the Library’s prominent benches, plantings, and bistro seating for the courtyard garden—and to create an endowment for its maintenance. Their goal is to raise at least $125,000.

**MEMORIAL GIFTS**

The Library received gifts in memory of the following individuals:

- Karen Feller
- Andrew D. Haigh
- Priscilla Gibson Hicks
- Elizabeth “Betty” Kilham
- Jeanne Sargent Lyman
- Tania Mastalir
- Diane Prisco
- Benjamin Ricci
- Oswald & Emmie Tippo

**TRIBUTE GIFTS**

The Library received gifts in honor of the following individuals:

- John J. Bonisgno
- Alexa Colly
- Offres Colve
- Larry Feldman
- Siegfried Feller
- Joel Halpern & Barbara Kewishy-Halpern
- Rosemary K. Quinn

**Who gives to the Library? Everyone!**

We have alumni donors from every class year from 1936 to 2006. Some of our donors are future alumni – students from the classes of 2008 and 2009. We have donors from all states in the union (except Nebraska and North Dakota) plus Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands!

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**tools for research**

The Library is analyzing its print journal subscriptions this academic year. With the help of the faculty, the Library identified 130 print titles to cancel, garnering a savings of over $250,000. These funds are being reinvested in new journals and electronic resources, continuing the transition of the Library’s collections to 21st century technologies and scholarly resources.

The Libraries recently acquired access to the following electronic resources, which can be found and used by all OIT account holders at [http://www.library.umass.edu/](http://www.library.umass.edu/).

**African American Song documents**

- The history of African American music in an online music listening service, which holds 50,000 tracks available to scholars and students. Some of the records on the site are rare or never-before-published.

**Chronicle of Higher Education**

- Online includes news reports and editorials on all facets of higher education in the United States, Canada and abroad.

**Classical Music Library**

- A database of distinguished classical recordings, including tens of thousands of licensed recordings that users can listen to on the Internet.

**Dun and Bradstreet’s Industry Norms and Key Business Ratios**

- Helps business researchers compare the performance of one company to the performance of the industry as a whole.

**FAIES: Faulkner Advisory on IT Services**

- Includes market reports covering IT infrastructure, telecommunications, wireless technology, data networking, computer security, enterprise systems, Internet, and technology trends.

**IBISWorld Industry Market Reports**

- Provides 700 industry reports that conform to the U.S. industry classification system – the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS).

**Journal Citation Reports: Science and Social Science Editions**

- Is a recognized authority for providing a systematic, objective way to evaluate journals and their impact and influence within the research community.

**Historical Brompton Globe**

- A graphical version of full-text newspaper content. This resource offers access to historical primary source material. Students can browse entire issues or search articles on specific topics of interest.

**Memorial Gifts**

- Includes an extraordinary array of more than 35,000 individual tracks of music, spoken word, and natural and human-made sounds. Users browse, stream, download, and then listen to the music over the Internet through their headphones or speakers.

**SRDS Online**

- An advertising budget tool that lists current rates for business and consumer magazines, radio, and newspaper. It contains a direct marketing component.

**Wiley InterScience**

- Provides current access to over 350 online journals across a wide spectrum of disciplines. Subject areas include: business, chemistry, computer science, engineering, life sciences, physics and astronomy, polymer science, psychology and social sciences.

**Webs of Science**

- A scientific database of distinguished classical recordings, including tens of thousands of licensed recordings that users can listen to on the Internet.

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**Appointments**

**Leslie Horner**

- Button was appointed to the position of Associate Director of Collection Services. Leslie served as Intern Associate Director of Collection Services and prior to that was Head of Acquisitions and Head of Serials at UMass Amherst Libraries. She has 25 years of serials, acquisitions, technical services, and collection development experience. She has an MLS from the University of Rhode Island and an MS in Labor Studies from UMass Amherst.

**Michael Martin**

- Was appointed to the position of Library Building Monitor Supervisor in the Library Business Office.

**Anne C. Moore**

- Was appointed to the position of Associate Director of User Services. Moore served as Interim Associate Director of User Services for two years and prior to that was Head of Reference Services at UMass Amherst Libraries from 2005–2004. Previously, she was with New Mexico State University. She has an MLS from University of North Carolina Chapel Hill and a Ph.D. in Educational Administration from New Mexico State University.

**Kirk Morrison**

- Is an intern in Electronic Resources. Kirk is a student at the University of Rhode Island working on his master’s in library science degree.

**Lawrence Newman**

- Was appointed to the half-time position of Learning Commons and Technical Support Desk Supervisor.

**Tonia Sutherland**

- Was appointed to the position of Research Library Resident in the Du Bois Library. Tonia has an MLS from the University of Pittsburgh and a B.A. from Hampshire College. She will work half-time in Research and Instructional Services and half-time in Special Collections and University Archives. Tonia has just been named co-editor of Infinity, the newsletter of the Society of American Archivist’s Preservation Section.

**Christine Woynar**

- Was appointed to the position of Interlibrary Loan Assistant in the Interlibrary Loan and Document Delivery Department.

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**Promotions**

- MJ Canavan was promoted from Librarian III to Librarian IV.
- J. Michael Davis was promoted from Librarian IV to Librarian V.
- Sharon Domier was promoted from Librarian IV to Librarian V.
- Beth Lang was promoted from Librarian II to Librarian III.
- Stephen McGinty was promoted from Librarian III to Librarian IV.
- Peter Stern was promoted from Librarian IV to Librarian V.

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**News For Friends of the UMass Amherst Libraries**

Spring/Summer 2006

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www.library.umass.edu/friends

**Editors:** Leslie Schaler

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“I never wanted to be a writer like my mother, Jane Yolen. After college, I became a probation/parole officer and then a private investigator. But, after becoming a stay at home mom, I gave in and started writing, first with my mom and then alone as well. For the last 18 years, my mother and I have lived far apart, so we have done most of our writing together during visits or through cyberspace. We send portions of stories through email and spend way too much time on the phone.

Now, I live in Hatfield, Massachusetts where I grew up. Even though all I have to do is yell into the next room since my mother is being nice enough to share her office with me, we still send our stories to each other over the internet.”

COMING SOON:
Amelia Earhart’s Last Flight (Simon & Schuster)
Sleep Black Bear Sleep (Harper)
You Nest Here With Me (Harcourt)
Barefoot Book of Dance Stories (Barefoot Books)
One If By Land: A Massachusetts Counting Book (Sleeping Bear Press)
Fairy Tale Feasts: A Literary Cookbook (Interlink Books)