“success is the word...”
When I saw the cover of this newsletter in draft, my initial reaction was that champagne is not an image traditionally associated with research libraries. Where are the books? Where are the computers? Where are the smiling faces of our generous Friends? Then I rattled my chains of “Librarian Past” and realized that as “Librarian Future” champagne is the perfect symbol to celebrate the recent successes of the UMass Amherst Libraries.

And success is the word that captures the events of the past several months. In a very short time, the Learning Commons has transformed the image, the “buzz” and the energy surrounding the UMass Amherst Libraries. You will read about these successes… Dinner with Friends breaks all records, library usage continues to rise, 21st Century Library Technology Fund launched, library receives $600,000 grant from Microsoft.

What you don’t see here is the extraordinary hard work performed by all the library staff and volunteers to make these “successes” happen. Like any successful “show,” we have a long list of credits, from associate directors to student employees, who create the magic for our users.

Enjoy our successes as you turn these pages. At the end, please give a standing ovation to the dedicated individuals who work long and hard to make it so.

Or, raise a glass … champagne?

Message from Jay
Bianchi Challenge & 21st Century Library Technology Fund

The Du Bois Library has seen a huge increase in visitors since the Learning Commons opened in September and again in December of 2004. In March 2005, we have now open 24/5 (Sunday through Thursday) and the number of patrons per week is approximately 50,000 (about 7,000 a day).

New services and resources continue to be added, laptop computers and projectors for students to borrow, an office supply vending machine, more available computers, scanners, expanded café hours, and a discount rate in the parking garage for Learning Commons users.

Joan Lippincott, Associate Executive Director of the Coalition for Networked Information, helped generate excitement about building the Learning Commons in April of 2004 and returned in January 2006 to give a presentation called "Accessing Learning Spaces." Learning Commons service providers also gave updates on the first semester’s operations.

The Learning Commons is generating lots of interest on campus and at other colleges and universities. In recent months, we have hosted tours for librarians and faculty from Boston University, Brandeis University, Dartmouth College, Framingham State College, Harvard Business School, Lesley University, the Naval War College, Northeastern University, Plymouth State College, Providence College, Simmons College, Smith College, Wesleyan University, and UMass Boston, among others.

Library Wins Grant for $600,000 from Microsoft

UMass Amherst Library to build on the campus’s strong IT foundation to help students and the community. The Learning Commons is a cornerstone of this effort. Microsoft software will enable the Learning Commons to offer more information technology resources and instruction, and meet the needs of its target audience - underserved users in our community, including the public, students at risk, and those with disabilities. The Learning Commons, with Microsoft’s software support, will train the constituents of the Learning Commons in an environment that mirrors that of the corporate workplace.

Included in the grant from Microsoft are software updates for at least 2 years through their Software Assurance program. The updates contribute greatly to the success of the software adoption, as it ensures a level of sustainability and support for the implementation.

Microsoft’s total support to campus exceeded expectations and the plan is now to expand the facility to double its capacity. The Learning Commons is a cornerstone of the campus’s strong IT foundation to help students and the community.

The Learning Commons was created as a pilot in fall 2005 and has been very well-received. Use has exceeded expectations and the plan is now to expand the facility to double its current size. A significant component of that expansion is the addition of 150 computer stations, in addition to more collaborative study rooms and a second electronic lab classroom. Microsoft is donating software needed to make this expansion possible.

There is a commitment in the 21st Century Library Technology Endowment fund to create a Learning Commons as a pilot in fall 2005 and has been very well-received. Use has exceeded expectations and the plan is now to expand the facility to double its current size. A significant component of that expansion is the addition of 150 computer stations, in addition to more collaborative study rooms and a second electronic lab classroom. Microsoft is donating software needed to make this expansion possible.

There is a commitment in the 21st Century Library Technology Endowment fund to create a Learning Commons as a pilot in fall 2005 and has been very well-received. Use has exceeded expectations and the plan is now to expand the facility to double its current size. A significant component of that expansion is the addition of 150 computer stations, in addition to more collaborative study rooms and a second electronic lab classroom. Microsoft is donating software needed to make this expansion possible.

There is a commitment in the 21st Century Library Technology Endowment fund to create a Learning Commons as a pilot in fall 2005 and has been very well-received. Use has exceeded expectations and the plan is now to expand the facility to double its current size. A significant component of that expansion is the addition of 150 computer stations, in addition to more collaborative study rooms and a second electronic lab classroom. Microsoft is donating software needed to make this expansion possible.

There is a commitment in the 21st Century Library Technology Endowment fund to create a Learning Commons as a pilot in fall 2005 and has been very well-received. Use has exceeded expectations and the plan is now to expand the facility to double its current size. A significant component of that expansion is the addition of 150 computer stations, in addition to more collaborative study rooms and a second electronic lab classroom. Microsoft is donating software needed to make this expansion possible.
Why My Mother Doesn’t Tell Me Stories*

by Sabina Murray

A few years ago, I was in New York to read from one of my books, The Caprices. The Caprices is a collection of short stories about the Pacific Campaign of World War II.

I had decided to read the story “Guinea,” which follows two soldiers—Francino, an Italian American from Brooklyn, and Burris, who is Boston Irish—who have become lost in the jungles of Papua New Guinea. As they try to find their way back to the Allies, they encounter a dying Japanese soldier and take him prisoner.

I chose to read “Guinea” because a number of my husband’s relatives, Irish on his father’s side and Italian on his mother’s, were going to attend. Of the Italian American relatives (Sicilian American, they will tell you) who was reading with me that night from her book, I had been prepared by my friend Valerie Martin, that readings in New York had notoriously low attendance; too much going on.

I had spent the weekend before the reading in my mother-in-law’s house in Belmar, New Jersey. My husband and I had a new baby and Grandma Charlie and Grandma Kay were up from Maryland to see the baby and attend the reading. Because of this, I’d had a chance to talk to Grandpa Charlie and knew that he approved of my book. Despite this, it was still unnerving having him—the soldier—listen and as I read to the crowd I felt that, in a way, I was reading to him. When I was finished, his was the first face I looked at to see how I’d done. He looked pleased in a satisfied way, which I took to mean that I’d done well.

When the applause died down, I said, “I’d like to take a moment to point out that my husband’s grandfather, Charlie Cusumano, is here today. Mr. Cusumano is a veteran of World War II and fought in New Guinea. Two of the anecdotes that appeared in my story come from his life.” And Grandpa Charlie stood up and received a round of applause that at least equaled what I’d received. Grandpa Charlie is no longer with us. He died about a year and a half ago.

Important to note here is that Grandpa Charlie did not speak much of the war. This is not surprising. Better years replaced those spent in battle. The occasions he presided over were usually filled with screaming grand-children, great-grandchildren, and an often frightening proliferation of food. His two stories—one about a dance contest, and another of encountering a group of Italian Axis POWs—he told me by accident. He said, “Australia is a nice place. I thought of moving there after the war.”

The stories, despite the war context, were Australian stories. After the The Caprices was published and he had a chance to read it, he was more forthcoming. I learned how much he weighed when he went out (a hundred and seventy pounds) and how much he weighed when the war was over (a hundred and fourteen.) I know that when he sent a picture home to Grandma Kay that it arrived with the background cut out, Grandpa Charlie in outline like an emaciated paper doll, since the Bureau of Censorship had thought it necessary to remove the palm-tree setting.

Grandpa Charlie told me that now that I’d put him in a story, he would live forever. I was a writer and he felt compelled to tell me more. Some people react that way. He was of the “tell the writer stories” camp.

In the opposite camp is my mother. Not that she isn’t inspirational. In fact, she inspired the whole collection, The Caprices is dedicated to her. She lived through the Japanese occupation of the Philippines. Her philosophy, personality, and way of life are all a testament to surviving the war. I know that her father and brother died as prisoners of the Japanese, but she doesn’t speak about her experiences. Not any more. She is happy now that she wasn’t before. She is quiet in ways definitely connected to my being a writer. My mother is in the “careful what you say around the writer” camp.

Shortly after that book came out, my mother went back to Manila to visit the family. This was wonderful. I would get to hear how everyone was doing. I sat down with my cup of coffee and turned the telephone ringer off. I sat down ready to spend maybe three hours listening.

I am a writer of fiction. I make things up. I make people up and I make up the things they say, but as someone who is inspired by the past, I always listen for what actually happened to ground those invented things—those things that might have happened—to make them ring true on an emotional level. As some-
UMass Amherst awarded an honorary doctorate to children’s author Jane Yolen in the library.

On April 4, 2006, Chancellor John V. Lombardi and President of the University Jack Wilson presented Yolen with an honorary doctor of humane letters degree, and Provost Charlana Seymour read the citation. Yolen is the author of nearly 300 books and has been called “the Haus Christian Andersen of America.” She received a bachelor’s degree from Smith College in 1960. She has done extensive graduate work at UMass Amherst and she strongly supported the creation of the Massachusetts Center for the Book, a satellite of the national center at the Library of Congress. She also founded and for 10 years directed Perspectives in Children’s Literature, an annual conference long presented by the School of Education at UMass Amherst.

Among the dozens of honors bestowed upon Yolen’s books and stories are the Caldecott Medal, two Nebula Awards, two Christopher Medals, the World Fantasy Award, three Mythopoeic Fantasy Awards, the Golden Kite Award, the Jewish Book Award, and the Association of Jewish Libraries Award. Yolen’s other literary endeavors include teaching writing and literature and reviewing children’s literature. Yolen served on the board of directors of the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators, was president of the Science Fiction Writers of America from 1986-88, and is on the editorial board of several magazines. Her husband, the late David W. Stemple, was a professor and chair of the computer science department at UMass Amherst.

Jane Yolen is an extraordinary and prolific author whose work ranges from picture books to poetry, from dragon fantasy to the horrors of the holocaust, from the beauty of the natural world to toads in outer space. We honor her talent not only as a writer but as someone who is willing to share her experiences and skills with both aspiring and successful authors.

Chancellor John V. Lombardi

Ed Kleckowski receives Alumni Association Award at State House

The Distinguished Alumni Awards are the most prestigious awards conferred by the University of Massachusetts Amherst Alumni Association upon its alumni, faculty, and friends. Ed Kleckowski, Professor Emeritus of Biological Sciences and head of the Library was presented with the Distinguished Faculty Award. During the past ten years Ed has conducted the first underwater explorations of the Connecticut River, his team of UMass Amherst student divers documented the historical, geological, and biological resources of the 400-mile-long waterway. He co-produced three very popular PBS historical documentaries about the Connecticut River watershed. Under Quabbin, The Coast Flood Of 1936 (nominated for an Emmy Award), and Dynamo, Whiskey And Wool–The Connecticut River Log Drives 1870-1915.

Library Co-Hosts Digital Age Colloquium

The Libraries, Office of Research, Center for Teaching, and Graduate School hosted “Research and Scholarship in the Digital Age” in the Learning Commons. The colloquium explored the changing nature of the representation of knowledge and how it will affect research and scholarship. Chancellor John V. Lombardi made welcoming remarks. Chris Greer, Program Director of the National Science Foundation’s Division of Biological Infrastructure was the guest speaker. He addressed multi-disciplinary digital collections and toolkits for future applications. Following Greer’s talk there were two discussions: “Incorporating Digital into the Daily Routine” and a sponsor panel highlighting the services each provide in support of research. The moderators were Paul Urgoff, Chair, Research Council of the Faculty Senate and Associate Professor of Computer Science, and Marla Michel, Director of the Office of Research Liaisons & Development. Faculty members discussed how online journals, open source initiatives, and new data techniques affect their research. The event was very successful, with over 75 people in attendance and dynamic presentations by the keynote speaker, the faculty, and the directors of the sponsoring organizations. The next event is scheduled for spring ‘07 where the focus will be on digital research activities in the humanities and fine arts.

Ed Kleckowski received the University of Massachusetts Amherst Alumni Association Award at the State House. Kleckowski is a professor emeritus of Biological Sciences and head of the UMass Amherst Library.

Selections from Our Exhibits

In honor of Black History Month the library displayed “The Black Rural South, 1966,” consisting of photographs by Professor Emeritus Julius Lester taken in Mississippi and Alabama in the 1960s. Professor Lester recently won the American Library Association’s Coretta Scott King Author Award for 2006. The Library hosted a reception in his honor on March 2, 2006.

The “Imagerie II,” was on display at the Integrated Sciences and Engineering Library featuring the second of two collections of nature and landscape photographs by Andre Banville. Images of the local area, coastal New England, Nova Scotia, and California are the focus of Banville’s photography.

Enfield: A Quabbin town. Photos courtesy of Special Collections & University Archives.

Robert Rothstein gives a walking tour of the exhibits.

Russian children’s books from the collection of Halina and Robert Rothstein were on display in the Du Bois Library. Robert A. Rothstein is Professor of Comparative Literature and of Slavic and Judic Stuies at UMass Amherst. Among the books displayed were works originally written in Russian, French, German, Italian, and English. Russian authors represented included nineteenth-century classics such as Alexander Pushkin, Vladimir Mayakovsky, Samuil Marshak, and Koneti Chukovskii.

Five Tips On Writing A Poem

1. Look at the world through metaphor, seeing one tree in terms of another.
2. Let two words bump up against another Or sense on a single line.
3. Tell the truth inside out Or on the skids.
4. Remember that grammar can be a good friend And a mean neighbor.
5. Let the poem thyme in the heart, Though not always on the page.

c 1999 Jane Yolen
African American Song documents the history of African American music in an online music listening service, featuring 35,000 tracks available to scholars and students. Some of the records in this diverse collection are rare or never-before-published.

Chronicle of Higher Education online includes news reports and editorial on all facets of higher education in the United States, Canada and abroad.

Classical Music Library is a database of distinguished classical recordings, including tens of thousands of licensed recordings that can be listened to on the Internet.

Dun and Bradstreet’s Industry Norms and Key Business Ratios helps business researchers compare the performance of one company to the performance of the industry as a whole.

FAITs: Full-text Advisory on IT Services includes market reports covering IT infrastructure, telecommunications, wireless technology, data networking, computer security, enterprise systems, Internet, and technology trends.

IBISWorld Industry Market Reports provides 700 industry reports that conform to the U.S. industry classification system—the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS).

JOURNAL CITATION REPORTS: SCIENCE and SOCIAL SCIENCE EDITIONS— is an internationally recognized authority for providing a systematic, objective way to evaluate journals and their impact and influence within the research community.

Historical Boston Globe is a graphical version of full-text newspaper content. This resource offers access to historical primary source material. Students can browse entire issues or read articles on specific topics of interest.

Smithsonian Global Sound includes an extraordinary array of music in an online music listening service. Students can browse, search, click, and then listen to the music over the Internet through their headphones or speakers.

SRDS Online is an advertising budget tool that lists current rates for business and consumer magazines, radio, and newspaper. It contains a direct marketing component.

Wiley InterScience includes access to over 350 online journals across a wide spectrum of disciplines. Subject areas include: business, chemistry, computer science, engineering, life sciences, physics and astronomy, polymer science, psychology and social sciences.

Web of Science: The History of Science journal documents the history of African American music in an online music listening service, featuring 35,000 tracks available to scholars and students. Some of the records in this diverse collection are rare or never-before-published.

Appointments

LESLEY HOMER BUTTON was appointed to the position of Associate Director of Collection Services. Leslie served as Intern Associate Director of Collection Services and prior to that was Head of Acquisitions and Head of Serials at UMass Amherst Libraries. She has 25 years of serials, acquisitions, technical services, and collection development experience. She has an MLS from the University of Rhode Island and an MS in Labor Studies from UMass Amherst.

MICHAEL MARTIN was appointed to the position of Library Building Monitor Supervisor in the Library Business Office.

ANNE C. MOORE was appointed to the position of Associate Director of User Services. Moore served as Interim Associate Director of User Services for two years and prior to that was Head of Reference Services at UMass Amherst Libraries from 2001–2004. Previously, she was with New Mexico State University. She has an MLS from University of North Carolina Chapel Hill and a Ph.D. in Educational Administration from New Mexico State University.

KIRK MORRISON is an intern in Electronic Resources. Kirk is a student at the University of Rhode Island and working on his master’s in library science degree.

LAWRENCE NEWMAN was appointed to the half-time position of Learning Collections and Technical Support Desk Supervisor.

TAM NEUTEN was appointed to the position of Reserves/Media Assistant.

REBECCA REZNICK-ZELLER was appointed to the position of Circulation Assistant.

MAXINE SCHMIDT was appointed to the position of Science and Engineering Reference Services Librarian in the Integrated Sciences and Engineering Library. Maxine has an MLS from Simmons College and a B.A. and M.S. degrees in geology from UMass Amherst. Her research involves support and services related to Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in libraries. Prior to receiving her master’s degree, Maxine had considerable public sector work experience in the field of environmental health.

Tonia Sutherland was appointed to the position of Research Library Resident in the Du Bois Library. Tonia has an MLS from University of North Carolina Chapel Hill and a B.A. from Hampshire College. She will work half-time in Research and Instructional Services and half-time in Special Collections and University Archives. Tonia has just been named co-editor of Infinity, the newsletter of the Society of American Archivists’ Preservation Section.

Christine Woytyn was appointed to the position of Interlibrary Loan Assistant in the Interlibrary Loan and Document Delivery Department.
I never wanted to be a writer like my mother, Jane Yolen. After college, I became a probation/parole officer and then a private investigator. But, after becoming a stay at home mom, I gave in and started writing, first with my mom and then alone as well. For the last 18 years, my mother and I have lived far apart, so we have done most of our writing together during visits or through cyberspace. We send portions of stories through email and spend way too much time on the phone.

Now, I live in Hatfield, Massachusetts where I grew up. Even though all I have to do is yell into the next room since my mother is being nice enough to share her office with me, we still send our stories to each other over the internet.

COMING SOON:
- Amelia Earhart’s Last Flight (Simon & Schuster)
- Sleep Black Bear Sleep (Harper)
- You Nest Here With Me (Harcourt)
- Barefoot Book of Dance Stories (Barefoot Books)
- One If By Land: A Massachusetts Counting Book (Sleeping Bear Press)
- Fairy Tale Feasts: A Literary Cookbook (Interlink Books)