

Connected *by*

2020 IMPACT REPORT

im·pact | \ 'im-pakt \
the force of impression of one thing on another: a significant or major effect



Illustration by James Yang

The root of joy is gratefulness.

Brother David Steindl-Rast
(whose archive resides in Special Collections and University Archives)

Gratitude brings us together. Practicing gratitude raises awareness of what we have and compels us to consider how to spread human goodness. We share a year's worth of highlights from the Libraries that make us grateful for Friends of the Libraries who create a positive impact on every student who attends UMass Amherst.

Thank you for being the root of joy for so many.

Gratitude

IMPACT: Improving Affordability and Access

- The Libraries invested in the **Visible Body database**, which replaced student lab manuals for Kinesiology classes, and resulted in an annual savings of \$48,000 for students enrolled in those courses. Other departments also use this database for classroom support: Nursing, Communication Disorders, Biology, and Biomedical Engineering.



- Responding to astronomical (and still rising!) textbook costs, the Libraries reduced student financial burden by working with faculty and instructors to **explore and identify viable textbook alternatives**, including the use of existing e-books or the purchase of new books; adopting open educational resources; creating digital course materials lists by scanning book chapters and excerpts; and linking to content from the Libraries' existing collection of electronic resources.
- The Libraries supported the publication of *Radicalize the Hive*, an **openly licensed textbook** about beekeeping authored and assembled by Angela Roell, from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture, and Aisha Russell, Editor and Project Manager. The collection of stories from beekeepers in the field and resources for new and intermediate beekeepers is interwoven



with the author's own experience as a beekeeper over the last decade. From the introduction, "Right now the honey bee/human relationship is transactional. We want to 'save the bees.' If we want a reciprocal relationship with these creatures, we have to ask what we learn from the bees to begin to shape change so we can be more responsive to each other and our ecological allies." This textbook has a Creative Commons license, making it a free and openly available resource for anyone to use, share, and remix.

- The winners of the **2020 Open Education Initiative (OEI)** grants represent a broad range of disciplines across campus:



Stacy Guifre and Melina Anne Masterson who plan to create an openly-licensed Italian textbook for Italian 110, 120, and 126.

Matthew Sherwood, an accounting instructor who is adapting software packages and instructional materials to integrate with original instructional videos, assignments, case studies, and quizzes into one centralized resource.

Wayne Xu and Martha Fuentes-Bautista from Communications who plan to update and integrate existing mini-lecture podcasts and student blog entries on key class topics into "interactive lecture notes."

IMPACT: Enhance Student Learning

- When classes moved to remote in March, the Libraries began seeing an expected uptick in use of our online services for research assistance through Ask Us emails, texts, and chats. By the end of April, requests for online help had almost doubled from the previous year, and though the semester ended in early May, the usage continued to rise. In both May and June, **use of the online functions were up more than 300% over the same months in 2019.**



IMPACT: Strengthen Research and Teaching

- Special Collections and University Archives is offering graduate students, early career professionals, and independent scholars **fellowships in the spiritual dimensions of social change; the history of work, labor, and industry; and the value of human life.** Offered for the first time, these new fellowships join the well-established W. E. B. Du Bois Research Fellowship and expand the breadth of subjects for researchers to delve into during short-term residential research appointments as access to the Library building becomes available.

- The Libraries helped faculty and students transition to online instruction during the spring semester and received many testimonials. One faculty member wrote, **“UMass Library Reserves has been essential in the transition to online teaching** during the pandemic emergency. Without their excellent and helpful staff, I could not have effectively continued the course ...



Their amazing staff has been the single-most effective campus resource during this crisis.”

- During the first 48-hour Sciathon hosted by the Council for the Nobel Laureate Meetings, Steve Acquah, the UMass Amherst Libraries Digital Media



Lab Coordinator and Associate Research Professor of Chemistry, worked as part of the team called Group Clifton **to develop a science news verification tool, authentiSci.** The group was awarded second place in the category of ‘Lindau Guidelines’ and a shared prize of 1,000 Euros. “Now that the extension is out on the Chrome Web Store our team is looking into adding more resources to support accessibility for the extension and website,” says Acquah. The extension is one of the first of its kind that gives scientists the ability to score science news stories, providing a measure of confidence for the reader.

IMPACT: Focus on Diversity

- The Libraries’ Diversity and Inclusion Committee **created a resource guide on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion** (guides.library.umass.edu/DEI-readings). This collection of articles, books, videos, lectures, podcasts, and more, covers topics that relate to diversity, equity, and inclusion both inside and outside the Libraries.



- Irma McClaurin, G’76, G’89, PhD ’93 was awarded **a \$15,000 Historical Archives Grant** from the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, Inc. The funds are for the development of the Irma McClaurin Black Feminist Archive in Special Collections and University Archives. The Irma McClaurin Black Feminist Archive was established

in 2016, when Dr. McClaurin was recognized as a University of Massachusetts Amherst “Distinguished Alumni.” McClaurin was also a UMass employee, working in Transfer Admissions and as the Assistant Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences from 1977-1991.



IMPACT: Support Leaders in Public Service

- Isabel Espinal MLIS, PhD, Humanities Research Services Librarian, was named ADVANCE Faculty Fellow 2020. “Through the power of collaboration, UMass ADVANCE transforms the campus by cultivating faculty equity, inclusion and success.” Grants contribute to the mission of the National



Science Foundation ADVANCE program, which is advancing equity for women faculty, including women faculty of color, in science and engineering. “For 2020-21, ADVANCE’s focus will be on inclusion, particularly with an emphasis on ‘Inclusion and Covid-19,’ since the pandemic has had

a differential effect on faculty members,” says Espinal. Collaborative teams receive **a one-year grant of up to \$15,000** and logistics support from the ADVANCE team to apply for external funding opportunities based on the seed funded project.

- Whitney Battle-Baptiste, Professor of Anthropology and Director of the W. E. B. Du Bois Center, was named a **Chancellor’s Leadership Fellow in the Office of Equity and Inclusion.** Organized by the Office of Faculty Development, Chancellor’s Leadership Fellowships seek to cultivate future campus leaders

by offering a half-time, one-year, temporary appointment to an administrative area on campus. Professor Battle-Baptiste will be working with Nefertiti Walker, Interim Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, to roll out “Black Presence at UMass,” an initiative dedicated to celebrating the collective impact of African American and Black faculty, staff, students, alumni and other community members. Battle-Baptiste is a historical archaeologist, and her research focuses on the historical intersection of race, class, and gender in the shaping of cultural landscapes across the African diaspora. She has led the Du Bois Center since 2015.



IMPACT: Support Sustainability

- The Libraries gave scholarships to the **winners of the 2020 Undergraduate Sustainability Research Awards:**

First place: Linda Black ’20, for “FOOD/NOW: On Climate Mitigation, Sustainable Farming, and Food Security in Massachusetts.”



Second place: Margaret Dreishpoon ’20, Levente Haber ’20, and Waverly Lau ’20 for “Reusable to-go Containers at UMass Amherst,” and James Mazarakis ’20 for “Bringing Life to a Hospital Site: 19 Years of Proposals for the Abandoned Malden Hospital Site in Malden, MA.”

Honorable mention: Amanda Anderson ’21, for “New Shipment Just in! The Earthship.”

Winners presented their projects on the Libraries’ YouTube channel and they have been made openly accessible in the Sustainability Student Showcase in ScholarWorks@UMass Amherst.

Special Collections Gifts of Note

A revered teacher, mentor, scholar, and builder of the Afro-American Studies Department at UMass Amherst, **Chester Davis** was an important influence on the growth of Black Studies programs nationally.



David Graham Du Bois (left) and Chester Davis, ca.1990. Edward Cohen photo (Davis Papers)

A legendary figure on the Boston and Cambridge folk scene, **Jim Kweskin** and his Jug Band gained a national following in the 1960s. Kweskin's deep connection to American music and his long recording career shine through his papers, which include an extensive collection of 78 rpm recordings of folk, blues, and popular music, assembled by Kweskin and his musical co-conspirator **Mel Lyman**.



Jim Kweskin playing cello at Fort Hill, ca. 1968, Charles Frizzell photo (Kweskin Papers)

An attorney and zealous collector of historic photographs, **Paul D. Rheingold** donated more than 55,000 images to SCUA, nearly all from the period 1860 to 1920. Rheingold focused on images mounted on thick cardstock, with his diverse topics of interest running from factory scenes, city scapes, and work life to domestic interiors, disasters, death, and dogs.



Student pageant, ca. 1900 (Rheingold Collection)



THE NEW MULTIFUNCTIONAL LEARNING STUDIO in the Science and Engineering Library is complete and will be ready to welcome students back with a learning space specifically designed for teaching data and information literacy. Outfitted with flexible furnishings and a variety of technologies, the Studio supports instruction—including flipped, traditional face-to-face, and virtual education, as well as team-based learning—for up to 30 students. When not being used for instruction, the Studio can accommodate small lectures, workshops, and presentations, and serve as overflow study space.



Top: Rebecca Reznik-Zellen, Head, Science and Engineering Library, Ben Barnhart photo

\$1,666,488 RAISED—THANKS TO YOU

HOW YOU GAVE



81%
Gifts-in-Kind
(95%-gifts to Special Collections and University Archives)

7%
Supporting students
(learning spaces and resources)

5%
Endowments

4%
Collections

3%
Other

MASS AGGIE SEED LIBRARY

Science and Engineering Library



SENT **205** ENVELOPES
1,019 SEED PACKETS

Sowing Hope, Reaping Thanks

I have long enjoyed gardening and growing food in my front yard (as opposed to growing lawn). However, I always bought regular tomato and pepper starts from the garden center, perhaps a few flowers as well. This was my first year growing anything from seed and it has completely changed the way I think about gardening. Early spring was an incredibly difficult time and on a particularly hard day, I received the most glorious, bright orange envelope from the Seed Library. In it, there were a few seeds of varieties I had never even heard of—but most importantly, in that envelope there was hope and something to look forward to. I owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the UMass Aggie Seed Library. Thanks to the Seed Library, I learned that patty pan squash are not just beautiful, but delicious (my absolute favorite!) and that pepper seeds will not germinate if it's too cold (sorry little pepper seeds!). I've also educated myself on heirloom varieties and open-pollinated plants, learned about food sovereignty and seed saving (and also learned about the unfortunate seed shortages in the wake of COVID-19). Thank you for opening up this whole new world view. I am forever thankful to this awesome UMass program!

I have purchased organic and heirloom seeds from a seed company for my next spring garden. I will be more than happy to share a few of those for the Seed Library. I will, of course, collect seeds from my current garden plants to share with this amazing community as well (I already have coriander and onion seeds I collected!)

From the bottom of my heart, THANK YOU! And I can't wait to contribute to the seed collection.

Mariammar Gutierrez Ramirez
PhD candidate/Gerson Lab
Graduate Program in Organismic & Evolutionary Biology
College of Natural Sciences
University of Massachusetts Amherst



Fundraiser Joins the Libraries

In May, Henry “Joe” Long, Jr., arrived at UMass Amherst as the Executive Director of Library Development. Long’s newly created position as the first full-time development officer for the Libraries represents a significant increase in the University’s support for fundraising for the Libraries. Long comes to us from Springfield College, his alma mater, where he most recently served as a major gifts officer. After earning his bachelor’s degree in 1995 and a master’s degree in sport management in 1997, Long spent a decade in advancement at Plymouth State University in New Hampshire, returning to Springfield in 2011.

We asked Joe about himself and his move to the UMass Amherst Libraries.



What are your earliest library memories?

I grew up in Kingston, Mass., on the South Shore. My mom used to have an in-home day care with four or five kids. Every couple of weeks, we would set out for the 2.5-mile walk to the library in the center of town. We had free rein of the children’s literature room, and it was better than visiting the candy store. By the time I went to school, I had read just about every book in the room.

Why UMass Amherst?

Opportunity, challenge, and difference. Opportunity: UMass is an amazing place with committed people who make a difference every day. The opportunity to join this group of colleagues and build on the great work already done by the people before me was just too much to pass up. Challenge: Raising money to support libraries is a difficult and unique task. Many people just see the Library as an extension of the physical campus—a building. For many, libraries are just there, like sidewalks, parking lots, and the shuttle. All of this couldn’t be further from the truth. The Library is the academic heartbeat of an institution. We are the cumulative experience, knowledge, and passion of our people. We are the place where truth is tested and inspiration becomes reality. We are the judgment-free place where access to information is granted to all. Difference: Almost 25 years in higher education has taught me that if you want to make a difference... show up. I am a product of the transformational nature of higher education. In 1991, I showed up at the beginning of my freshman year and my life was forever changed. I worked hard, but I needed to show up first. I want that opportunity for others. I want to be a part of the solution to the problem of rising costs in education. I want to be at a place where I know every day I am making a difference. I want to go to sleep at night knowing that that day, I helped someone realize their future.

UMass gives me the opportunity to challenge myself and make a difference.

What inspires you about the future of libraries?

I love the Open Education Initiative (OEI). I truly believe this program can fundamentally change the costs and accessibility of higher education. When we build curriculum and deliver knowledge through the use of open resources, the cost of higher education is drastically decreased, and higher education becomes much more accessible and affordable to so many more people. We have the opportunity to eliminate economic barriers to education for everyone. To me, OEI is like a scholarship for every student. Every single dollar dedicated to creating classrooms free of high-cost textbooks makes a difference. The best part of this is the fact that every dollar is multiplied and impacts many more than just one student. When we remove the costs of textbooks from the equation, every student benefits.

What do you know now that you didn't know before you arrived at UMass?

Libraries aren’t just about books and a quiet place to study. Today’s library is about easily accessible, shared information. When a faculty member ignites a spark in a student, the Library is there to stoke the fire. We are not the gatekeepers of knowledge; we are here to fan the flames.

Books on Kindle and nightstand

The Last Odyssey by James Rollins

Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?
by Beverly Daniel Tatum, Ph.D.

Best follows on twitter:

Emmanuel Acho: @EmmanuelAcho

Will McAvoy: @WillMcAvoyACN