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Annual Report 2005

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From left, Richard Rogers, Rep. Ellen Story (D-Amherst), President Jack Wilson, Provost Charlena Seymour, Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer, Chancellor John V. Lombardi and UMass Amherst students celebrate the Learning Commons Dedication.

We Libraries received many generous gifts from our donors in 2005. Thanks to you, we added some wonderful materials to the collections, such as:

Labor History

The historian John W. Bennett ’52, donated a vast labor history collection that offers a stunning visual history of the iconography of the labor movement from the 1870s to the present, along with the funds to support the processing, care, and scholarly use of the collection. In addition, Bennett provided funding for a new annual colloquium in labor history. The Massachusetts AFL-CIO donated a major accession of its recent records and funding to support its processing.

Social Change

There were many additions to our history of social change collection, including the records of the Liberation Movement tendon and the Shaker Massachusett branch of the American Friends Service Committee, the papers of former students (for example, the papers of Brenda Bailey of Allston, and the extensive collection of Beth Hapgood, a member of the Hapgood family, which documents life in communes in the 1960s and 1970s, and her spiritual endeavors.

Faculty

Significant from faculty members include the papers of Joel Halpern, John Chametzky, the late Anne Halley, and photographs of special collections. In addition, Professor Arthur N. Mange, Jr., who retired from the Du Bois Library and is the key figure in the post-war study of Japanese culture, donated his papers. Arnold Silver, researcher from the History Department, donated numerous rare books.

Rare Books

Additions to our rare book collection include rare editions of William Apess’s Son of the Forest, the first Native American autobiography, and his Eulogy of King Philip. Several books printed in towns submerged by the Quabbin Reservoir were also added to the collection.

Alumni

The Class of 1955 Garden, the 50th reunion gift of the Class of 1955, is nearing completion on the north side of the Du Bois Library. The Class of 1957 is already gearing up for its big reunion in 2007. They have decided to devote their 50th Reunion Gift to the Du Bois Library Promenade. The Class of 2006 selected the Library for its Senior Class Gift. Their gift will help renovate the topmost floor of the Du Bois Library—Floor 26.

Thanks to You
learning Commons is a welcoming place, right in the heart of campus. It removes obstacles to learning, allowing students to make steady progress by finding what they need in one centralized location. The LC has abundant computer access, a wireless computing environment, and expert staff to guide students to find exactly what they need, whether it is help with research, technology support, choosing a major, finding a tutor, or writing a paper. It provides a flexible, multi-functional space that removes the intellectual environment created by walls of the past.

“Here in the Learning Commons we’ve brought all the supports together: the faculty, the IT experts, the librarians. And students taking classes in a classroom down the hall, or students standing up and learning in a pod together in a space that was designed and maintained by dedicated people like you and students like us.”

Richard Rogers, Faculty Undergraduate Advisor to Provost

“Academic Libraries have changed dramati- cally. They are now more clever, more community-oriented. The new learning commons that you have is a portal to success. And it is an appropriate place to attracting a diversity of people because it's a place to belong.”

Steve Ballmer, CEO of Microsoft

"The energy, the forward thinking approach to create this kind of a center is really something...I can see a lot of great things going on here...I see a lot of great things going on here... We look forward to a new residue of activity... I see a lot of great things...To create this kind of a center is really..."