Save The Date

Eighth Annual Dinner with Friends
Saturday, April 10, 2010
6:30 p.m.
W.E.B. Du Bois Library

Featuring guest speakers:
Bernard A. Drew, Beth Krommes, and Jacqueline Sheehan

Bernard A. Drew, an author, journalist, and historian, is the author of more than 30 books. An avid Berkshire County, MA historian, his books on African American history include If They Close the Door on You, Go in the Window (2004), an overview of the origins of the black community in South Berkshire, and Dr. Du Bois Rebuilds His Dream House (2006), about Du Bois’s relationship with his hometown.

Beth Krommes G’80 is the winner of the 2009 Caldecott Medal for The House in the Night. A wood engraver and painter, Beth focuses on children’s book illustration. Her first children’s book, Grandmother Winter, was published in 1999. Some of her other books include Butterfly Eyes and Other Secrets of the Meadow (2006), The Hidden Folk (2004), and The Lamp, the Ice, and the Boat Called Fish (2001), which won several awards.

Jacqueline Sheehan Ph.D. is a fiction writer, essayist, and practicing psychologist. Her first novel, Truth (2004), is based on the life of Sojourner Truth. Her second novel, Lost & Found (2007) has been on the New York Times Bestseller List and has been optioned for film by Katherine Heigl, star of “Grey’s Anatomy.” Her third novel is Now & Then (2009). Jacqueline teaches writing and yoga workshops in the U.S. and internationally.

The Dinner with Friends is our annual fundraiser. Individual and corporate sponsorships are available. Contact friends@library.umass.edu for details.
In the last issue of this newsletter, we announced, with the support of Chancellor Robert C. and Sabine Holub, the beginning of the History of the Book Teaching Collection. The idea originated from a real need to support faculty in English, Art, History, and other fields who teach courses related to the history of the book. I appealed to you to “write a check” or “get that Gutenberg Bible out of the attic.” Not surprisingly, many of you did “write a check” – and we greatly appreciate that. Barbara Parker, on the other hand, got the proverbial “Gutenberg Bible out of the attic.” As you see on the cover and will read here, Barbara donated 75 rare books to our collections. By donating these rare books she has lovingly collected over many years, Barbara knows generations of future students will have an opportunity to experience the same magical wonder and special appreciation that inspired her to collect them. We are indeed fortunate to have Friends like Barbara Parker.

Thank you, Friends, for helping to make the Libraries such a rich resource for our students and scholars.

Jay Schafer
Director of Libraries

Great Books!

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Jay Schafer
Director of Libraries

Barbara Parker Donates to History of the Book

Barbara Parker, a long-time librarian at UMass, recently made a notable gift of 75 rare books dating from 1493 to 1905 to the collection – after she read about the initiative in the last issue of this newsletter. In describing Barbara’s gift, Rob Cox, head of Special Collections, uses words like “stunning,” “wonderful,” and “marvelous.” Barbara is a bookbinder and an avid collector of rare books, with special interests in the history of printing, binding, and book design. Her gift enables us to illustrate the history of the book and its various aspects, including beautiful illustrations, woodcuts, and engravings, and fine bindings (some reproduced by Barbara).

On behalf of the students and researchers who will get to study and (literally) handle these fascinating volumes, thank you, Barbara!

Du Bois Center News

Maurice Hobson Joins Center

Dr. Maurice Hobson has been appointed to the one-year position of managing director and post-doctoral associate of the Du Bois Center. Maurice is assisting with creating the initial structure of the Center, working with the campus advisory council, communicating with potential members of the executive board, identifying funding for research fellowships and staffing, and other activities related to establishing the Center. He has a Ph.D. in History from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and an M.A. in American Studies from the University of Alabama, and has held teaching appointments at Tuskegee University, the University of Alabama, and the University of Illinois.

Digitization Effort Accelerates

With the $200,000 grant from the Verizon Foundation, an estimated 100,000 items from the vast W.E.B. Du Bois Papers will be digitized. That effort is in full swing, thanks to a team of staff and student interns. Selected digitized materials are available for use at http://www.library.umass.edu/spcoll/digital/. The digitization project will provide online access for the first time to original diaries, letters, photographs and other material related to the life and work of Du Bois.

Bigger, Better, Busier

We’re trying to stay ahead of user needs, with continuing renovations and technology improvements throughout the libraries. Major efforts continue in the Learning Commons and will be completed in 2010, when we will have 25 group study rooms, 164 computers, and seating for 436. Also in the works are new and improved locations for popular services like laptop borrowing and reserves, and the creation of a small auditorium and multimedia center.

DID YOU KNOW?

You can designate a gift to support technology innovation and facilities improvement in the libraries.
We are pleased to welcome two new members to the board, Kay Galloway ’61 and Clayton Barrows ’82, M.S. ’87, Ph.D. ’90. Kay recently retired from 39 years of experience in education as a teacher and high school principal in Department of Defense Schools throughout the world. She is a lifetime member of the Alumni Association. Clayton is Professor of Hospitality Management at the University of New Hampshire. He has a doctorate in Education and two degrees from the Isenberg School. Clayton has remained involved with UMass through the Alumni Association.

Author Corinne Demas gave a talk “Behind the Book: Creativity and Compromise” at the Friends of the UMass Amherst Libraries 11th Annual Fall Reception on October 4.

The event was also a reception for a related exhibit, “The Making of a Picture Book: The Marriage of Text and Art” on display on the Lower Level of Du Bois Library from September 14 to December 18, 2009. The exhibit features a behind-the-scenes look at the making of picture books by local authors and illustrators Leonard Baskin, Kathy Brown, Corinne Demas, Patricia MacLachlan, Richard Michelson, Dennis Nolan, Katy Schneider, and Jane Yolen. For more information: http://tiny.cc/picturebook.

Christmas Eve At The Library
For the W.E.B. Du Bois Library, Univ. of Massachusetts, Amherst
Enter on tiptoes
And hear the noise
Of sleeping books
Throughout Du Bois
Or the rustle of pages all around,
But if you cannot hear a sound
The truth may be hiding from whoever looks,
Yet it wants to be found.

~ from Two Wives Ago: Selected Poems by Lewis Mainzer

Friends of the Library Board of Trustees

As part of the fall reception, Lewis Mainzer, past president of the Friends of UMass Amherst Libraries, was awarded the 2009 Siegfried Feller Award for Outstanding Service. Along with his remarks, Lewis shared poems from his recent book.

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Front left to right: Kay Galloway ’61, Ron Archer, Clayton Barrows ’82, G’87, G’90, Dodie Gaudet ’73, Ruth Levens ’48, G’50, Lewis Mainzer, Emily Silverman. Back left to right: Bruce Cherry ’80, Robert Potosh, Charles Hadley ’64, G’67, Jay Schaf, Bill Thompson, Julie Brigham-Grette. Not pictured: Elaine Barker ’61, G’69, Vanessa Cieslak ’76, Chris Kellogg ’89, Anne Lundberg G’09, Donald Proulx.
2009

supporting the library

We raised an all time high of $1.75 million! Thank you

This Just In

Lillian Hyman Papers
Gift of Carol Goldstein and Lillian Hyman

Lillian Hyman volunteered to work with the Democratic Party in New York City in 1948, and was sent over to the office of W.E.B. Du Bois to assist him with office work. Du Bois hired Lillian as his secretary and she remained in his employ for six years and stayed in touch after she moved on. The Hyman Papers contain a series of letters and postcards sent by Du Bois during the early 1950s and show a personal side of Du Bois rarely seen.

Library and UWW Preserve History

The Library’s Archives Department is helping the University Without Walls (UWW) and many other departments on campus document their histories, preserve special occasions, and collect records for future users.

Since its founding in 1971, the UWW program for adult learners has grown from 30 students to over 500 each semester. Along the way, the program has paid close attention to documenting its evolution. In fact, UWW has been so proactive in preserving its records it has become a role model for other units on campus. “Our records in Archives provide information we and others can use to understand the past and plan for the future,” says UWW Marketing Strategist Heather Miller. “The University Archives preserves and protects campus history, and gives us a way into the future from the past.”

For advice on preserving your personal or institutional records: http://www.library.umass.edu/spcoll/