Anticipating the campus ten-year New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) institutional reaccreditation process in 2009 (originally scheduled for 2008 but postponed for a year due to campus circumstances), UMass Amherst Libraries initiated a “self-study” process to assess our progress since the 1997 review. The final Self Study Report included the usual documentation of goals, accomplishments, and statistical comparisons. Unique to our Report were two exceptional vision statements created in a collaborative process by Library staff – “Focusing on Undergraduates” and “Serving the Graduate and Research Mission.”

In December 2007, a team of four distinguished library professionals visited the campus to evaluate the progress we have made in achieving our mission and to provide insight into our future directions. As Director of Libraries, I have to admit this process was very challenging – not unlike singing before the judges on American Idol or cooking for a panel of experts on Iron Chef.

The External Review Team Report confirmed what I knew to be true – “One major strength is the existence of dedicated librarians and staff who have a significant commitment to the University and the Libraries.” The Report continues – “we observed a strong sense of respect among the various members of the staff and a great willingness to work together for the good of UMass Amherst students and faculty.”

Again in this Newsletter, you will read of the amazing accomplishments of the UMass Amherst Libraries during the past semester. Please remember that each of these brief “sound bites” is the result of extraordinary efforts by an incomparable library staff.

When you support the Friends of the UMass Amherst Libraries, your gift not only elevates us to the next level of excellence in collections, facilities, and services, it also demonstrates to the Library staff that you recognize and appreciate their individual efforts to serve the UMass Amherst community.

On their behalf, I sincerely thank you.

Jay Schafer
Director of Libraries

Message from Jay
External Review Team Impressed by the Libraries

A four person team* of distinguished library professionals was invited to UMass Amherst to review the Libraries’ self-study, which was prepared for the campus’s New England Association of Schools and Colleges ten-year re-accreditation. The team analyzed the Libraries’ self-assessment documents, made a site visit, evaluated progress in achieving our mission, and provided insights into our future directions.

According to the team, “the strengths and assets of the Libraries are extensive and cause for pride… The UMass Amherst Libraries have many strengths. One major strength is the existence of dedicated librarians and staff who have a significant commitment to the University and the Libraries… We were impressed particularly with the clear focus on the needs of students and faculty and a willingness to collaborate across campus to advance the mission of the University.”

### Observations

“A robust organizational culture… which engages in transparent decision-making and communicates well to librarians and staff…”

“A good foundation of assessment and analysis… data [have] been used to make important decisions about new initiatives and needed changes to existing programs.”

“Have arisen like the proverbial phoenix from a period of great budget difficulty [making] a rapid and efficient transition to electronic access for journal literature…”

### Actions

- Senior Management Group
- SWAT teams + Task forces
- Staff Council + Committees
- Intranet + Advisory groups
- Use and satisfaction survey
- Focus groups
- Assessment librarians and committees
- Observational studies and data analysis
- Defined a clear focus for the use of resources
- Used usage and cost data to analyze current subscriptions
- Balanced on site collections with materials from consortial partners
- Created a streamlined organizational structure
- Restructured workflows to maximize the contribution of staff and the utilization of technology
- Improved communication among staff
- Opened 24/5 • Doubled visitors
- Provided more laptops for loan • Increased wireless access
- Opened Faculty Writing Place
- Expanded Writing Center • Installed cell phone booths
- Opened 24/5 • Doubled visitors
- Expanded number of online indexes and full text databases
- Enhanced interlibrary loan services

### Results

- Our primary mission continues unchanged: To provide the information resources, staffing, facilities, services, and technology required to meet the teaching and research needs of UMass Amherst.

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Camila Alire, Dean Emerita, University of New Mexico and Colorado State University; Carol Pitts Diedrichs, Dean of Libraries, University of Kentucky; Susan Perry, Director of Programs & Senior Advisor, Mellon Foundation; and Lizabeth (Betsy) Wilson, Dean of University Libraries, University of Washington.

*Conita Alire, Dean Emerita, University of New Mexico and Colorado State University; Carol Pitts Diedrichs, Dean of Libraries, University of Kentucky; Susan Perry, Director of Programs & Senior Advisor, Mellon Foundation; and Lizabeth (Betsy) Wilson, Dean of University Libraries, University of Washington.

**These strengths form a firm foundation on which to build for the future.”**
The Libraries’ Sixth Annual “Dinner with Friends” on Saturday, April 5, 2008, was our biggest yet. We raised over $32,000 for the Libraries. This year’s wonderful evening featured authors Carole O’Malley Gaunt and Jane Yolen, and documentary filmmaker Ed Klekowski as guest speakers. The champagne and hors d’oeuvre reception, live music by Septre, and gourmet dinner made for a sensational night.

Chancellor Thomas W. Cole, Jr., President of the Friends of the Library Board of Trustees Lewis Mannen, and co-chair of the Director’s Council, Leroy Bianchi ’69 offered welcoming remarks. Director of Libraries Jay Schafer and Director of Development Emily Silverman recognized our sponsors and introduced the keynote speakers. Provost Charlena Seymour closed the program and Jay Schafer presented the speakers with commemorative plaques.

For more photos, speakers’ remarks, and audio clips: www.library.umass.edu/dinner

Thank you to our 2008 business sponsors.

All proceeds of the dinner will benefit the 21st Century Library Technology Fund for technological initiatives.

Accounting & Tax Associates, Inc.
Ben Barnhart Photography
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Taylor Rental
UMass Amherst Alumni Association
UMass Amherst Catering
UMass Press
UMass Amherst Mail Services
UMass Amherst Print Services
WGBY
Balancing the Books
Vision, hard work, and generous giving write a new chapter for campus libraries

“Five years ago, the state cut the UMass Amherst Libraries’ acquisition budget from $5 million to $1 million, and 20 percent of the staff left with early retirement incentives. In the face of these tough challenges, the campus charted a new course for one of the most essential entities a research university provides.”

See http://ncane.com/d92 for the full story in UMass Amherst Magazine by Judith Cameron.

Microsoft Software Grant Awarded to Libraries
In March, we received word from Microsoft that we were recipients of a second large software grant (the first was in 2006) through the Microsoft Unlimited Potential program. This grant, with a value of $782,464, includes software for staff and public use. Microsoft continues to invest in us as they are strong supporters of our public computing facilities, and noted that they “are proud sponsors of the UMass Amherst Libraries, a critical community resource.”

Du Bois Homesite to be Restored
Thanks to Chancellor Thomas W. Cole, UMass Amherst has allocated funding for physical improvements to the W.E.B. Du Bois Homestead in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. Slated to get underway in May, the project will include a parking area, an information kiosk, signage, and a low-impact trail that will wind through the National Historic Landmark site. W.E.B. Du Bois, who was born in 1868 and died in 1963 at the age of 95, lived in a farmhouse on the five-acre property that remained within Du Bois’s family for six generations. Few pre-Civil War African American homesteads, let alone intergenerational sites, have survived the passage of time. Through past and ongoing research, the Du Bois Boyhood Homestead offers a glimpse into the world and lives of African Americans in New England.

We are grateful to Chancellor Cole, the Friends of the Du Bois Homestead, the Upper Housatonic Valley Afro-American Heritage Trail, and faculty of the UMass Amherst departments of Afro-American Studies, History, Anthropology, and Education for their collaboration on this important step in preserving the legacy of W.E.B. Du Bois. The UMass Amherst Library is steward of the Du Bois Papers and the campus is custodian of the Du Bois Homestead.

Selected Acquisitions

Steve Diamond Papers
An author and activist, Steve Diamond (1946-2006) worked for the Liberation News Service (LNS) in New York City in 1968. After more than a year of internal strife in the organization, he and a dozen other anti-war journalists left to start a commune on a dairy farm in Montague, Massachusetts. His experiences during the first year on the farm are recorded in his book, What the Trees Said. Diamond later worked as a writer and consultant for Green Mountain Post Films, editor of the Valley Advocate and Boston Phoenix, and as a contributor for The Atlantic Monthly, San Francisco Chronicle, and the Village Voice. The collection spans some 40 years and includes Diamond’s correspondence and writing, research notes, diary entries, digital images, and audio recordings. The Steve Diamond Papers are a wonderful addition to our growing collection on movements for peace and social justice.

Yoshiaki Yamashita Photograph Album
From 1903 to 1906, Professor Yoshiaki Yamashita of Tokyo traveled the United States providing instruction in the new martial art of judo. In Washington, D.C., he provided instruction for the sons and daughters of the nation’s political and business elite and went to the White House to teach judo to President Theodore Roosevelt. The Yamashita photograph album contains 53 black and white prints, which illustrate various judo throws and holds. The album builds on our existing collection of materials that document American-Japanese relations dating back to 1876 as well as adding to our photograph collections.

Be a Part of Our Success
We’re on track for another record fundraising year – as we go to press, we’ve raised over $1.3 million!

Some of our goals for the next few years:
- Create a Multimedia Center and Production Studio
- Expand the Learning Commons (again!)
- Develop a Special Collections & University Archives Reading Room and Gallery
- Create a Teaching Commons
- Increase membership in the Friends of the Library
- Build the collection of books, journals, and databases

“The Libraries enable students and professors in every school and college to reach their full potential. We’ll do anything we can to help the libraries.”
- Lorrey Bianchi ’69 and Kathy Bianchi, donors of a multimillion dollar bequest for the Libraries and scholarships
"The University’s Archives: Inspiration from Days Gone By”

The centennial of the Graduate School was celebrated in April with a series of colloquia led by ten eminent alumni. Representing the Libraries and the School of Education was Homer L. “Skip” Meade, Ed.D., who gave a talk “The University’s Archives: Inspiration from Days Gone By.” Skip Meade received two graduate degrees from UMass Amherst and is a scholar of W.E.B. Du Bois and a champion of the legacy of Dr. Du Bois. “There are lessons learned about life which, when shared, benefit many,” he said. “Dr. Du Bois was one who chronicled the lessons he learned and was one who shared those lessons with his students, his associates, and the members of the global community to whom he reached out and spoke to -- often in their tongue.”

"Images from VISUAL"

The Integrated Sciences and Engineering Library hosted an exhibit of images from VISUAL (Ventures in Science Using Art Laboratory), an educational outreach program at the Materials Research Science and Engineering Center at UMass Amherst. The program educates the general public and students of all ages on the importance of scientific research by the use of visual arts. Each captivating image is the result of research conducted on the Amherst campus. Shown here is an optical micrograph of ripples that occurred when peeling a polymer adhesive off glass, similar to peeling a Band-Aid ™ off skin.

"A World of Cities"

The Du Bois Library hosted an exhibition of prints, drawings, and photographs from the permanent collection of the University Gallery corresponding to a spring 2008 seminar “The City” taught by Amherst College History professor Frank Choura and UMass Amherst Art professor Max Page. The exhibit examined artists’ approaches to the depiction of cities, including prime examples of contemporary works, such as photographs by the pre-eminent American photographers Robert Adams, Lee Friedlander, Robert Frank, and Garry Winogrand.

"The First World War"

Professor Ed Klekowski’s exhibit of WWI artifacts recently found in France included bullets, shells, a canteen, and a sword bayonet. The artifacts were found in the St. Mihiel Salient and the Argonne in France, where the forests are still littered with relics from the war years. This exhibit was the first public display of artifacts that Ed will use to help tell the stories of two films he has in production -- “Yankees Fight the Kaiser” and Model T’s to Glory. 1914-1917. Both films will have strong Massachusetts connections, not unlike Ed’s previous documentaries on the Quabbin Reservoir and the Connecticut River.

Lucinda Ealy was appointed to the position of Reserve, Media & Microforms Supervisor, transferring from Undergraduate Admissions Tours.

Daniel Pagoulet was appointed to the position of Learning Commons & Technical Support Desk Supervisor, transferring from the Registrar’s Office.

Kelcy Shepherd was appointed to the permanent position of Digital Interfaces Librarian in the Systems and Web Management Department after working for a year in a temporary position. Kelcy previously held the position of Five College Project Archivist and Project Director of the Five College Finding Aids Access Project, both at UMass Amherst. She holds an MLIS degree from Simmons College.

Kelly Will was appointed to the position of Reference Librarian and Integrated Library System Support Librarian. Carol holds an MLIS degree from the University of Rhode Island Kingston. She previously was the Learning Commons & Technical Support Desk Supervisor and worked at the Goodwin Memorial Library in Hadley.

Paul Sherry was appointed to the position of Learning Commons & Technical Support Desk Supervisor, transferring from Health Services.

Tonia Sutherland was appointed to the position of University Archivist in Special Collections and University Archives. Tonia has been a member of the Library’s staff since February 2006 as a Research Library Resident.

Library Career Reception

The UMass Amherst Libraries hosted “Me, a Librarian?” on April 23. The keynote speaker was Brenda Mitchell-Powell, best known as the founding editor (1991) of the Multicultural Review. Mitchell-Powell will receive her M.L.S. from Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information Science in May 2008 and begins her doctoral program at Simmons as an ALA Spectrum Doctoral Fellow in fall 2008. Other guests included faculty from Simmons, University of Rhode Island, and the University at Albany. Students considering a career in librarianship had a chance to meet each other and to meet prospective faculty members and employers.

"The University’s Archives: Inspiration from Days Gone By”

The centennial of the Graduate School was celebrated in April with a series of colloquia led by ten eminent alumni. Representing the Libraries and the School of Education was Homer L. “Skip” Meade, Ed.D., who gave a talk “The University’s Archives: Inspiration from Days Gone By.” Skip Meade received two graduate degrees from UMass Amherst and is a scholar of W.E.B. Du Bois and a champion of the legacy of Dr. Du Bois. “There are lessons learned about life which, when shared, benefit many,” he said. “Dr. Du Bois was one who chronicled the lessons he learned and was one who shared those lessons with his students, his associates, and the members of the global community to whom he reached out and spoke to -- often in their tongue.”

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Save The Date

Tenth Annual Fall Reception
“Why Cookbooks Matter”

Sunday, October 5, 2008
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Memorial Hall

Featuring
Schlesinger Library Culinary Collection,
Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University
and
the Beatrice A. McIntosh Cookery Collection,
Special Collections & University Archives,
UMass Amherst Libraries

Free and open to the public

Save The Date