Celebrating the 4 Millionth Volume

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Letting Freedom Ring

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This copy of the Proclamation, the first and only contemporary printing in booklet form, was produced by a railroad magnate and ardent abolitionist from Milton, Mass., John Murray Forbes (1813-1898). Forbes came up with the idea of printing one million copies with the goal of “placing the Proclamation of Emancipation in the hands of the negroes themselves.” The small size of the pamphlet was part of the plan: the Proclamation was carried by soldiers at the front lines and distributed to liberated slaves as they marched.

On Sept. 22, 1862, just five days after the ferocious Battle of Antietam, Abraham Lincoln issued a presidential proclamation that freed all people held in slavery in the territories controlled by the Confederate States of America. Though highly controversial and only partial in its application—not even freeing those held in the Union-occupied South—the act was nevertheless revolutionary in impact, if for no other reason than it authorized the enlistment of African Americans for military service.

Raised in a “Boston Brahmin” family and educated, in part, at the progressive Round Hill School in Northampton, Forbes was one of the earliest supporters of the new Republican Party and a backer of John Brown during the days of Bleeding Kansas. It is probably no coincidence that the pamphlet is about the same size as the “Provisional Constitution of the United States” that John Brown’s forces carried with them during their raid on Harper’s Ferry in October 1859.

Previous “Millionth” items:
1. A Careful and Strict Enquiry into the Modern Prevailing Notions of that Freedom of Will, which is Supposed to be Essential to Moral Agency, Virtue and Vice, Reward and Punishment, Praise and Blame by Jonathan Edwards, (First edition, 1754)

“\nIn searching for the four millionth ceremonial item, we were looking for something that represented our history, about who we are and what we think about as librarians—the freedom of the will, freedom of inquiry, equality, access—all of these values we hold central to what we do.”

Rob Cox, Head of Special Collections and University Archives

Opening Doors, Opening Minds

The Libraries recently celebrated the seventh annual Open Access Week. This global event is an opportunity for the academic and research community to learn about the potential benefits of open access—the free, immediate, online access to the peer-reviewed results of scholarly research, and the right to use and re-use those results.

This year Peter Suber, Director of the Harvard Office for Scholarly Communication and Faculty Fellow at the Berkman Center for Internet & Society, was the Library’s keynote speaker. Author of the book, Open Access, published by MIT Press in 2012 and now available openly online, Dr. Suber met with students, faculty and faculty governance bodies to discuss the impacts and implications of the open access policy adopted by Harvard.

The high cost of commercial textbooks (both print and electronic) continues to be a major concern for both students and their parents. During Open Access Week, the Libraries announced the fifth round of grants available through the Open Education Initiative (OEI). This faculty incentive program supports faculty interested in providing their students with a less expensive yet educationally rewarding alternative to commercial textbooks.

Through a total investment of $39,000 in the first three years of the initiative, 30 faculty members from eight schools/colleges have created alternatives to commercial textbooks that have resulted in an estimated savings of over $1 million for their students. The Friends of the Library are providing $10,000 to fund this cycle’s OEI grants.

The Libraries also announced a new fund to support open access publication of UMass Amherst peer-reviewed scholarship. The Supporting Open Access Research (SOAR) Fund underwrites reasonable publication charges for articles published in peer-reviewed journals that are openly accessible. A pilot program will make $25,000 available to UMass Amherst authors of articles and books.

Finally, the Libraries are one of only five sites in the country chosen by OpenStax College, supported by Rice University, to engage in a pilot program to showcase their open textbook materials. These are peer-reviewed texts written by professional content developers. Free online and low-cost in print, the OpenStax College books are built for today’s student budgets.

The UMass Amherst Libraries have two major goals in promoting open access on campus. The first is cost containment—both for students through less expensive textbooks, and for libraries through reduced pricing for scholarly journals. The second is public access to scholarly research—encouraging faculty to publish in high-quality, peer-reviewed journals and still providing open access to their scholarship.

We in the Libraries are excited by this opportunity to support open access for the good of students and the academy.

Thank you for your continuing financial support, which helps underline these very important efforts.

Jay Schafer
Director of Libraries

View the video: bit.ly/emancipationproc
Horses, Canines, and Bears - Oh My!

Tall buildings, such as the Du Bois Library, create their own microclimate, both by overshadowing large areas and by channeling strong winds to ground level. Microclimates can also refer to purposefully created environments, such as those on the Lower Level in the Learning Commons.

Our microclimate took shape fall semester, in the wake of UMass Amherst anthropologist Kirsta Harper’s research into students’ study habits, use of technology, and help-seeking behaviors in the library environment.

Based on Harper’s findings regarding student needs, we cleared out space and brought in new seating: high-backed leather studio chairs and a serpentine couch, egg-shaped chairs and bean bags. These were interspersed with rolling white boards and two group-work stations, all brightly colored and equipped with power and Wi-Fi. Researchers will continue studying users within the microclimate to launch a Learning Commons-wide renovation to further improve the student experience.

Above: UMass Police Mounted Unit officer visiting the Du Bois Library.

Left: To help students with the stress of mid-terms, Bright Spot therapy dogs were brought into the Du Bois Library twice during the fall semester. The event was co-sponsored by the Center for Health Promotion.

The furniture was purchased thanks to Library donors who supported the Learning Commons Transformation Fund. To date, more than $90,000 has been raised.

“The furniture was purchased thanks to Library donors who supported the Learning Commons Transformation Fund. To date, more than $90,000 has been raised. Students love the egg chairs (cost: $1,700 ea.)”

“Since the Learning Commons has been updated and this furniture popped up, it has made me more productive and makes me want to get my work done.”

Will Kenny ’16 and his friend Emma

“The bear is carved from a single piece of wood in the “Ainu style.”

“Thank you to all the dogs and their handlers, this really made my day!”

—Mahalia Serrano ’18
PhD candidate

Bearing Witness to Friendship

The Hokkaido Bear is a symbol of friendship and collaboration between UMass Amherst and Hokkaido University in Hokkaido, Japan. Harusada Suginome, president of Hokkaido University, presented the bear to UMass President Jean Paul Mather in 1957 to congratulate UMass Amherst on its new Student Union Building, where the bear was located for more than 50 years.

In 2014, the bear was relocated to the Du Bois Library Learning Commons, to honor an exchange agreement between the libraries of Hokkaido University and UMass Amherst. This agreement promotes a mutual understanding of and contribution to the progress of international scholarly communication.

The bear is carved from a single piece of wood in the “Ainu style.”
Sustainability Fund Keeps Growing
Our national award-winning Library Sustainability Fund continues to resonate with our alumni and friends, many who are making this their annual gift to the library. To date, more than $219,000 has been raised to purchase resources, fund speakers, and provide faculty grants and student scholarships to build the campus’s sustainability curriculum.

New Undergraduate Research Award
Generous donations to the Library’s Sustainability Fund created the first-ever Undergraduate Research in Sustainability Award. The award promotes the learning of sustainability, research strategies, and the use of library resources, providing students with vital skills. “We are excited to continue the momentum of sustainability on campus with the new award,” says Jay Schafer, Director of Libraries. “The winning projects will demonstrate robust research and the use of a variety of sources that include multiple perspectives.” Three scholarships will be presented to student scholars at the annual Dinner with Friends on March 28, 2015.

Revolutionary Solution
The Du Bois Library recently installed the only human-powered revolving door in the Pioneer Valley. The door is part of ongoing efforts, like installing motion sensor lights on all floors and composting café refuse, to improve energy efficiency in the Library. In partnership with Facilities and Campus Planning and Sustainable UMass, the Library retrofitted the front door to save energy and to help alleviate cold lobby temperatures in the winter months, the former doors stood open for long periods of time when students were entering and exiting the building en masse.

A Green Job at the Library
Thanks to the Sustainability Fund, Samantha Stettiner ’16 joined the Library student staff as our first-ever Sustainability Intern. Samantha is helping to organize events and doing outreach related to Library sustainability resources and programs across campus.

Du Bois Center News
21st Annual Du Bois Lecture
Featuring Scholar and Historian David Levering Lewis

Monday, February 23, 2015
4:00 p.m., Student Union Ballroom

David Levering Lewis is a leading American scholar, a pioneer in African American history, and a cultural ambassador of broad and keen intellectual reach. Lewis is the Julius Silver University Professor and Professor of History at New York University. A two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning historian and 1999 MacArthur fellow, his two volumes on the life of W.E.B. Du Bois, each of which earned him a Pulitzer Prize, set a standard for academic biography. In addition to his essential work on Du Bois, Lewis has also written on a range of subjects examining questions and problems of race, justice, and the exercise of power. Special Collections and University Archives are honored to hold the Papers of David Levering Lewis. The lecture falls on the exact birthday of W.E.B. Du Bois, who was born on February 23, 1868.

“I realized after I’d finished a lot of research that it had to be about 1947, when I was standing with my father on a college campus in Ohio. And my father and Du Bois were acquaintances, if not friends. And Du Bois apparently approached and asked me what I intended to do with my life, and I was then about nine years old. And I could now tell him a good part of my life was taken up answering that question by writing the biography of his life.”

David Levering Lewis
On meeting W.E.B. Du Bois

Du Bois in Our Time Book Launch & Film Premiere

The newly released book Du Bois in Our Time (UMass Press) is the capstone of the University Museum of Contemporary Art’s exhibition by the same name—celebrating the legacy of W.E.B. Du Bois and his relevance in the 21st century through the lens of contemporary artists. The book includes scholarly essays by Johnnetta Cole, James T. Campbell, Reiland Rabaka, and Bill Strickland. A 30-minute documentary, “Du Bois in Our Time,” by filmmaker Lynda B. Kaplan of the American History Workshop, follows the ten artists over the course of a year as they prepared their new work for the exhibition. In November, the Libraries hosted the book launch and film premiere.

To purchase the book, visit: bit.ly/duboisbook

Sustainability Fund Keeps Growing

Save The Date
Sunday, Feb. 22, 2015
“Du Bois: A Man for All Times”
St. John’s Congregational Church, Springfield, Massachusetts

Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2015
“Du Bois: A Man for All Times” performance for Springfield Schools

To make a gift, visit www.library.umass.edu/giving.

Become a friend of Du Bois!

www.thewebduboiscenter.com
The Libraries’ 16th annual Fall Reception honored the launch of the Drug Policy Archive at UMass Amherst. Attorney R. Keith Stroup and alumnus Allen F. St. Pierre ’89, respectively the founder and executive director of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML), presented a brief history of the 45-year-long movement to end cannabis prohibition in America. The Libraries have been working with Stroup, St. Pierre, and Dr. Lester Grinspoon since 2011 to document the movement. The inception of the archive comes at a pivotal era in drug policy, as Washington and Colorado have legalized cannabis despite conflicting federal laws and numerous other states are considering following suit.

“NORML enthusiastically donated the world’s largest marijuana law reform archive and memorabilia collection to the UMass Amherst Libraries for the benefit of scholarly research,” said St. Pierre. “It will serve to answer the questions about how a social movement to legalize marijuana sufficiently moved public opinion from opposing legalization to supporting an end to prohibition.”

As the Leaves Turn

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As the Leaves Turn

A Reception highlight was bestowing the annual Sigfried Feller Award recognizing outstanding efforts on behalf of the Library to the Du Bois Falcon Cam Team, which includes staff from Facilities and Campus Planning and the Library Systems Department. This year’s award was bestowed by Charles Hadley ’64, President of the Friends of the Library Board respectively. The falcon camera, focused for the third consecutive spring season on a pair of falcons nesting atop the Du Bois Library, has been unexpectedly popular. The award lauded the collaboration and perseverance needed to provide live, streaming video content to tens of thousands of viewers given the delicate nature of suspending a video camera off the side of a 286-foot tower prone to lightning strikes and technical snafus, not to mention coordinating with wildlife officials, wild weather, and wild animals.
Cynthia Shepard Perry Papers

The first woman graduate of the University’s doctoral program in international education, Cynthia Shepard Perry G’72, G’88Hon., enjoys the distinction of serving as ambassador to two African countries, Sierra Leone and Burundi; and as Executive Director of the African Development Bank. Key portions of her papers, generously donated by Ambassador Perry, will be digitized and made available in Credo, the digital depository in Special Collections. The Libraries have received support for digitization from the Women for UMass Amherst, who have established an endowment in Ambassador Perry’s honor in the College of Education to support field work by students in International Education. The digitization of the collection supports the Libraries’ commitment to collecting and sharing unique resources related to Africa and African-American history and culture. These primary sources will be an important scholarly resource both broadly and on our campus. Making public the records of Ambassador Cynthia Shepard Perry will educate, encourage, and inspire students, especially women of color, to become international leaders.

A Unique Pairing

It is not often that undergraduate students get hands-on professional training in archival work with unlimited access to the unprocessed papers of a distinguished historian and author. That’s exactly what happened when Melissa Bowden and Danisa Lee were selected as the Library’s first Special Collections Archival Training fellows and were assigned to work on the papers of David Levering Lewis. Trained by Special Collections and University Archives staff, the fellows are learning how to process and provide access to a large and uniquely valuable archival collection.

Burt V. Brooks Photographs

The best-known photographer of the four towns inundated to make way for the Quabbin Reservoir, Burt Brooks captured a fleeting moment in the history of Massachusetts. An eccentric figure, Brooks carried his camera around his native Greenwich and neighboring Enfield, Dana, and Prescott between the 1880s and 1920s, taking portraits of the houses, people, and scenery from a region now long gone. Over ninety glass plate negatives from Brooks were donated to SCUA by the Friends of Quabbin and the photographer Les Campbell, and with their support, all have been digitized and are available in Credo.

Africa-America Institute Records

Founded in 1953 by Horace Mann Bond, then President of Lincoln University, and William Leo Hansberry, a professor of history at Howard University, the Africa-America Institute (AAI) has provided support for African students in their pursuit of higher education in the United States. As African nations increasingly gained independence from colonial rule in the 1960s, the Institute helped build African leadership and assisted Africans in attaining a world-class education and skills that could be applied in the post-colonial world. Today, AAI is transforming itself into an innovative, vital hub for African talent, a builder of human capacity, a convener for thought leaders and entrepreneurs on issues related to Africa, and a repository of extensive history, research and information on the continent.

The 10th annual Social Change Colloquium, “A Long and Winding Road: The legacy of the back-to-the-land communes of the 1960s,” was held in November to a standing-room-only crowd. Each of the four speakers, Daniel Keller, Verandah Porche, John Scagliotti, and Susan Mareneck, was affiliated with local communes in the 1960s and 1970s, and together they explored the nearly 40-year history of some of the region’s best known communes: Montague Farm and Wendell Farm in Massachusetts, and Packer Corners and Tree Frog Farm in southern Vermont. These communes, partners in the back-to-the-land movement, have evolved, but survive to the current day. The event was moderated by Timothy Miller of the University of Kansas, a nationally known scholar on intentional communities.
Rhetoric even though it was a drop in pay. He eventually moved to the English faculty at Salem State, teaching writing, coordinating the Creating Writing program, managing the campus literary magazine, and serving as head of the magazine before retiring last year.

Rod Kessler’s messages were discovered because the Libraries have embarked on an ambitious program to digitize all theses and dissertations of the University. While some research works have been available in electronic form since the 1990s, other dissertations and theses spanning more than a hundred years have long been available only in print.

When they met, James told Kessler that she is inspired by the numerous heartfelt dedication statements reminding her each document is connected to someone who made personal sacrifices to complete their degree.

“People spend a lot of time and energy researching and writing, and then many of them are never read,” said Kessler. “I’m glad to have the work out there now in digital form.”

Uncovering Hidden Treasure

Gifts to the Library Innovation Fund support the creation of this pioneering facility.
Learning about the Real Cost of Prisons

Lois Ahrens, founder and director of the Real Cost of Prisons project based in Northampton, spoke at the Libraries in October in association with the campus’s 2014 Common Read, Orange is the New Black.

An activist and social justice organizer for nearly 50 years, Ahrens has built an extensive network of people who are incarcerated, which has grown into working relationships informing her work. “Because of my daily connections with prisoners, I have become much more involved in conditions of confinement, sentences of life without the possibility of parole, the lengthening of sentences, the parole process or lack of it, and the non-use of compassionate release—even in states where it is policy,” Ahrens told students and community members.

The event will be held in the Italian Renaissance-inspired Memorial Hall, built in 1921 entirely with donations, as the University’s memorial to students fallen in war. It was built immediately after WWI to honor the 51 MAC men who died. Over time, the building has become a tribute to all fallen alumni. The generous alumni who led the movement to build the hall believed the proper way to remember those who died in war was to create a “living, active student center.” The motto engraved on the Hall—We will keep faith with you who lie asleep—indicated the building should be alive with activity, not a solemn tomb for the departed.
SAVE THE DATE

13TH ANNUAL DINNER WITH FRIENDS
SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2015
6:30 P.M.
W.E.B. Du Bois Library

CALLING ALL WORD NERDS!

Please plan to join us for a definitive and word-filled evening with the editors and publisher of Merriam-Webster’s Dictionary.

This fall marks the 150th anniversary of a landmark in the history of American dictionary making, the 1864 edition of Webster’s Dictionary. Commonly referred to as the Unabridged and edited during the turmoil of the American Civil War, the 1864 edition was the first comprehensive revision of Noah’s Webster’s Dictionary since his death in 1843.

We'll learn about the history and future of dictionaries from the company’s publisher and president John Morse; Editor-at-Large Peter Sokolowski ’92; and Lexicographer Emily Brewster ’99 as they lead a scholarly team to once again take on the task of revising the Unabridged.

Proceeds from the Dinner with Friends will go toward the Innovation Fund for underwriting the production of a new 3D Printing Center (see p.13).

For more information about the 1864 Unabridged, visit: bit.ly/1864dictionary.