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Roy Blount, Jr. is a humorist, sportswriter, poet, performer, lecturer, dramatist, and writer. He is the author of 21 books including *Alphabet Juice* (2009) and *Hail, Hail, Euphoria!: Presenting the Marx Brothers in Duck Soup, the Greatest War Movie Ever Made* (October 2010). Roy's writing has appeared in numerous publications, including *The New Yorker, Playboy, Vanity Fair, GQ, Rolling Stone,* and *National Geographic.* His work has also been anthologized in such collections as *The Best of Modern Humor* and many others. He is a panelist on NPR’s *Wait, Wait...Don’t Tell Me* and the president of the Authors Guild. Raised in Decatur, Georgia, Blount received a bachelor’s degree from Vanderbilt University and a master’s degree from Harvard University.

Gretchen Holbrook Gerzina is the host of the nationally-syndicated program “The Book Show,” on which she interviews every week some of the finest writers working today. She has appeared frequently on British television and radio documentaries. Some of her books include *Mr. and Mrs. Prince* (2009), *A Room of Their Own* (2008), *The Annotated Secret Garden* (2007), and *Francis Hodgson Burnett* (2006). Gretchen has a bachelor’s from Marlboro College, a master’s from Simmons College, and a doctorate from Stanford University. She has been a tenured professor at Vassar College and at Barnard College, Columbia University. She is now the Kathie Tappe Vernon Professor in Biography at Dartmouth College, where she is the first woman ever to chair the English department, and the first African American woman to chair an Ivy League English department.

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

Over the summer, Emily Silverman, our longtime Director of Library Development and Communication, left us to move to North Carolina with her husband Mike Milewski, who recently retired from Special Collections and University Archives. To fill behind Emily, we conducted a national search.

In reading the numerous applications we received from professionals across the country, it was obvious that many were specifically interested in joining UMass Amherst Libraries to be a part of the excellent work being done here – the work you have been reading about in past issues of this newsletter. After an extensive interview process, we found that we had a gem of a person, sitting right here on our front porch at UMass Amherst.

It is my pleasure to welcome Carol Connare as the Director of Library Development and Communication. For the past seven years, Carol produced various university publications, websites, and videos, primarily focused on fundraising, including serving as editor of UMass Magazine. Carol’s diverse experience in communications and development, her enthusiasm, her knowledge of the community and her dedication to the campus and Libraries’ mission all promise that she will provide the leadership required to continue UMass Amherst Libraries’ success in Friend-raising and fund-raising. She is also very excited to be working with our three support organizations – the Friends of the Library Board, the Director’s Council, and the Executive Board of the Du Bois Center.

Please help me welcome Carol Connare as she joins our excellent staff who provide the highest quality library and information services possible for the students and faculty of UMass Amherst.

Jay Schafer
Director of Libraries

Teaching Commons Opens

www.library.umass.edu/teachingcommons

The Teaching Commons, a space for faculty to collaborate or work individually, equipped with computers and presentation equipment, on site assistance and faculty service referrals, opened in May. The Teaching Commons supports the instruction, research, and development needs of the UMass Amherst faculty. Located on Floor 26 of Du Bois Library, the Teaching Commons is a collaboration between the Office of Faculty Development, OIT Academic Computing, and the UMass Amherst Libraries. The Library hosted an Open House for faculty in May. The program included welcoming remarks followed by discussion and tours of the facility.

Website

www.library.umass.edu

The Libraries have released a redesigned website, with improved visibility; a prominent search box with an ability to search a broader range of resources; and better highlighting of valuable library services and collections. The new design is the culmination of extensive efforts to gather, analyze, and incorporate user feedback from students, faculty, and staff, which was collected through surveys, focus groups, and web analytics. The Libraries will continue to evaluate and improve the site over time.

Resource Discovery Service

http://umass.worldcat.org

The Libraries now offer UMass Amherst WorldCat for finding books, journals, articles, media, maps, and more in libraries and collections locally and around the world. Available as the default search box on the Libraries home page, UMass Amherst WorldCat gives searchers a simple gateway to find and retrieve a broad range of materials, including the Five College Catalog, the Boston Library Consortium virtual catalog, the OCLC WorldCat database, articles from a wide selection of journal indexes, and archival items held in numerous collections.

NEW TECHNOLOGY

@UMassLibraries

Camcorders and digital audio recorders and their accessories are available to UMass Amherst students to assist them with multimedia class assignments thanks to the collaboration of OIT, the Provost’s Office, and the Libraries.

A large-format poster printer is available in the Learning Commons. This service is open to all, by appointment.

The Libraries provide access to audio and video databases including Classical Music Library, Naxos Video Library, Smithsonian Global Sound, and FMG Films on Demand for faculty to integrate into their curriculum.
On October 3, the Friends of the UMass Amherst Libraries hosted the 12th Annual Fall Reception. The keynote speaker, garden designer Debbie Windoloski, gave a talk, “Reflections on North Hill and Its Two Renowned Gardeners.” Joe Eck and Wayne Winterrowd were originally scheduled to be the keynote speakers. Sadly, Wayne Winterrowd passed away on September 17.

Debbie read passages from Joe and Wayne’s books, shared highlights from North Hill, and memories of Wayne from several visits she made to the garden.

Steven Lerner gave a talk about his book Sacrifice Zones: The Front Lines of Toxic Chemical Exposure in the United States in October. Lerner is research director of Commonweal, a nonprofit health and environmental research institute in Bolinas, California.

Also in October, in conjunction with the Feinberg Family Lecture Series, Amy Bass gave a talk, “Whose Broad Stripes and Bright Stars? The 1968 Olympics and the Creation of the Black Athlete.”


Open Educational Resources (OER) are free educational materials and resources available for anyone to use at no cost. Examples of OER include: full courses, course modules, syllabi, lectures, homework assignments, quizzes, lab and classroom activities, pedagogical materials, games, simulations, and many more resources contained in digital media collections from around the world.

As part of the fourth annual global 2010 Open Access Week in October, the Libraries co-hosted a series of events relevant to open access, and copyright and author rights based on the principle that research should be made freely available via the Internet, especially in the case of publicly funded research.

“We wore our ‘got rights? Get more reach for your research’ t-shirts with pride, because it says it all,” said Marilyn Billings, Scholarly Communication and Special Initiatives Librarian. She credits librarian Rebecca Reznik-Zellen for designing the shirts, which are sold by SPARC (Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition).

Ruth Levens ’48, G’50, member of the Friends of the Library Board of Trustees, was honored with the 2010 Siegfried Feller Award for Outstanding Service. Ruth has served on the Friends of the UMass Amherst Libraries Board of Trustees for the past 27 years. Lewis Mainzer accepted the award for Ruth, who was unable to attend.

The Colloquium on Social Change is presented by the Department of Special Collections and University Archives.
Association for Gravestone Studies Collection


Founded in 1977 and based in Greenfield, Massachusetts, the Association for Gravestone Studies (AGS) is an international organization dedicated to the study and preservation of gravestones of all periods and styles. Their mission is to promote the study of gravestones from historical and artistic perspectives, expand public awareness of the significance of historic grave markers, and encourage individuals and groups to record and preserve gravestones. The Collection consists of the central records of the organization plus a growing number of photographic archives of gravestone art donated by members and associates.

MEMORIAL GIFTS 2010

The Library received gifts in memory of the following individuals:
(from July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010)

John A. Connare, Jr.
James P. Cormack, Jr. ‘50
Barbara Durkee Desrosiers ‘57
Siegfried Feller
Robert W. Gage ‘38
Jacqueline Gentl
Joshua K.Gold ‘93
Randall E. Graham ‘08
Jessica Hayes ‘01
Priscilla G. Hicks
Joseph S. Hopkins
Marjorie Karlson
Edward Reed Kaynor
William W. Kimbrel ‘79, G’85
David C. Knapp
Katharine A. Knutsen G’71, G’76
Nina Iardi
John J. MacLaughlan
Theresa Maravelas
Jonny and Frances Miller
Herman B. Nash
Edward S. Pira
Diane Schaler Prince
Robert L. Rowell
Jeffrey M. Tenenbaum
Estelle E. Wallenius
Helen V. Walsh ‘71

HONOR GIFTS 2010

The Library received gifts in honor of the following individuals:
(from July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010)

Vanessa A. Cieslak ‘76
Alexa Colly
Hilda Golden
Norton Jutter
James R. Kelly
Laura E. Kelly ‘12
Kathleen L. Kerr ‘10
Lewis C. Mainzer
Barbara Parker
Elizabeth A. Pugh ‘71
Rebecca Reznik-Zellen
Maaha K. Rudman
Emily S. Silverman

Glimpses of the Pre-Quabbin Swift River Valley and the Quabbin Reservoir of Today

Through January 1, 2011, the Science and Engineering Library is hosting an exhibit of photographs of the Quabbin Reservoir by Les Campbell, one of the best-known photographers in the Pioneer Valley. Campbell has preserved hundreds of images of the pre-Quabbin Swift River Valley.

Uncertain Futures: Americans and Science Fiction in the Early Cold War Era

The Du Bois Library hosted an exhibit of science fiction magazines from 1945 to 1965, as well as documents and photographs of prominent Cold War era science fiction authors, editors, and fans. The exhibit explored the rise of American science fiction in the first two decades of the Cold War.