Spring 2012

UMass Amherst Friends of the Library Newsletter - Spring/Summer 2012 (no. 43)

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Flights, Camera, Action!

A pair of peregrine falcons, which have successfully nested on the roof of the Du Bois Library for the past ten years, now have a live webcam. ...Continued on page 3.
Sustainability was the key word as we celebrated Earth Day this spring. UMass Amherst has a growing culture of sustainability — largely signified by the Gold STARS (Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System™) award now displayed in the entry of the Du Bois Library. To support this campus effort, the Libraries have established a Sustainability Fund that will support collections and services related to the campus-wide dedication to sustainability.

Sustainability is also a key word for the Friends of the Library. It is only with your strong financial support that the Library can continue to support sustainability — largely signified by the Gold STARS (Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System™) in August of 2011. UMass Amherst earned a gold rating from STARS (The Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System™) in August of 2011. UMass Amherst is one of only 10 percent of the nation’s colleges that have a gold star rating. The star hangs in the lobby of the Du Bois Library as an emblem of the Libraries’ partnership with the Campus Sustainability Initiative.

Sustainability was also a key word for the Friends of the Library. It is only with your strong financial support that the Libraries are able to sustain these many exciting activities I’ve mentioned. We greatly appreciate your continued support and hope you understand how important each contribution, no matter how small, is for our continued success.

Du Bois Happenings

In February, Derrick P. Alridge, Professor in the Curry School of Education at the University of Virginia, was keynote speaker for the 18th Annual Du Bois Lecture. His moving talk, “Ideas Have Consequences: The Radical Pedagogy of W.E.B. Du Bois,” explored the many meanings of pedagogy as he experienced them, embedded in a genealogy of Du Bois’s ideas, and how this applies to issues faced by black Americans during the 20th century and today. He presented his talk at St. John’s Congregational Church, in Springfield, Massachusetts and at UMass Amherst. Alridge signed copies of his book, The Educational Thought of W.E.B. Du Bois: An Intellectual History, which was published in 2012. The National Endowment for the Arts has awarded a $100,000 grant to the University Museum of Contemporary Art (UMCA) at the University of Massachusetts Amherst for a fall 2013 exhibition, “Du Bois In Our Time.”

The interdisciplinary project will explore the intersection of art and the major issues of our time with specific emphasis on Du Bois’s legacy and the causes he championed. UMCA is inviting a number of artists who are known for their socially engaged and research-based work to collaborate with scholars to investigate Du Bois’s influence on American social justice, women’s rights, higher education, the arts, environmentalism, and political action. The participating scholars and artists will draw upon the W.E.B. Du Bois Collection, a repository of more than 100,000 essays, publications, speeches, photographs and letters held by the UMass Amherst Libraries’ Special Collections and University Archives. Sixty percent of the collection is digitized and available online: credo.library.umass.edu. The collection will be fully digitized by July 2013.

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For more information, see p. 7.

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A pair of peregrine falcons, which have successfully nested on the roof of the Du Bois Library for ten years, are now featured on a live webcam thanks to Friends of the Libraries funds. Many campus partners facilitated the camera’s installation and operation, including Facilities Planning Division, Office of Information Technology (OIT), Libraries’ Systems Department, and the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife).

Each spring, Richard Nathorst from Facilities Planning at UMass Amherst and personnel from MassWildlife band the chicks after they hatch. Since the nest box was installed in 2003, the federally endangered peregrine falcons have been successfully reintroduced into western Massachusetts and 27 falcon chicks have hatched and fledged from this site. This year, three healthy chicks hatched and were banded in May.

Live images of the falcons can be viewed at www.library.umass.edu/falcons.

Thank you, Friends of the Libraries!

Visit us on facebook to see photos of the banding and “Like” us!

Du Bois Hosts Kindergarten Tour

The Du Bois Library hosted Donna Gagnon’s kindergarten class from Amherst’s Wildwood Elementary School. Retired faculty member Arthur Clifford G’77 read a story from the Masha Rudman Collection, Librarian Sandy Lillydahl gave a tour of the Map Collection, and the children enjoyed exploring the courtyard garden.

Science and Engineering Library Powers Up

Over winter break the Libraries finished phase one of the Science and Engineering Library (SEL) renovation. The project was largely funded through donations to the Facilities Fund of the Friends of the Library. The renovated space holds eight new group study rooms, each with a whiteboard and computer, as well as 46 new individual computer stations.

The renovated space came as a welcome surprise to returning students. “I noticed there was a sign saying it was closed during the construction phase, and when I came back a few days later, it was open,” said Civil Engineering major, Greg Olson ’14, “I usually come at least once a day. There is easy access to computers, and the white boards are really helpful for group study sessions. It’s awesome.”

On the busiest day in 2011, 1,273 people visited SEL, and over the course of the year Library staff answered 8,461 questions at the service desks. The Library was challenged to accommodate this level of traffic before the renovations. The space is constantly busy, and students are utilizing both the individual desks and the new study rooms. Visitors to SEL in the spring of 2012 have increased by 20% over spring 2011. Phase two renovations of the library lobby will begin this summer. Improvements include more comfortable seating and exhibit space.

Watch video: bit.ly/SELvideo

SEL is located in Lederle Lowrise, Floor 2

Journal of Medicinally Active Plants

A new open-source journal was recently published online and made available to viewers for free through the Libraries’ Scholarworks. The Journal of Medicinally Active Plants is produced and edited in large part by UMass Amherst Professor Lyle Craker in the department of Plant, Soil, and Insect Sciences.

Sharim Hossain, a graduate student in Public Health, interned at the Journal. “I was interested in working with Dr. Craker,” said Hossain. She feels that her field is “quite interrelated” with Plant, Soil, and Insect Sciences because, “many people in Nutrition are studying properties and effects of bioactive food components, which are similar to those found in some medicinal plants.”

The Journal of Medicinally Active Plants is a peer-reviewed journal, and is available free of charge on the UMass Libraries Scholarworks website: scholarworks.umass.edu. Since its launch in late January, it has been downloaded 1,000+ times.
This year’s dinner saluted New England tradition, in recognition of guests of honor from Yankee Publishing Incorporated. Jud Hale, editor-in-chief at Yankee, entertained the crowd with snippets from the company’s colorful history, regularly reminding guests these gems could now be found upstairs (way upstairs) in the Du Bois Library; Yankee recently donated its archives to Special Collections and University Archives, said Jamie Trowbridge, CEO of Yankee, as he introduced Hale, his uncle, “We’re pleased to donate the collection of our family business, where it will be properly preserved and accessible... but we’re all glad Jud didn’t have a hand in the evening’s fare, since if you read your program, his favorite New England meal is a can of corn beef hash, eaten at room temperature from the can.”

Over a main course of cod, duck, and squash, food historians and authors Keith Stavely and Kathleen Fitzgerald offered insight into the region’s culinary history. Other native treats served throughout the evening included chowder, oysters, lobster, kielbasa, and Parker House Rolls.

Each year, the Libraries close for one night to host the Dinner with Friends fundraiser. This year, over $21,000 in proceeds will establish the Yankee Publishing Special Collections fellowship, which provides structured, hands-on experience using and interpreting historical documentary resources for researchers investigating New England topics in the Libraries’ collection.

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Library Sustainability Fund

The Library Sustainability Fund serves the campus community with philanthropic support for print and electronic materials, archives, exhibits, and programming related to environmental, economic, and social sustainability. The fund has hit a nerve; so far over $133,000 has been raised from more than 3,000 donors.

The fund highlights the Library’s central role on campus. “There is a paradigm shift in the planning and actions on campuses across the country—to consider generations to come,” explains Librarian Madeleine Charney, whose recent sabbatical centered on the role of the academic library in the sustainability movement. “Librarians are deeply involved in this shift as they guide users to relevant resources that strengthen sustainability-based projects.”

Sustainability is important to students; among prospective students and parents, 69 percent said that a campus’s eco-friendliness would influence their decisions on where to apply, according to “More Colleges Adding ‘Green’ to School Colors,” The New York Times (8/16/11). More than 70 courses (and growing) across disciplines at UMass Amherst offer “green” components.

To donate to the Library Sustainability Fund, visit: www.library.umass.edu/giving.

Yankee Publishing Incorporated Collection

Located in Dublin, New Hampshire, Yankee Publishing was founded in 1935 by Robb Sagendorph, who saw an opportunity for a magazine devoted to depicting New England life and culture. The materials offer insight into the early years and growth of the corporation and its remarkable survival in an age of media conglomerations, as well as its flagship publications, Yankee Magazine and the Old Farmer’s Almanac. Yankee is one of the few surviving independent family-owned publishing companies of its size, celebrating its 77th year in business.

The Yankee Publishing Incorporated Collection adds rich context to Special Collections’ extensive historic New England holdings, providing students, scholars, and researchers a wide window into New England social life and customs.

“Yankee Publishing’s archives will serve as a valuable resource for anyone studying New England’s culture,” says Jamie Trowbridge, CEO and grandson of the company’s founder. “We’re pleased to donate the collection to UMass Amherst Libraries where it will be properly preserved and accessible to future generations of scholars and the public.”


Microsoft Awards Libraries $1.56M in Software

Microsoft Corporation announced UMass Amherst Libraries earned its fifth software grant, valued at $1.56 million, in support of the Learning Commons.

The donated Office and Windows software enables the Libraries to upgrade all Learning Commons computers with the latest information technology. Students and the community will have access to the latest tools to develop fluency with the MS Office Suite and other collaborative technologies in order to compete in the global economy.

UMass Amherst Libraries have enjoyed a rich relationship with Microsoft. In 2005, UMass was designated Microsoft’s first-ever “Information Technology (IT) Showcase School” by Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer during the grand opening of the Learning Commons in the W.E.B. Du Bois Library. With subsequent expansions, and two more large software grants from Microsoft totaling over $2M, the Learning Commons continues to serve as a model for other academic libraries and has become a focal point of the campus.

In 2010, the Library landed a fourth Microsoft grant for computer software worth nearly $355,000. The latest grant brings Microsoft’s overall support of the Library to $5M.
The Du Bois Library will host “Pride and Passion: The African American Baseball Experience” from October 10 through December 7, 2012. The exhibit tells the story of black baseball players in the U.S. over the past century and a half.

Although many blacks played baseball with whites in the nineteenth century as amateurs and also played on minor league teams through the 1880s, black players were not allowed to compete with whites when major league baseball was created in the mid-1890s. To counter this discrimination, they organized teams made up entirely of black players and formed leagues that were known collectively as the Negro Leagues.

By examining the challenges faced by African-American players as they formed their own leagues and later integrated the major leagues in the mid-20th century, “Pride and Passion” illustrates how these milestones in baseball were not only individual points of significance in themselves, but part of an ongoing process in American society.

To the Village Square: An Experiment in American Democracy

The Libraries hosted an exhibit, “To the Village Square: An Experiment in American Democracy,” featuring photographs by photojournalist Lionel Delevingne covering the antinuclear movement. Delevingne began covering the antinuclear movement in 1975, including the long history of civil disobedience and occupation at Seabrook, the aftermath of the Three Mile Island disaster, and other protests from New York to South Carolina and Europe. New England was the epicenter of the antinuclear movement of the 1970s and 1980s. Sparked by the proposed construction of nuclear power plants in Montague, MA, and Seabrook, N.H., a grass-roots movement blossomed in the region, drawing on a long tradition of non-violent political protest. The Lionel Delevingne Collection was donated to Special Collections and University Archives.

For more information about the collection, visit: [bit.ly/delevingne].

Where’s Levy?

Yariv Levy is a seventh year PhD student. “Wow,” he says, as if just realizing how much time he has put into his graduate studies pursuing a doctoral degree in the Computer Science Department with a dissertation focusing on drug addiction. He has been on the University Research Council as well as the International Studies Council. Levy uses computer science to analyze data on the different aspects of addiction, such as the psychological, physiological, mental, and physical. His research on addiction is much more mathematical than most.

Levy puts in many hours of work outside of the classroom. He can often be found on the “best view floor” of the Library, Floor 23. At peak times of the school year, he can sometimes spend an entire day in the Library. Levy says that the Library gives him “a very reliable environment to find information and gain knowledge.” Among the many resources he uses are the library’s online databases, Interlibrary Loan, which allows him to search for and request articles that are not immediately available; and Google Scholar, which helps him connect to library databases from off-campus.

At the Library!

James L. Craig, Biological Sciences and Instructional Services Librarian for the Science and Engineering Library, was named to the Continuing Education and Advisory Services Committee of the Massachusetts Library System (MLS). Craig was also elected to serve on the Executive Board of the newly formed Western Massachusetts Library Advocates or WMLA, formerly WMRLS (Western Massachusetts Regional Library System).
In recent years, the field of quantum information science has catapulted to the cutting edge of physics. Long before the big budgets and dedicated teams, the field moldered on the scientific sidelines. In fact, the pre-history of the field stretches back, in part, to the hazy excesses of the 1970s New Age movement. Many of the ideas that now occupy the core of quantum information science once found their home amid an anything-goes counterculture frenzy, a mishmash of spoon-bending psychics, Eastern mysticism, LSD trips, CIA spooks chasing mind-reading dreams, and comparable “Age of Aquarius” enthusiasms. This talk describes the field’s bumpy transition from New Age to cutting edge.

David Kaiser is Germeshausen Professor of the History of Science and Department Head of MIT’s Program in Science, Technology, and Society, and a Senior Lecturer in MIT’s Department of Physics. He has an A.B. in physics from Dartmouth College and PhDs in theoretical physics and the history of science from Harvard University.

Kaiser is author of the award-winning book, Drawing Theories Apart: The Dispersion of Feynman Diagrams in Postwar Physics (2005), which traces how Richard Feynman’s idiosyncratic approach to quantum physics entered the mainstream. His most recent book, How the Hippies Saved Physics: Science, Counterculture, and the Quantum Revival (2011), charts the early history of Bell’s theorem and quantum entanglement. He is presently completing a book entitled American Physics and the Cold War Bubble (University of Chicago Press, in preparation). Kaiser is also working on two books about physics; a textbook for advanced physics undergraduates on Gravitation and Cosmology, co-written with Alan Guth; and a historical study of Einstein’s theory of gravity (general relativity) over the 20th century.