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UMass Amherst Friends of the Library Newsletter - Spring/Summer 2005 (no. 29)

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University of Massachusetts Amherst

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Learning Commons to Transform
Du Bois Library’s Garden Level

WORK IS WELL UNDERWAY for a complete transformation of the Garden Level of the Du Bois Library. The area will be called the Learning Commons and, according to Provost Charlena Seymour, its goal will be to support students in their learning and in their campus life. The Learning Commons (LC) will be especially helpful to those students new to UMass Amherst and undeclared majors. It will be a welcoming gathering place for study and socializing right in the heart of the campus.

Complete with comfortable chairs, ample table space with flexible arrangements, group study rooms, and wireless Internet access, the LC will serve as a central access point to a variety of campus resources, including assistance in research, advising, technology, and writing.

The LC will offer:

- A blended space that removes barriers to learning and facilitates student success;
- An open and flexible collaborative environment to support innovation;
- A social gathering space for students, faculty, TAs, and staff;
- A centralized point of referral: research, technology, advising, and academic support all in one place;
- A common point for information on campus services, with direct service during periods of peak demand;
- A bridge for students to rediscover and increase use of the Library and its resources.

Upcoming Events

- **D.C. Area Friends Reception**
  Featuring Corey Flintoff of National Public Radio, Sunday, Sept. 18, 2005

- **Donor Appreciation Reception**
  Featuring artist and author Barry Moser, Sunday, Sept. 25, 2005

- **Dinner with Friends**
  Save the date for our fourth annual fundraiser and gala dinner!
  Saturday, April 1, 2006
Message from Jay

The “LIBRARY AS PLACE” might be a good subtitle for this issue of the Friends of the Library Newsletter. The UMass Amherst Libraries are an important center on campus, not only for accessing the resources and services traditionally offered to students and faculty, but also as a welcoming place for collaborative study, campus support services, and socialization.

The renovation of the Integrated Sciences and Engineering Library was our first experience with this at the UMass Amherst Libraries. The new facility offers comfortable seating, wireless internet access, and areas where students can work together in a collaborative environment. The success of this project has inspired a transformation of physical space in the W.E.B. Du Bois Library.

Procrastination Station, the new café in the lobby of Du Bois Library, is an immediately visible statement of this new philosophy for our facilities. In contrast to this very busy social space, we have created a quiet study area on the second floor. The new Learning Commons on the Garden Level is an exciting project sponsored by the Provost that will support students in their learning and in their campus life. We also have great aspirations for a new media viewing area, an expanded Special Collections and University Archives, and some extraordinary event space on the 26th floor.

To make this transformation of our current facilities possible, we are depending on the support of the Friends of the Library. Your philanthropy will allow the UMass Amherst Libraries to create the new spaces so richly deserved by our students. I look forward to working with you and other Friends as we move ahead with these exciting new plans.

Jay Schafer
Director of Libraries

News from Development and Communication

We are delighted to announce that our team now includes Leslie Schaler, communication assistant. Leslie works on projects like this newsletter, and other Library publications, including press releases, web pages, and reports. She is also the designer of the Tippo Courtyard Garden and leader of the “Deadheaders.”

The “Deadheaders” are a crew of Library staff volunteers who maintain the garden from spring to fall. The courtyard is a favorite outdoor study spot for students and a lunch-time destination for campus staff.

People enjoy the flowers and fresh air sitting on benches in sun or shade and yet are still within the boundaries of the Library. This summer’s renovation work will make the courtyard an even better place to visit.

Notecards with photographs of the garden are available as mementos for a modest gift of $10 by contacting Susan McBride at (413) 545-3974 or emailing friends@library.umass.edu.

Thank You,
James L. Craig
Learning and Campus Life

A Good Cup of Coffee
The Du Bois Library café, Procrastination Station, opened in February to the delight of students and Library staff. The café, located in the lobby, serves Rao’s coffee (a local coffee roaster) and a selection of baked goods and beverages. Sandwiches and salads will be offered in the near future.

The eagerly awaited café was named through a campus-wide contest. Over the course of several weeks, and after soliciting 60+ suggestions and hundreds of votes, the winner was acquired by the Library. Attractive desks will be installed along with new signs, a building directory, and a donor recognition wall. These changes as well as new wall and ceiling treatments will improve the acoustics in the lobby.

A Great Place to Study
Thanks to improvements funded by our donors, students are studying at handsome new tables and chairs. For a donation of $1,675 (through June 30, 2005), you, too, can provide students with a set of table and four chairs. Starting July 1, 2005, the cost of a set of table and chairs is expected to be $2,000.

Handsomer, spill-proof (and library-safe) coffee mugs and water bottles are available. Procrastination Station is staffed by campus Auxiliary Services. Auxiliary Services and the Library will share the proceeds, with the Library’s funds supporting facilities improvements.

Customers enjoy food and beverages, engage in conversation and collaborative discussion, and browse the new bookshelf in the café.

Students enjoy studying in the new quiet study area on the 2nd floor of the Du Bois Library.

A Welcoming Lobby
The redesign of the Du Bois Library lobby includes new furniture, quick look-up PCs, state-of-the-art express check-out units, and bookshelves filled with the most recent books acquired by the Library. Attractive desks will be installed along with new signs, a building directory, and a donor recognition wall. These changes as well as new wall and ceiling treatments will improve the acoustics in the lobby.

In 1999, Jim Craig, Biological Sciences/Instructional Services Librarian, established two endowments—the Library Staff Development and Training Endowment, to support training and development for Library staff; and the Veli W. and Ida G. L. Wallenius Endowment for library materials and support of library programs representative of diverse cultures. Jim and other Friends continue to support these funds very generously. Thank you, Jim, for your generosity, and its far-reaching effects.

Krystin “Kryssi” Jacobson ’07, an Animal Science major from Boxford, MA. Kryssi studies in the Library a lot, and, one night when she was having trouble concentrating (“I was procrastinating!”), she went up to the café for a snack. While talking with the staff, she learned about the naming contest and “Procrastination Station” came to her in a flash. For her creativity and good humor, Kryssi gets free coffee at the café for a month. Congratulations, Kryssi!
HE THIRD ANNUAL “Dinner with Friends” on Saturday, April 2, 2005, at the campus’ University Club was a huge success. The first fundraiser in 2003 raised $4,000; in 2004, that number was doubled to $8,000; and this year the event netted $16,000. Attendance reached an all time high of 80 guests. The goal of the event is to raise awareness of and support for the UMass Amherst Libraries.

This year’s “Dinner with Friends” featured five notable guest authors—George Howe Colt, Anne Fadiman, Julius Lester, Hilary Price, and Betty Rosbottom—in addition to a multi-course feast, silent auction, and an autographed book raffle. The evening was kicked off with welcoming remarks from Chancellor John V. Lombardi. Thank You all!

George Howe Colt is the author of The Big House: A Century in the Life of an American Summer Home (2003) and The Enigma of Suicide (1991) and has been a reporter for Life, The New York Times, Civilization, and Mother Jones, among other publications. George Howe Colt is the husband of Anne Fadiman.

Anne Fadiman is the inaugural Francis Writer in Residence, Yale University’s first endowed chair in non-fiction writing. She is the author of The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures (1997) and Ex Libris: Confessions of a Common Reader (1998).

Hilary Price draws her comic strip in Florence, Massachusetts, in what was once a thriving toothbrush factory, since converted to studio space for artists. She began Rhymes with Orange in San Francisco in 1995, and is the youngest woman ever to have a daily syndicated comic strip. Rhymes With Orange appears in newspapers nationwide, and has made cameos in People magazine, Forbes, Glamour, and The Funny Times. Hilary Price is the author of Reigning Cats and Dogs (2003).

Betty Rosbottom writes a weekly syndicated column called “That’s Entertaining” for the Tribune Media Services (formerly The Los Angeles Times Syndicate), which appears throughout the U.S. She is also a frequent contributor to Bon Appetit Magazine. Betty Rosbottom has authored American Favorites (1996), First Impressions (1992), and Weekends With Friends (2000). Her newest book is The Big Book of Backyard Cooking (2004).

Thank you to the very generous individuals and businesses that served as sponsors of the “Dinner with Friends.”

This year’s sponsors include the Amherst Athletic Club; Bay State Perennial Farm; Big Y Foods, Inc.; Blair, Cutting & Smith; William J. Cray; Dell Inc.; Florence Savings Bank; Gravity Switch; Hadley Garden Center; Jeffery Amherst Bookshop; Jessica Berger Personal Fitness Training; Mama Nirvana’s New Yoga; MicroTek, Inc.; Nathan Agencies/Amherst Insurance; National Evaluation Systems Inc.; and Mark and Cheryl Summa Therapeutic Massage. In addition, we are grateful to donors of gifts in kind, Elaine Barker and JoAnn Bourguignon (Bonbons de Bourguignon®).

All proceeds of the event benefitted the Friends of the Library Endowment, which funds the acquisition of books, journals, and other materials for the UMass Amherst Libraries. Pending availability of matching funds, this endowment qualifies for the state’s gift matching program, the Public Higher Education Capital & Endowment Incentive Program, which will match, at a rate of 50 cents per dollar gifts contributed to endowed funds received by June 30, 2005.

Copies of the authors’ books were available for sale thanks to the Jeffery Amherst Bookshop. The Jeffery Amherst Bookshop donated a portion of the proceeds to the Library. (Thank you to Howard and Joy Gersten and Marie Dunford of the Bookshop!)
Recent Acquisitions

We receive many gifts of materials throughout the year. Here are a few selected highlights.

**Professor Joseph W. Donohue, Jr.** of the English Department donated *Nineteenth Century English and American Plays*, a compilation consisting of over 23,000 titles.

Former dean and professor of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, **Joseph I. Goldstein**, donated his engineering library.

**Professor Daniel L. Gordon** of the History Department donated numerous rare books to Special Collections and University Archives.

**Professor Vincent Ilardi** of the History Department and his wife, Nina, donated over 500 books to the Library collections.

**Anita Nitecki** donated 16 reels of microfilm documenting U.S. Army War Crimes Trials.

The **Valley Light Opera** donated the writings of W.S. Gilbert entitled: *The Correspondence, Diaries, Literary Manuscripts, and Prompt Copies of W.S. Gilbert (1836-1911)*. The Valley Light Opera (VLO), based in Amherst, is a group of Gilbert and Sullivan devotees. (see pg. 12)

**Mary Catherine Phinney** donated *The Collection of Antiquities from the Cabinet of Sir William Hamilton*, a compendious volume on Greek vases, and *Latin Bibliography, 15th Century to 2004* on CD.

Countdown to June 30!

Our fiscal year ends on June 30, 2005. Pending availability of matching funds, the *Public Higher Education Capital and Endowment Incentive Program* will match, at a rate of 50 cents per dollar contributed, new gifts to the following received by June 30, 2005. Please use the enclosed envelope or see [http://www.umass.edu/development](http://www.umass.edu/development) to make your tax-deductible contribution today.

**Oswald Tippo Library Endowment Fund** for special or exceptional materials to build the collections. Donors to this fund will receive a copy of the book, *Oswald Tippo and The Early Promise of the University of Massachusetts*.

**Randolph W. Bromery Library Endowment Fund** for initiatives that build awareness and understanding of the intellectualism of W.E.B. Du Bois

**Library Staff Development & Training Endowment Fund** to support training and development opportunities for Library staff

**Friends of the Library Endowment Fund** to support collections

**Ann Elder Bestor Memorial Library Endowment for Business Reference** for the business reference collection

**Howard E. and Margaret E. Barr Bigelow Fund for the Life Sciences Collection** for periodicals in biological sciences and geosciences

**Library Archive Fund** for the preservation and restoration of archives

**J. May Wiggin Fund** for special collections and preservation

**Bronislaw M. Honigberg Memorial Book Fund** for books in the biological sciences

**Latin American Collection Endowment** for the Pauline P. Collins Collection on Latin America

**Littauer Book Fund for Judaica** for Judaica films, videotapes, books, etc.

**Veli W. and Ida G.L. Wallenius Endowment** for library materials and support of library programs representative of diverse cultures
Memorial Gifts
As of May 18, 2005, the Library received gifts in memory of the following individuals:
Leroy F. Cook, Jr. ♦
Hortense Feldman
Karen Feller ’76 ♦
Irene Kavanaugh ’47 ♦
Major Feliks S. Kurnowski ♦
Ronald J. Prokopy ♦
Agnes Raymond-Howard ♦
Helen V. Walsh ’71 ♦
* #12274, Flossenbuerg concentration camp

♦ indicates current or former faculty and staff members
◦ indicates parents of current or former students

How to Make a Gift to the UMass Amherst Libraries

1) Donations by credit card
Please go to http://www.umass.edu/development/givenvow.html. “Give Now” will direct you to the University’s secure, online donation form. You will have the opportunity to designate your gift to support the Libraries or a specific Library endowment fund. If you would prefer to call or send in your credit card contribution, please feel free to do so - our contact information is below.

2) Donations by debit card – Set it and forget it!
Contact us at friends@library.umass.edu or (413) 545-3974 and we can set up your automatic giving schedule.

3) Donations by check
Please use the enclosed envelope for your check (payable to UMass Amherst).

4) Donations by phone or e-mail
We are available to take donations by phone or answer any questions, Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. EST, at (413) 545-3974 (Susan McBride) or (413) 545-0995 (Emily Silverman). If you are interested in having one of us contact you, please e-mail Emily Silverman, Director of Library Development and Communication, at: essilverman@library.umass.edu

The information you provide will be used for University of Massachusetts Amherst business and will not be released unless required by law. All gifts are tax-deductible as prescribed by law.

Thank you!

Tribute Gifts
As of May 18, 2005, the Library received gifts in honor of the following individuals:
Siegfried Feller ♦
Elizabeth Loving ♦
Susan McBride ♦
Steve McGinty ♦
Lori Mestre ♦
Barbara L. Morgan ♦
Jay Schafer ♦
Christine Turner ♦
Howard J. Wiarda ♦

Appointments

Robert Cox was appointed to the position of Head of Special Collections and University Archives on November 7, 2004. Rob taught in the Departments of Geology and History at the University of Michigan and was Curator of Manuscripts and Photographs at the Clements Library at Michigan. His most recent position was as Keeper of Manuscripts and Director of Scholarship and Technology at the American Philosophical Society.

Luke Doubleday was appointed to the full time position of Staff Assistant (Computer Specialist) in Systems and Web Management effective March 21, 2005.

Peggy Garceau was appointed to the position of Library Assistant II (Interlibrary Loan/Document Delivery Assistant) in Interlibrary Loan effective May 23, 2005. Peggy transferred from Military Science.

Ben Hood accepted a one-year appointment as Head of the Reserves/Media Department, effective February 14, 2005. Ben will continue to work part-time in the Reference Department.

Lorraine James was appointed to the reclassified position of Book Repair Coordinator in Cataloging and Processing effective October 10, 2004.

Catherine Knapp was appointed to the half-time position of Library Assistant II (Cataloging and Processing Assistant) effective January 2, 2005. Catherine transferred from Reserve.
Lauren Matusko ‘97 was appointed to the half-time position of Library Assistant II (Reserve and Media Assistant), effective March 2, 2005.

Linda Merritt was appointed to the position of Library Assistant II (Cataloging and Processing Assistant) effective March 27, 2005. Linda transferred from the Mail Room.

Cecilia Mullen was appointed to the position of Head of the Integrated Sciences and Engineering Library effective October 31, 2004. Prior to this position, Cecilia was an Engineering Reference Librarian at San Jose State University.

Tam Nguyen ’04 was appointed to the full-time position of Library Assistant II (Circulation Assistant/Building Monitor). Tam transferred from a part-time position in Circulation.

William Orrell was appointed to the position of Mail Clerk II (Shipping and Receiving Supervisor) in the Mail Room unit of the Business Office effective May 16, 2005.

Judy Rohan was appointed to the position of Serials Acquisitions Assistant effective August 15, 2004. Judy previously worked in Acquisitions.

Leslie Schaler ’81 was appointed to the position of Communication Assistant in Communication and Development, effective January 17, 2005. Leslie previously worked in Cataloging and Processing.

Scott Stangroom was appointed to the position of Head of Acquisitions effective November 15, 2004. Scott comes to us from the Boston College Library.

Jason Sullivan-Flynn ’94 was appointed to the position of Library Assistant II (Periodical and Serial Receiver) in Acquisitions effective May 8, 2005. Jason transferred from Graduate Academic Support.

Carol Will ’90, was appointed to the position of Library Assistant II (Streamlined Cataloging and Ordering Assistant) in Acquisitions effective October 18, 2004. Carol transferred from a half time position in Cataloging and Processing.

Current and Upcoming Sabbaticals

Marilyn Billings - 1/23/05 – 7/9/05. To investigate the feasibility of creating and sustaining an institutional repository for the University of Massachusetts Amherst under the auspices of the Library.

James L. Craig - 5/2/05 – 10/16/05. To identify core journals in psychiatric/mental health nursing and determine coverage given these titles by the major indexing and abstracting services.

Sharon Domier - 1/30/05 – 7/16/05. To write a handbook on libraries and archives in Japan geared toward foreign students.

Isabel Espinal - 1/23/05 – 7/9/05. To undertake full time study towards a Ph.D. in American Studies, English Department, University of Massachusetts Amherst.

James Kelly - 3/12/06 – 8/26/06. To organize and catalog the materials in the Yale Thomas More Collection at the Massachusetts Center for Renaissance Studies.

Lori Mestre - 7/3/05 – 8/27/05 and 10/16/05 – 2/4/06. To conduct a qualitative and quantitative research study to document the attitudes and behaviors of Latinos who use the libraries and online resources. Barbara Morgan - 1/22/06 – 7/8/06. To spend the spring semester of 2006 taking classes in the Public Policy and Administration program and the Department of Political Science in order to provide increased support to their faculty and students.
In Memorium

Phelix Hanible passed away March 5, 2005, surrounded by family and friends after a lengthy illness. She was 56. Phelix served as associate director of Research and Instructional Services (RIS) at the UMass Amherst Libraries from 1999 through 2003. Prior to working at UMass Amherst, Phelix served as head of the Original Cataloging Unit, and assistant to the dean for strategic planning and total quality management at the University of Michigan. She served as the Director of the Doheny Research Library and chair of the Humanities and Social Sciences Center at the University of Southern California. She returned to Michigan in 2003 as associate librarian for technical and access services, where she launched many new initiatives. While at UMass Amherst, Phelix worked to develop an organization that focuses on library priorities, including the reorganization of the RIS to align positions with the priorities of the Library and to accommodate staffing needs. She also succeeded in creating a strong RIS management team. Phelix served on various UMass Amherst committees and was one of the original members of the Community, Diversity and Social Justice Team.

Of particular achievement in Phelix’s tenure here was her appointment as the UCLA Senior Fellow for 2001. The UCLA program recognizes top research library managers nationwide. Her professional contributions include an extensive list of articles, presentations and consulting activities. She was active in many American Library Association divisions and represented the UMass Amherst Library on several state-level committees.

Awards

James L. Craig G’96 Biological Sciences/Instructional Services Librarian, was recognized by the Medical Library Association as a distinguished member of the Academy of Health Information Professionals for the period of July 1, 2004-June 30, 2009. The Academy of Health Information Professionals is the Medical Library Association’s peer-reviewed professional development and career recognition program. The Academy recognizes the personal investment of time and effort required for exemplary professional performance and for contributions to the Association and to the profession.

Promotions

Isabel Espinal of Reference from Librarian IV to Librarian V.

Linda Matson of Acquisitions from Librarian III to Librarian IV.

Librarians Invited to Give Talks in Tokyo

Kathryn Ridenour, Head of the Interlibrary Loan/Document Delivery Department, and Sharon Domier, East Asian Studies Librarian were invited to give presentations in the Tokyo area last fall. They were guests of the National Coordinating Committee of Japanese University Libraries. Until recently, there was very little cooperation among different types of Japanese libraries, but that is now changing. Interlibrary loan and document delivery have been major factors in breaking down barriers.

Kathryn Ridenour was one of two main presenters at the symposium. She provided an explanation of the daily activities of interlibrary loan operations at UMass Amherst and the underlying service philosophies that drive the operations. She spoke in English with Japanese translation provided by Sharon. Later, Sharon addressed the significant accomplishments made by Japanese librarians to implement an ambitious international interlibrary cooperation project.

In addition to the rewarding professional exchange, Kathy and Sharon ate marvelous food, went sightseeing, and experienced three earthquakes and a typhoon.

Peter Shea - 9/17/05 – 3/4/06. To accomplish major activities related to an ongoing scholarly project, a web-based performer’s guide to musical settings of Heinrich Heine’s poetry, which resides on the Library’s web server.

Christine Turner - 9/4/05 - 2/25/06. To investigate how higher education institutions are integrating library resources and addressing information literacy skills within their course (or learning) management systems.

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The Life and Legacy of W.E.B. Du Bois
This spring the Library mounted an exhibit as part of the annual commemoration of W.E.B. Du Bois’ birthday, “The Life and Legacy of Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois.” The exhibit was designed and installed by Tonia Sutherland, an intern from the Library & Information Science program at the University of Pittsburgh. Tonia highlighted the many professional achievements, as well as the important milestones of Du Bois’ life. The exhibit gives a sense of Du Bois the man, not just Du Bois the celebrated scholar, writer, educator, and co-founder of the NAACP.

The Enduring Greatness of the Souls of Black Folks
Professor Robert A. Hill, of the Department of History & African Studies at UCLA, gave a fascinating talk entitled “The Enduring Greatness of the Souls of Black Folks” on April 11, 2005, in honor of Du Bois’ birthday. The talk was rescheduled from the original date due to inclement weather. The Library marks Du Bois’ birthday each year with a special event.

Former Chancellor Hosts Dinner
On March 23, 2005, former Chancellor Randolph W. Bromery hosted a dinner for UMass Amherst alumni and friends in the Special Collections and University Archives Reading Room. Campus Catering served an elegant meal and all the guests remarked at how wonderful it was to be in such a “special” location.

Open Access Colloquium
The Library hosted a colloquium “In the Public Interest: Expanding Access to Scholarly Research” on March 3, 2005. Professor John Willinsky, Department of Language and Literacy Education at the University of British Columbia and a principal investigator in the Public Knowledge Project, and Jane Griffith, Assistant Director for Policy and Legislative Development at the National Library for Medicine in National Institutes of Health (NIH) discussed the issues and implications of open access to scholars, publishers, and investigators. Sponsors of the event were the Vice Provost for Research, the Dean of the Graduate School, the Research Library Council, and the UMass Amherst Libraries.
Library Artist Honored
During the 1986 “Mass Transformation,” a painting by Shan-Shan Sheng ’87 was installed in the Du Bois Library. Ms. Sheng was recently honored as a Distinguished Alumna by the UMass Amherst Alumni Association. The Alumni Awards recognize the outstanding achievement of alumni, either in the professional arena, or in the realm of university or public service.

Born in Shanghai, Shan-Shan Sheng came to the U.S. in 1982. She attended UMass Amherst, where she earned her MFA, and Mount Holyoke College, earning a Certificate of Art with distinction. She has won international renown for her abstract compositions featuring vibrant fields of intense color.

Monumental paintings by Shan-Shan Sheng are installed in three of the world’s tallest buildings. Her paintings and sculptures have been widely exhibited and collected by corporate and private collectors all over the world. We are fortunate to have one of her pieces in the Library.

New Services
The Library conducted a trial of Turnitin, a web-based plagiarism detection service, to assess its potential benefit to the campus community. The Library will investigate campus funding possibilities based on the level of faculty interest. Student papers are submitted to Turnitin electronically, either by instructors or students. Turnitin then generates an “originality report” for each paper submitted. The report shows the percentage of text in the student paper that matches text from other sources.

A pilot delivery program is underway. “Library Express” provides direct delivery to a requestor’s desktop or doorstep of materials from the Du Bois Library and the Integrated Sciences and Engineering Library collections. The fee for this service is $10.00 per article or book. Library Express is available to current faculty, students, and staff, on campus or off, near or far. Delivery requests may be submitted via the Interlibrary Loan/Document Delivery request form at http://www.library.umass.edu/services/ill/.

The Library purchased a campus-wide subscription to RefWorks, a web-based citation management software program. RefWorks is available to all UMass Amherst students, faculty, and staff via the Library’s web site. The software enhances the research process as it collects, stores, and organizes citations from books, articles, web sites, and other sources. It converts citations into properly formatted bibliographies, and offers numerous citation styles, from popular to specialized. RefWorks interfaces with the Library’s 300+ databases, as well as databases at other libraries.

Sixth Annual Donor Appreciation Reception
Nicholas A. Basbanes, author of A Splendor of Letters: The Permanence of Books in an Impermanent World (2003) spoke at the Library’s annual donor appreciation reception on September 26, 2004. His next book, Every Book Its Reader is due out this year. Well known for writing books about books and bibliophiles, Nicholas Basbanes has worked as an award-winning investigative reporter, a literary editor, and a nationally syndicated columnist. The reception and talk honored donors to the Library, in particular our payroll giving donors.
How We Give

Giving to the Library comes in many forms. All are most welcome! In this issue, we feature an Amherst area organization, the Valley Light Opera (VLO), and their generous gift of materials. Thank you, VLO.

The Mission of the Valley Light Opera is to produce excellent light opera, primarily but not restricted to the works of Gilbert and Sullivan, to provide members of the community the opportunity to participate at all levels of these productions, and to afford both participants and audiences enjoyment and a deeper appreciation of light opera. This incredible organization is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. The VLO decided to donate a valuable set of W.S. Gilbert writings, The Correspondence, Diaries, Literary Manuscripts, and Prompt Copies of W.S. Gilbert (1836-1911) to the Library. Their gift, as they said, is “a great way to make this wonderful resource accessible to others.” The VLO is also in the process of donating its organizational records to the Library’s Special Collections. With thirty years of fully-staged productions, the VLO has touched many lives in the Valley and has created a rich resource to share with others.