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Save The Date

Twelfth Annual Fall Reception
Sunday, October 3, 2010
2:00-4:00 p.m.
Cape Cod Lounge

Featuring guest speakers: Joe Eck and Wayne Winterrowd

Joe Eck and Wayne Winterrowd are renowned garden designers, authors, and internationally acclaimed lecturers. Their expertise spans a wide range of garden topics, from basic principles of garden design to the specifics of designing perennial borders, outdoor living spaces, rock and woodland gardens, water gardens, and greenhouses. They will read from their forthcoming book To Eat: Vegetables and Murder in a Bucolic Setting.

Joe and Wayne have authored several books including Our Life in Gardens (2009), A Year at North Hill: Four Seasons in a Vermont Garden (2006), Elements of Garden Design (2005), and Living Seasonally: The Kitchen Garden and the Table at North Hill (1999). They are co-founders of the garden design firm North Hill and live in Vermont.

For more information: www.northhillgarden.com

Free and open to public

Library Celebrates LC Expansion

“I can’t tell you how much this means to students, having this resource,” said Ngozi Mbawuike, president of the Student Government Association.

“No matter what your needs are, there is a place for everyone here.”

continued inside...
Points of Pride

Recently I was asked what my proudest moments have been since becoming Director of Libraries. Two of those moments are documented in this newsletter: the expansion of the Learning Commons and the inaugural symposium of the W.E.B. Du Bois Center. I note these two events because they are symbolic of the dedication, hard work, and collaboration of many individuals in the Libraries and across the campus who have come together to make a positive impact on the lives of our students and the reputation of the university.

At the ribbon-cutting for the Learning Commons expansion, Ngozi Mbawuike ’11 made the following remarks:

I cannot think of a more empowering experience than students sharing knowledge with their peers. This library has created an environment in which students do not have to worry about where to get books from, where to get help from, or where to get away from the craziness of the dorms. This library was named after a man (W.E.B. Du Bois) who strongly believed in the power of education for all people. … The library has created, as well as improved and increased, the learning experience and opportunity of the students here at this university. I am proud to have been a part of this moment where new generations of students can come, share, and exchange information, knowledge, and culture.

It is deeply gratifying to hear Ms. Mbawuike talk about the Libraries, our positive impact on students and their time here at UMass Amherst. I hope you, as a Friend of the Library, will find it equally gratifying. Please know the support you provide as a Friend is vital to these achievements and very much appreciated.

Most sincerely,
Jay Schafer
Director of Libraries

Library Celebrates LC Expansion

The ever-popular Learning Commons (LC) is now 20% bigger and students continue to fill the seats. On February 8, we cut the ribbon on the latest addition to the LC. We added more study rooms, more seating, and multi-media computers. Over 75 people attended the celebration of the latest expansion of the Learning Commons. The event included remarks by Chancellor Robert C. Holub, Provost James V. Staros, Director of Libraries Jay Schafer, and Student Government Association President Ngozi Mbawuike, and a ribbon cutting.

The Learning Commons footprint increased to over 30,000 square feet, seating increased from 250 to 450, and eight new group study rooms bring the total to 26. In the LC, students have access to research tools and assistance, academic advising, tutoring, technical support, and writing assistance—all in a comfortable, high-tech environment that fosters small group interaction.

Du Bois Center Hosts Inaugural Symposium


The Du Bois Center, established in 2009, is associated with Special Collections & University Archives in the Du Bois Library at UMass Amherst. The Center promotes scholarship and public engagement with the wide range of issues in social and racial justice central to the thought of W.E.B. Du Bois.

The Du Bois Center Executive Board recently formed and had its first meeting. The members include Dr. Randolph W. Bromery (chair), Dr. Thomas W. Cole Jr., Brooks Fitch, Dr. Edmund W. Gordon, Dr. Edmund T. Gordon, Odell Murry, and Dr. Esther Terry. The Executive Board includes leaders, educators, and advocates who will promote the goals of the Center by working with the leadership of the Center on funding and outreach opportunities, advising on strategic initiatives, and advancing fundraising.

Du Bois Center Board Established

The W.E.B. Du Bois Center Executive Board recently formed and had its first meeting. The members include Dr. Randolph W. Bromery (chair), Dr. Thomas W. Cole Jr., Brooks Fitch, Dr. Edmund W. Gordon, Dr. Edmund T. Gordon, Odell Murry, and Dr. Esther Terry. The Executive Board includes leaders, educators, and advocates who will promote the goals of the Center by working with the leadership of the Center on funding and outreach opportunities, advising on strategic initiatives, and advancing fundraising.
The Library’s Eighth Annual “Dinner with Friends” on Saturday, April 10, was another great success. This year’s dinner featured authors Bernard A. Drew and Jacqueline Sheehan, and illustrator and 2009 Caldecott medalist Beth Krommes MAT ’80. The UMass Jazz Quartet accompanied the champagne and hors d’oeuvre reception, which was followed by a gourmet dinner and book signing.

Chancellor Robert C. Holub and Director of Libraries Jay Schafer kicked off the evening with welcoming remarks and recognition of our business sponsors and special guests. Provost James V. Staros, Friends of the Library president Dodie Gaudet ’73, and Library Director’s Council co-chair Lorrey Bianchi ’69 presented the Friends of the Library Undergraduate Research Award and the Emily Silverman Book Collecting Award (see sidebar).


Chancellor Robert C. Holub, Sabine Holub

Provost Staros and Lorrey Bianchi ’69 present the first annual Emily Silverman Book Collecting Award to animal science major Joseph Malatos ’11 for his collection “The Leaves of Science.”

Provost Staros and Dodie Gaudet ’73 present the second annual Friends of the Library Undergraduate Research Award to music education major Paul Kinsman ’11 for his essay “Platonic and Pythagorean Ratios in the Formal Analysis of 15th Century Music.”

Thank you to our 2010 business sponsors

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Libraries Awarded NEH Grant to Complete Du Bois Digitization

Recently, as the project to digitize the Du Bois Papers neared the halfway mark, the Libraries won a $314,787 National Endowment for the Humanities We the People grant to complete the project. In April 2009, with the support of a Verizon Foundation grant, Special Collections & University Archives embarked on the historic project to digitize the Du Bois Papers, more than 100,000 items, and make them available on the Internet. As of April 2010, Special Collections has scanned 35,000 pages and created records for over 11,000 items. The NEH grant will enable Special Collections to mount the entire collection online by the end of 2013.

John J. Bonsignore Library Fund for Legal Studies Materials Created

A new endowment has been established in honor of Professor Emeritus John J. Bonsignore by his children: John T. Bonsignore ’85; Joan C. Bonsignore ’82, M.B.A. ’84; Ruth M. Bonsignore ’83; Carol L. Bonsignore ’84; Patricia J. Bonsignore ’86, M.S. ’90; Alice B. Christenson ’86; and Fenna Lee Beverly. Professor Bonsignore was devoted to teaching at UMass Amherst for almost three decades (1969 to 1998). He was an instrumental force in the creation of the Legal Studies program in 1973 and its evolution into a department in 1981. He is an ardent supporter of the Du Bois Library for the resources that it provides to students and faculty on campus. Law librarian Barbara Morgan will be responsible for selecting materials made possible by this generous gift.

Faculty and Staff Campaign A Great Success

The campus fundraising campaign last fall matched a dollar for every dollar donated by current and retired faculty and staff. The results are in! The campaign raised nearly $1 million from over 1,000 participants and was led by volunteer co-chairs Joe Bartolomeo, chair of the department and professor of English; Leslie Schalet, communication project manager, University Libraries; Cindy Suopis, UWW faculty; and Johnny Whitehead, chief of the UMans Amherst Police Department. The campaign attracted many new donors to the library.

Your support is appreciated: www.library.umass.edu/giving

library news

Maryellen Calderwood was appointed to the position of Library Building Monitor Supervisor.

Isabel Espina has been invited by the United States Embassy in Spain to give presentations on women, libraries, and the use of technology for outreach and delivering service to students at several Spanish academic institutions, including the International Institute, the University of Zaragoza, and the Foundation for Three Cultures of the Mediterranean.

Sarah Hutton was appointed to the position of Head of Teaching and Learning Services. Sarah holds an MLIS degree from the University of Rhode Island. Previously, she worked at the University of Bridgeport as Head Information Specialist.

Naka Ishii, science reference librarian, was elected to the position of secretary of the Association of College and Research Libraries, New England Chapter.

Renovations in the Libraries

In November, an electrical upgrade and compact shelving project began in the Integrated Sciences and Engineering Library. Some materials are temporarily unavailable during the project; users may request articles from these periodicals online via Interlibrary Loan (http://www.library.umass.edu/services/ill/index.html). The periodicals are scheduled to be returned and compact shelving installed by the fall semester.

New accessible motorized doors were installed in the Assistive Technologies Center. The Center, located in the Learning Commons, provides assistance with research, information, and study needs for campus community members with disabilities.

Research Guide on Haiti

In response to the earthquake in Haiti, UMass Amherst librarians compiled a list of resources: “Disaster and Rebuilding in Haiti” (http://guides.library.umass.edu/haiti). The research guide includes links to local and international news coverage and organizations that are providing assistance, as well as library resources for background information. The guide has been consulted over 4,000 times by students, faculty, librarians, aid organizations, and community members.