Winter 2008

UMass Amherst Friends of the Library Newsletter - Fall/Winter 2008 (no. 36)

Jay Schafer
University of Massachusetts Amherst

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There is no question – UMass Amherst librarians and staff are world class. Featured in this Newsletter are photos taken during “First Week” and other occasions. You will notice a common theme of the “question mark.”

What symbol better characterizes the mission of UMass Amherst? Higher education is all about the pursuit of knowledge and the creation of new knowledge through the research process. Libraries and librarians are an essential component in this process.

I am extremely proud of the achievements of our librarians and staff – some of which are clearly described in this Newsletter. When I’m asked how the library supports the mission of the campus – whether in print or electronically – the answer is easy:

Students and Faculty; Teaching and Research.

Any questions??

Jay Schaffer
Director of Libraries

Progress at the Du Bois Boyhood Homesite

UMass Amherst and the Friends of the Du Bois Homesite are working together to develop a memorial to the life and works of W.E.B. Du Bois at the Du Bois Boyhood Homesite and Memorial Park in Great Barrington, MA. A preview of site improvements was held for outgoing Chancellor Thomas W. Cole, Jr. on July 24, 2008, at the Homesite. Recent changes include the installation of a parking lot, signage, and a pathway to the Du Bois memorial boulder, which was installed in 1969.

The Du Bois Homesite was dedicated on October 18, 1969. That day, actor Ossie Davis was master of ceremonies and civil rights activist and then U.S. Rep. Julian Bond was one of the featured speakers.

The Homesite is on property formerly owned by Du Bois’s grandfather. In 1976, it was declared a National Historic Landmark. Recently, grants from the UMass President’s Creative Economy Fund, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, totaling $43,000, were awarded to the project. The funds will be used to create a master plan for the Homesite and planning for heritage tourism programs.
The tenth annual fall reception on October 5, 2008, focused on cookbooks. “Why Cookbooks Matter” featured presentations by Marilyn Dunn M.A. ’90 and Barbara Wheaton from the Schlesinger Library Culinary Collection at Harvard University and Rob Cox and Melinda McIntosh of our Beatrice A. McIntosh Cookery Collection in Special Collections and University Archives.

As part of the program, the Libraries honored Rachel Fletcher with the 2008 Siegfried Feller Award for Outstanding Service. Rachel was recognized for her work with the Friends of the Du Bois Boyhood Homesite, as co-director of the Upper Housatonic Valley African-American Heritage Trail, as trustee of the Great Barrington Land Conservancy, as trustee of the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area, and as a founding member of the UMass Amherst W.E.B. Du Bois Legacy Committee. Thanks to Rachel’s dedication and collaborative efforts, we are poised to see the Du Bois Boyhood Homesite become a regional, national, and international tourist destination and an enduring memorial to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Du Bois.
Recent “green” improvements in the Library include new energy efficient lighting, low flow fixtures on faucets and toilets, Green Seal Certified soap dispensers, and recycling of toner, ink cartridges, microfiche, and microfilm. Library publications are now printed on recycled paper, and we will soon have biodegradable/compostable book bags for visitors. Future plans call for the installation of motion detectors on light fixtures in low use areas to save electricity.

The campus initiated an energy conservation project and formed an Environmental Performance Advisory Committee. Some of the areas being addressed are water conservation, energy conservation, mercury reduction, green cleaning products, green building practices, bio-fuels, and transportation. For more information on green initiatives at UMass Amherst: www.umass.edu/ftp/green

For more information on green resources compiled by librarians: www.library.umass.edu/subject/sustainability

Students and Friends Help Promote the Library

From the “First Week” Activities Fair to the Fall Reception, students, alumni, and friends picked up question marks to show their pride in the Library, the place where questions are answered.
The 2008 fiscal year was another record-breaker. We raised $1,558,654!

Thank you

8,620 gifts from 6,788 donors, more than ever before!

Friends of the Library Board of Trustees

Top from left: Chris Kellogg ’89, Vanessa Cieslak ’76, Ron Archer, Arthur Kinney, Jay Schafer, Charles Hadley ’64, G’67, Bruce Cherner ’80, Anne Lundberg, Richard Stein. Bottom from left: Emily Silverman, Robert Potash, Ruth Levens ’48 G’50, Lewis Mainzer, Dodie Gaudet ’73, Donald Proulx, Ruth Owen Jones ’63, G’69.

MEMORIAL GIFTS 2008
The Library received gifts in memory of the following individuals from July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008:

- Doris E. Abramson ’49
- Terry-Ann Campbell
- Aune Halley Chametzky
- Walter M. Chesnut
- Arthur and Virginia Clifford
- Darren R. Giorgio ’06
- Thelma Hann
- Joseph S. Hopkins
- Michael F. L’Albane ’71
- Marianne Maravelas
- William G. O’Donnell ’38
- Donald A. Pike ’69
- Theodore H. Slute
- Oswald Tippo ’32
- Helen V. Walsh ’71

HONOR GIFTS 2008
The Library received gifts in honor of the following individuals from July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008:

- Lorrey ’69 and Kathy Bianchi
- Grace Busso
- Andrew Broadbent
- Courtney M. Craft ’05
- James R. Kelly
- Mason J. Lowance
- Lewis C. Mainzer
- Susan S. McBride
- Melinda C. McIntosh
- Bob and Halina Rothstein
- Jay Schafer
- Jeffrey M. Tennenbaum
- Virginia Wosniewski

Donors Support Renovation of Special Collections Reading Room
Thanks to the donations of the Class of 2006, and Lorrey ’69 and Kathy Bianchi, significant renovations were made recently to the Special Collections and University Archives Reading Room. The improvements include a handsome new reference desk and cherry wood tables, easy chairs, window treatments, and new carpeting and paint.

Lester Garvin M.S., ’55 donated a scanner to the Map Collection. The Scannerscope 8800 is used for making color scans of aerial photographs. Garvin is a professional aerial photographer, interpreter and expert witness with more than 40 years of experience analyzing aerial photographs. While in graduate school he worked with the late Professor William P. MacConnell ’43 developing a methodology for thematically mapping the forests and land use in Massachusetts using aerial photographs. This work made Massachusetts the first state in the U.S. to have a complete Land Use and Vegetative Cover survey and a Wetlands Inventory.

Lloyd E. Walsh Papers, 1917-1936
Lloyd Walsh was a volunteer with the American Field Service and the Red Cross during and after World War I. His papers include his service record, correspondence, and news clippings. Included in the gift are his decorated Red Cross footlocker, German helmets, Walsh’s helmet, an American Model 1917 trench knife, and two Hungarian posters.

Walter Banfield Papers, ca.1945-1999
Walter Banfield served in the Army Medical Corps during World War II. The Banfield Papers include records from his Army service, family records, photographs, and correspondence. Banfield, UMass Amherst plant pathology professor (1945-1972), whose research centered on diseases affecting shade trees, is widely credited with identifying the origin of Dutch Elm Disease. Banfield was a prominent advocate for the protection of open space and farmland and a founder of the Metacomet-Monadnock Trail in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

Selected Acquisitions

WWI and WWII Collections
Donors have generously added to our WWI and WWII holdings with gifts to Special Collections and University Archives. Among these are key works on WWI war-time propaganda in the U.S. and Britain, war-time and immediate post-war histories of the conflict, and a large number of personal narratives of participation in the military, Red Cross, and other war-time activities. Some examples:

Lobby E. Walsh Papers, 1917-1936
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Did you or one of your family members serve in the military?

World War I and World War II era correspondence (home front or frontlines), journals, and other materials could be valuable research material for today’s students.

To donate materials to Special Collections and University Archives, contact:
Rob Cox or Danielle Kovacs
Special Collections and University Archives
(413) 545-2780
rcox@library.umass.edu
dkovacs@library.umass.edu
www.library.umass.edu/spcoll
“Images: Neotropical Birds”

Associate Professor of Biology Jeff Podus’s exhibit of neotropical birds in the Integrated Sciences and Engineering Library consisted of color photos of birds from the Brazilian Atlantic Rainforest and the Galápagos Islands. The birds were photographed in their natural environments. Jeff Podus studies the behavior and evolution of birds, with particular emphasis on the evolution, function, and development of vocal signals.

“UMass Press: 45 Years of Publishing History”

The Du Bois Library hosted an exhibit showcasing various aspects of the UMass Press’s publishing program, including award-winning titles; culture, politics, and the Cold War; Renaissance studies; environmental science; regional and local titles; creative writing; and faculty authors. More than 700 of the Press’s books have been digitized and are available online. For further information: www.umass.edu/umpress

Image Collection Library Opens and Wins Grant

The Image Collection Library, a new branch library is now open and assisting the campus community (faculty, students, and staff) in the application of images for classroom and research use. The facility evolved from the Art History Perkins Slide Library. The Image Collection Library provides over 750,000 digital images and content for classroom use, including image resources such as ARTstor, AMICA, and Archivision; image management and presentation systems, including Luna Insight and ARTstor; and assistance for faculty who want to bring high quality images into the classroom experience.

“Great Mesoamerican Demography: Debating Birthing, Parenting, and Population History”

Professor Gabriel Stetson, Bibliographer and Adjunct Associate Professor of History, read a paper entitled “The Berkeley School and the Great Mesoamerican Demographic Debate” at a meeting of SALALM (Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials) in New Orleans.

“Innovative Trends in Student Learning”

Len Adams retired after working at the Libraries for 34 years. Len started as a Junior Clerk and Typist and retired as Reference/Liaison Librarian for Federal and Massachusetts Government Publications and Patents. During the course of his career, he worked in Acquisitions, Information Processing, and Government Documents/Patents and Trademarks.

James L. Craig, Biological Sciences Librarian, participated in the compilation of “MedSpeak,” a Medical Library Association publication to help the layperson understand medical terminology.

The Image Collection Library was awarded a Diversity Grant for $6,000 by the campus General Education Council. The grant, for the proposal “Digital Images, Diversity and Access: Creating a Diverse Image Collection Library,” will fund the creation of 1500 digital images of artworks produced by Latin-American, African-American, and women artists. The digital images, available by May 2009, will be accessible by all UMass campus community members and will be available for use in classroom instruction, presentations, and research.

Danielle Kovacs, Curator of Manuscripts in Special Collections and University Archives, was elected to the Board of the New England Archivists (NEA) as Secretary. NEA is the professional organization for archivists throughout the region.

Rachel Lewellen, Assessment Librarian, was a keynote speaker and gave a talk about assessing the Learning Commons, “Learning from Each Other: Assessment and Collaborative Learning” at the Fifth American International Consortium of Academic Libraries Conference at the University of Bulgaria.

Linda Matson, Electronic Resources and Systems Librarian, gave a talk and led a discussion at the “Copyright Issues Roundtable” at a meeting of the Cooperating Libraries of Greater Springfield at Elms College.


Peter Shea, Music Cataloger and professional tenor/baritone singer, performed several world premieres, all but one composed specifically for him.

Emily Silverman, Director of Development and Communication, gave talks on library marketing and fundraising at the Massachusetts Library Association and Academic Library Advancement and Development Network (ALADN) conferences.

Peter Stern, Bibliographer and Adjunct Associate Professor of History, was appointed to the position of Music and Media Specialist in the Music Reserve Lab.

Sarah Wodangs ’04 was appointed to the position of Library Assistant in Reserve, Microforms & Media. Sarah is a former member of the Library’s student staff.

The Du Bois Library hosted an exhibit showing various aspects of the UMass Press’s publishing program, including award-winning titles; culture, politics, and the Cold War; Renaissance studies; environmental science; regional and local titles; creative writing; and faculty authors. More than 700 of the Press’s books have been digitized and are available online. For further information: www.umass.edu/umpress
Save The Date

Featuring guest speakers:
TONY DI TERLIZZI, VALERIE MARTIN MFA ’74, AND LLOYD SCHWARTZ


Novelist and short story writer **VALERIE MARTIN** MFA’74 is the author of several books including the novels *Trespass* (2007), *Property* (2003), *Italian Fever* (1999), and *Mary Reilly* (1990). *Mary Reilly* was made into a film in 1996. Valerie is the winner of Britain’s famed Orange Prize for Fiction for her novel *Property*, which is set against a backdrop of slavery in the South. She has taught writing at Mount Holyoke College, Sarah Lawrence College, Loyola University in New Orleans, the University of New Orleans, and UMass Amherst, among other institutions.

Poet and commentator on NPR’s “Fresh Air,” **LLOYD SCHWARTZ** is also the Frederick S. Troy Professor of English at UMass Boston and the classical music editor of *The Boston Phoenix*. Lloyd’s books of poetry include *Cairo Traffic* (2000), *Goodnight, Gracie* (1992), and *These People* (1981). He is an internationally recognized authority on Elizabeth Bishop’s poetry and editor of *Elizabeth Bishop and Her Art*. His poems, articles, and reviews have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *Vanity Fair*, *The New Republic*, *The Paris Review*, and *The Best American Poetry*. In 1994, he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Criticism.

The **Dinner with Friends** is our annual gala and fundraiser. Individual and corporate sponsorships are available. Contact friends@library.umass.edu for details.