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Annual Report 2006

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“The Learning Commons is the new campus center.”

The Learning Commons brings together library, technology, and other campus services in an atmosphere that fosters informal, collaborative work, and social interaction. In addition to personal computers, group study rooms, flexible work stations, and comfortable furniture, the Learning Commons offers

- New attractive planters, plantings, benches, and bike racks.
- Raised an all time high of $1.1 million through
- Launched the Director’s
- Created the 21st Century Library Technology Endowment to provide funds for innovative technology improvements such as a new multimedia center and expanded Learning Commons facilities.
- Launched the Director’s Council to raise awareness of and financial support for the UMass Amherst Libraries. Members of the Director’s Council will serve as advocates through financial support and outreach for the Libraries on campus and throughout their spheres of influence.
- Microsoft General Manager Anthony Salcicciardi unveiled the UMass Amherst Libraries a $600,000 Unlimited Potential Grant.
- Based on an average high of $1.1 million through 7,292 gifts from 6,344 donors in fiscal year 2006.

BIG CHANGES INSIDE AND OUT

The UMass Amherst Libraries’ exuberant renovations were completed this year. The project features a variety of spaces and services designed to lend a new vibrancy to the campus library experience. A new glass-walled room for the Writing Center allows for a more comfortable, collaborative study environment. On the Lower Level, the Learning Commons was expanded with floor-to-ceiling windows to provide a panoramic view of the Du Bois Library promenade. The Learning Commons exemplifies both the academic and the corporate environments of the future where team projects, rapid feedback, access to web resources, and seamless integration of information, media, and learning inspire innovation and productivity.

Budweiser has sponsored the project’s exhibition, “The Learning Commons is the new campus center.”

TOURING THE LEARNING COMMONS

The Learning Commons is a dynamic new campus center that opens new horizons for campus life. Here you can:

- View the Learning Commons and related spaces on the first floor of the Du Bois Library.
- Meet the staff and learn more about how the Learning Commons is transforming the way we learn.
- Experience the Learning Commons for yourself and learn more about how you can get involved.

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RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP

The UMass Amherst Libraries, Office of Research, Center for Teaching, and Graduate School collaborated to offer “Research and Scholarship in the Digital Age,” a colloquium, which explored the changing nature of the representation of knowledge and how it affects research and scholarship. Chris Green, Program Director, National Science Foundation’s Division of Biocomplexity and Biocomplexity was the guest speaker.

SCHOLARLY HIGHLIGHTS

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– Special Collections and University Archives sponsored a colloquium in an ongoing series “Building the Left at the Age of the Right: Developing an American Commitment,” with activists and writers Eric Marcus and Sara Shane-Maté.

– Editor of Martin Luther King Papers, Claremont, Professor of History at Stanford University and Director of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Research and Education Institute, gave a talk in honor of W.E.B. Du Bois’ 125th birthday.

– ScholarWorks (http://scholarworks.umass.edu), was launched. It provides a place for UMass Amherst faculty, researchers, and scholars to store and share their digital materials. ScholarWorks includes journals, articles, books, chapters, radio and video files, thesis and dissertations and is available to the public.

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College Libraries Vie for Student Traffic

“Many college libraries are working hard to attract young scholars to facilities that no longer serve as a gathering place. In-room Internet access is a major competitor. The head of libraries for the University of Massachusetts Amherst, Jay Schafer, tells Scott Simon about the changes at his library’s W.E.B. Du Bois building.”

For the full story, see: http://tinyurl.com/25v3jk

Coffee’s On, Dusty Books Are Out at UMass Library Extras aimed at drawing students

A MHERST – To its 3 million volumes of books, the personal papers of US Representative Silvio O. Conte, and the works of William Butler Yeats, the W.E.B. Du Bois Library at the University of Massachusetts has added more features: a café, a lounge, and cellphone isolation booths.

With students shunning its 28 stories and opting to conduct research by mouse click, the library is on an outreach offensive, shelving once-forbidding rules and replacing an old circulation counter with a coffee bar, where hot drinks and soda are for sale and an assortment of pastries are on display behind the counter.

For the full article, see: http://tinyurl.com/ygbxtf

Students Flock to Renovated Library

AMHERST - Innovative renovations at the University of Massachusetts Learning Commons in the W.E.B. Du Bois Library have increased student use of the library by tens of thousands.

For the full article, see: www.library.umass.edu/friends

“It’s so popular because they are responsive to students’ needs.”

Brian A. Whalley ’07, UMass Amherst political science major

2006 BY THE NUMBERS

5.9 million
number of items ranging from books to musical recordings in the Libraries

20,883
questions answered at the Learning Commons and Technical Support desk

1,924
number of additional hours Du Bois Library was open compared to 2005

400
number of ports for laptop access

164
number of computers in the Learning Commons

36
number of new upholstered chairs

17
number of laptops for loan

16
number of glass rooms for group study

12
number of new staff members

4
number of Cell Zone™ phone booths