Winter 2015

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WITH CLEAN WINDOWS AT THE DU BOIS LIBRARY, WE HAVE A CLEARER VIEW OF OUR CAMPUS, OUR STUDENTS, AND OUR MISSION.
On the cover

This past summer, 10 window washers (three outside, seven inside) from Frenchy’s Window Cleaning, based in Windsor Locks, CT, washed the Du Bois Library’s 1,400 windows for the first time in at least 30 years. Crowds gathered on the ground to watch the three college-aged men descend with buckets, squeegees, towels, and suction cups from the 28-story building. Students and Library staff cheered them on from inside. Before this, the highest building they had worked on was 10 stories.

View a video: bit.ly/duboiswindows

Something Borrowed, Something Maroon

You may be interested in checking out resources from the Libraries, yet a trip to Amherst isn’t on your horizon. Now, with the Commonwealth Catalog, anyone residing in Massachusetts can borrow materials from the largest public research library in New England. New libraries and networks are being added all the time. Check with your local library to see if they are part of Commonwealth Catalog.

The Libraries are a proud partner in the Commonwealth Catalog and are happy to make this new borrowing privilege available.

Visit commonwealthcatalog.org

Who?

For a few hours, the Learning Commons was inhabited by a screech-owl, great horned owl, saw-whet owl, kestrel, peregrine falcon, red-tailed and Harris hawk, and a golden eagle. As part of Homecoming Week in mid-October, the Libraries hosted Tom Ricardi, Wildlife Rehabilitator and owner of Massachusetts Birds of Prey Rehab Center in Conway, Massachusetts.

Ricardi presented a program to over 200 students, community members, faculty and staff, in part to help the campus community learn more about the springtime residents of an active falcon nest atop the 274-foot library tower.

Ricardi spoke about the history of animal exploitation as well as how pesticide use, such as that of DDT in the 1970s, and widespread loss of habitat, has negatively impacted birds of prey. He also shared details about each bird’s specific situations and abilities.

Falcon Class of 2015

A new pair of peregrine falcons nested on the Du Bois Library roof in the spring. The two-year-old female was banded in Sorel, Quebec. The male is unbanded but is estimated to be around the same age.

A female and a male fledged and were still spotted around the Libraries as late as October. The Falcon Cam had 288,114 views as falcon fans watched the new parents successfully raise their young.

The previous pair, which nested on the Library roof from 2003-2014, hatched 37 chicks, most of which survived to adulthood.

Thank you to everyone who followed the season and created a supportive and engaged online falcon community.

All Massachusetts Government Documents in the Libraries’ collection are now digitized. The documents are freely available on the Internet Archive’s website at bit.ly/archiveorgumasslibraries.

This 8,000-piece collection contains publications from Massachusetts State Agencies and range in variety and scope from the Journal of the House of Representatives in 1784-1785 to the Seventh Annual Unsung Heroines of Massachusetts, published in 2010.

Residence of late Danielle Hitchcock, Springfield, Mass.

History of the Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts, 1879

Thanks to Falcon Cam fans, 206 donors have made 329 gifts totaling more than $8,500 to offset the cost of the live broadcast, camera maintenance, and repairs.

Got empty nest syndrome?

Purchase falcon mugs, note cards and t-shirts at our online store!

www.zazzle.com/umasslibrary*


Learn the history of the falcon program:
library.umass.edu/falcons/history/


View more photos: facebook.com/umassamherstlibraries/

Something Borrowed, Something MAROON

Delivered to You from the UMass Amherst Libraries

Greetings from

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Visit commonwealthcatalog.org

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Q&A with Jeanne Antill, Digital Media Lab Coordinator, about the new 3D Printing Center

What impact do you think the Center has on the education of our students?

The rapid process from conceptual idea to physical object is powerful and unleashes a whole host of learning opportunities. It is an exciting new way to engage students at the intersection of the technical and creative arenas. It is also a real world tool that will give them an advantage when working with future technologies in the workplace.

Who will be able to take advantage of having this type of resource on campus?

The printers will be accessible to the students, staff, and faculty for class or personal projects. The print service will also be available to the public as time allows. We will prioritize class projects but want to keep things as flexible and open as possible during this time of exploration. I am excited to see the diversity of project ideas from the students.

Thank you to the 342 donors to the Innovation Fund for 3D printing who gave nearly $40,000.

22nd Annual Du Bois Lecture

Featuring Scholar and Historian Aldon Morris


FRI DAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2016

Aldon Morris is best known for his paradigm-changing research on social movements and in particular his prize-winning book, The Origins of the Civil Rights Movement that emphasized the organizational and cultural basis of social protest. Morris is the Leon Forrest Professor of Sociology and African American Studies at Northwestern University. He is the author of the just-released and long-awaited The Scholar Denied that plots the early history of U.S. sociology and asserts that W.E.B. Du Bois should rightly be considered the founder of US sociology. The Du Bois Lecture is sponsored in part by the Randolph and Cecile Bromery Endowment for the Du Bois Center at UMass Amherst Libraries.

Project eLEVate Students Visit Du Bois Center

Whitney Battle-Baptiste, Director of the Du Bois Center and associate professor of anthropology, led a group of high school students from Project eLEVate on a tour of the center and introduced them to the national and global significance of Du Bois. She followed up the tour with “Hip-Hop Feminism,” a conversation about feminism and hip-hop culture through music, film, and the written word. Project eLEVate promotes awareness of African-American heritage and culture.

“Partnering with eLEVate was a wonderful opportunity to introduce students from the Berkshires to the Du Bois Center, Special Collections, the Libraries, and the W.E.B. Du Bois National Historic Site,” says Whitney Battle-Baptiste, Director of the Du Bois Center (above).
Supporting Sustainability

The national award-winning Library Sustainability Fund continues to resonate with alumni and friends. Many are making this their annual gift to the Library.

Green Screenings

A screening of the newly released film, **INHABIT: A Permaculture Perspective**, was held at the Du Bois Library in October to a packed house of students and community members. Permaculture is a social, economic, and agricultural design approach that mimics nature.

A screening of the film **This Changes Everything**, funded by the Sustainability Fund, was held in November. The film asks the question: What if confronting the climate crisis is the best chance we’ll ever get to build a better world? Filmed over 211 shoot days in nine countries and five continents over four years, This Changes Everything is an epic attempt to re-imagine the vast challenge of climate change.

Directed by Avi Lewis, and inspired by Naomi Klein’s international non-fiction bestseller This Changes Everything, the film presents seven portraits of communities on the front lines, from Montana’s Powder River Basin to the Alberta Tar Sands, from the coast of South India to Beijing and beyond.

Throughout the film, Klein builds to her most controversial and exciting idea: What if confronting the climate crisis is the best chance we’ll ever get to build a better world? Filmed over 211 shoot days in nine countries and five continents over four years, This Changes Everything is an epic attempt to re-imagine the vast challenge of climate change.

Nearly 100 faculty, librarians, staff, and students gathered to discuss emotions underlying the reality of climate disruption in a new discussion series. The discussion format includes break-out groups, storytelling, free writing, art-making, and mindfulness practices.

Due to the tremendous response, there are plans to continue into the spring. For more information, contact Madeleine Charney, Sustainability Studies Librarian, mcharney@library.umass.edu, 413-577-0784.

The series is co-sponsored by the UMass Amherst Libraries, the Office of Civic Engagement & Service Learning and the Department of Environmental Conservation.

**Q&A with Madeleine Charney, Sustainability Studies Librarian**

(Excerpt from Sustainability, pp. 117-120, Vol. 8 No. 3, June 2015.)

**What has your experience been like incorporating sustainability initiatives into the Libraries?**

We have a library sustainability fund that has opened up so many doors. From it we buy books, DVDs, database subscriptions; we co-sponsor sustainability events on campus; and we sponsor an undergraduate sustainability research award. We just picked the five top student research papers, and they were so impressive; it was an incredible pool of student work.

Another exciting thing is, for the third year in a row, the Library has awarded faculty Sustainability Initiative Grants. Librarians and faculty work together; it is a wonderful networking experience. Faculty from many different disciplines meet in the same room and talk about how to teach across disciplines.

Awarding Grants

“I have never received such ebullient evaluations. Almost all students had perfect attendance and several noted that it was a pleasure to come to class. The energy of the class was sparkling. Several students volunteered to give in-class oral presentations on their Sustainability-related activities outside of class.”

-Aviva Ben-Ur, Judaic and Near Eastern Studies Sustainability Curriculum Initiative grant recipient

Sustainability plays an increasingly prominent role in the curriculum at UMass Amherst. Sustainability courses address interconnections between economy, society, and environment. To foster these connections, the Libraries (in partnership with the Institute for Teaching Excellence and Faculty Development) have awarded a third round of Sustainability Curriculum Initiative faculty grants.

Cultivating Conversations

This summer, American Library Association (ALA) councilors overwhelmingly passed a resolution on the importance of sustainable libraries. “Libraries play an important and unique role in wider community conversations about resiliency, climate change, and a sustainable future,” states the resolution. It also encourages members, library schools and state associations to be proactive in their application of sustainable thinking in the areas of their facilities, operations, policy, technology, programming, and partnerships.

Madeleine Charney, Sustainability Studies Librarian at UMass Amherst (pictured above) is the Coordinator of ALA’s Sustainability Round Table.

**Sustainability Round Table**

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Madeleine Charney, Sustainability Studies Librarian at UMass Amherst (pictured above) is the Coordinator of ALA’s Sustainability Round Table.
To borrow a musical term, this year’s annual Fall Reception had an irresistible rhythm. Twenty students in the UMass Jazz Ensemble packed “Club Du Bois”—the Lower Level of the Du Bois Library set up to look like a jazz venue—on the first Sunday afternoon in October. Professor, composer, arranger, and performer Jeffrey Holmes directed the young players through standards and original tunes, entertaining the crowd of 100 guests with a final flourish—the alma mater played to a sped-up swing tempo.

The students had been invited to play for special guest Aureldon Henderson who recently gave the library the Boston Jazz Society collection and was being honored at the reception. Materials from that and other recently acquired jazz collections filled the exhibit cases surrounding the performance area. Founded in 1973, the Boston Jazz Society (BJS) grew from a small group of enthusiasts listening to music in living rooms to a thriving organization that “kept jazz alive” in New England. As jazz’s popularity began to fade in the late 1960s, local jazz societies formed to provide support to artists and give them the means and venues to continue to perform on the road. Like many of these societies, BJS produced concerts in clubs, theaters and hotels, and also expanded its efforts to include exhibits, television and radio shows, and a jazz education program for grade-school students. Thanks to Henderson and others, the collection is now available to students, researchers and anyone else in search of a resource for understanding the history of jazz and the richness of the music and its community of enthusiasts and supporters.

Two days later, the students and Holmes took the show on the road for a gig at the famous jazz club, Scullers, in Cambridge, which had served as a second home to the Boston Jazz Society in the group’s heyday. The Ensemble played to a full room, equal parts Jazz Society friends, Ensemble parents, and UMass Amherst alumni. Given that several student musicians of the Ensemble are members of the Class of 2018, and attendee Ruth Hill graduated with the Class of 1946, alumni spanned 72 years of graduating classes…a testament to UMass Amherst loyalty, and to the ageless appeal of good jazz and true friends.

The annual Siegfried Feller Award recognizing outstanding efforts on behalf of the Library went to Vanessa A. Cieslak ’76. The award was bestowed by Charles Hadley ’64, President of the Friends of the Library Board of Trustees, and Director of Libraries Jay Schafer.
Newly Acquired Social Justice Collections

The Gloria Xifaras Clark Papers document the evolution of one activist’s role in the civil rights and antiwar movements. As a recent college graduate in 1964, Clark enlisted in the Freedom Summer Project to teach in northern Mississippi, and she was active with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party. After returning to Massachusetts, she continued her activism, working on economic justice initiatives and in the antwar struggle as head of the Greater New Bedford Draft Information Center. Portions of the Clark Papers are digitized, and available in Credo. Clark’s friend Frank “Parky” Grace became involved in the antwar movement after returning from Vietnam and organized the local branch of the Black Panthers shortly before the New Bedford Rebellion of 1970. In 1972, he and his brother were charged with murder, receiving life sentences; Grace was released in 1984 after his brother admitted responsibility for the murder. The Frank Grace Papers consist of a powerful series of letters written while Grace was confined in Walpole State Penitentiary. Informed by his revolutionary politics, the letters offer insight into the conditions of imprisonment, his treatment by guards, and his relationships with fellow prisoners.

An activist and scholar of labor studies, José Soler has worked for Puerto Rican independence, the labor movement, and human rights for four decades. The José A. Soler Papers chronicle his commitments to organized labor, socialism, anti-imperialism—particularly movements in the Caribbean, South and Central America, and Africa—and issues affecting Puerto Rico and Puerto Ricans.

David F. Noble Papers

David F. Noble was a critical and highly influential historian of technology, science, and education, writing from a strong leftist perspective. With degrees in chemistry and history, Noble held academic appointments at MIT, the Smithsonian, Drexel, and finally York University. The core themes of this collection include the challenges of academic freedom and corporate influence that Noble confronted throughout his career, and his sharp analyses of technology, science, and religion in contemporary culture.

Digitized Collections

Glass Plate Negatives

The first of two parallel projects, the Alton H. Blackington Photograph Collection contains glass plate negatives from a writer, photojournalist, and radio personality whose subjects included public officials, civic events, and local personalities. At the heart of the collection are dozens of images of typically eccentric New England characters and human interest stories.

The second project comes from Frank Waugh, who in 1902 arrived at Massachusetts Agricultural College, where he established the second landscape gardening department in the country. A centerpiece of the Frank A. Waugh Papers is the large number of photographs, lantern slides, and etchings that portray the heart and soul of Waugh as a garden designer and artist.

Marie Phillips Collection

The Phillips collection offers a visual record of the lives of the feral cats that took up residence on the UMass Amherst campus. Beginning in 1945, a succession of individuals has been moved to feed and care for the cats. An alumna and employee in Human Relations, Marie Phillips took over as caretaker between 1991 and 2007, joined by her colleague Meg Caulmare of the English Department; together they supported the colonies along the Cat Corridor stretching from the rear of Munson Hall to the Queen Anne Horse Barn. With increasing construction on campus, the campus’s feral cat population was gradually reduced until 2014, when the last cats were given a home by Caulmare.
Why is the Library Named for W.E.B. Du Bois?

Thanks to the generosity of Friends of the Library Trustee John Fitzgerald ’63, G’78, the W.E.B. Du Bois Center was able to hand out 500 free copies of The Souls of Black Folk, written by Du Bois and published in 1903, to students to help them learn for whom their library is named. Fitzgerald spent two hours talking with students and giving out books. He is a retired history teacher from Longmeadow, Massachusetts, and grew up in Holyoke, which was primarily white at the time. He served in the Vietnam War and upon returning to America protested against it. In the service he served alongside fellow soldiers of all races, and became aware of racism which was prevalent outside military bases throughout the South. Fitzgerald said he was inspired to donate the literature because he felt it was “a simple way to teach students about the continuing relevance of their library’s namesake today.”

Students loved the pop art Du Bois buttons.

Great grandson of W.E.B. Du Bois Arthur McFarlane was available during the event to speak to students on FaceTime.

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Welcome to the Libraries!

Saudi e-Learners
In collaboration with the Open Education Consortium and multiple campus partners, UMass Amherst librarians planned a full week of programming for a distinguished group of educational thought leaders from Saudi Arabia as part of a partnership with the National e-Learning Center of Saudi Arabia. The group met with staff at UMass Amherst, and other area colleges on topics of e-learning, educational leadership, and student engagement. With a strong foundation in eLearning tools, techniques and learning, and mentoring, these teachers will have the opportunity to better educate the Saudi population of girls and women.

UMass Pre-Freshman
UMass Summer Programs collaborated with the Learning Commons to print posters for the Summer Pre-College Poster Session. High school students capped a summer of study on campus by highlighting their focused research in poster format. The demand for and popularity of the poster printing service at the Learning Commons Desk continues to grow among members of the UMass community and now includes UMass Summer Programs. The service is another example of the Library making a difference.

College Bound High Schoolers
After Librarian Isabel Espinal taught Upward Bound students to do library research, she said, “The students were excited about the Library and about research. They loved the book stacks, the books, the 3D printers and the views. They appreciated learning about reliable sources. They liked learning from each other and helping each other out.”

The sixty students lived on campus during the summer. They were selected from the sixty students lived on campus during the summer. They were selected from the sixty students lived on campus during the summer. They were selected from the sixty students lived on campus during the summer. They were selected from the High School of Commerce in Springfield. To meet the requirements of the federally funded program, they must be potential first generation college graduates and come from a lower socioeconomic background.

Each poster illustrated the results of in-depth research conducted over the course of the six-week program in a selected area, such as biology, psychology and chemistry.

Upward Bound students Daniel Pagan, Chestina Thrower, and Carlos Nieves learn how to search for library materials on a cell phone from Librarian Isabel Espinal.

Welcome

Jay’s Message
If you have been following the Libraries’ newsletter closely over the years, you might have noticed that the space for my message has gone from a whole page to half a page to, now, a little more than a quarter page. I can assure you it is not because I have less to say. Rather, it is because there are so many exciting “happenings” in the Libraries – from raptors to international visitors to digital media and 3D printing services to sustainability to jazz to new collections and finally to new staff and upcoming events. Why take up space with me telling you how great our staff, services, and collections are when we can show you by documenting the many activities of the past several months.

I will share one (perhaps) silly but, to me, significant accomplishment. This past summer, the windows of the Du Bois Library were washed for the first time in more than 30 years. Metaphorically, this could be viewed as recognizing the significant investment the University has made in supporting the Libraries, or as symbolic of the transformation going on inside the walls of the building as we move from a print world to a digital one. To me, it symbolizes how the light of knowledge shines brighter into the building and how all of us working inside the building have a clearer view of our campus, our students, and our mission.

Thanks as always for your continuing support,

Jay Schafer
Director of Libraries

Connecting the UMass Amherst Community with Library Expansion Projects in the Dominican Republic

Congratulations

Caroline White was appointed to the position of Archives and Manuscript Librarian in Special Collections and University Archives. Caroline holds an MLS degree in Archives Management from Simmons and has worked in Special Collections since June 2012 as the Kenneth R. Feinberg Archivist. Previously, she worked at Mount Holyoke College Archives and Special Collections as Project Curator and Assistant Archivist.

Other Staff News

Madeleine Charney, Sustainability Studies Librarian, will be the keynote speaker at an international conference, “Sustainable Academic Libraries: Now and Beyond” in Hong Kong in June 2016.

Emily Dine ’15
Library Business Office Assistant
Library Business Office

Christina Linde
Electronic Resources Assistant
Information Resources Management Department

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Librarian Isabel Espinal (far left) donated 508 literary works to the Dominican Republic Children and Youth Library to be distributed to low-income children who visit the cultural center, schools and foundations. The books were purchased through an internationalization grant.

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Join us for an evening with Donna Leon

Donna Leon is the author of the international best-selling Commissario Guido Brunetti series. The winner of the Crime Writers’ Association Macallan Silver Dagger for Fiction, among other awards, Leon was born in New Jersey and has lived in Venice for thirty years.

The Brunetti novels explore myriad social issues facing the city of Venice, with Venetian architecture, language, and food taking pride of place as the characters grapple with crime solving. There are 24 novels in the Brunetti series starting with Death at La Fenice in 1992 and ending with Falling in Love in 2015. The 25th installment, The Waters of Eternal Youth, is due out March 2016. German television has produced 20 Commissario Brunetti mysteries for broadcast.

The series has also inspired two companion books, Brunetti’s Venice: Walks Through Venice with the City’s Best-Loved Detective by Toni Sepeda (2009) and Brunetti’s Cookbook by Roberta Pianaro (2010).