



UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY

State University of New York

Library Update

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES NEWSLETTER

Marcia Brown '40 Supports Special Collections

Marcia Brown's gifts to Albany's Libraries continue to add depth to the collections. According to Brian Keough, head of Special Collections and

Archives, "Marcia

Brown's extensive gift of Asian art books has given us a remarkable collection of approximately 1,000 volumes. These are important for

students and

Marcia Brown Art collection.

researchers alike, in Art History programs as well as in our Asian Studies Program here on campus." Many of these volumes are rare, first editions, and are themselves significant artifacts.

These books are part of the extensive collection which includes Brown's papers and original artwork. *C&RL News*, the official publication for the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), will use one of the images from UA Libraries' Marcia Brown Collection for the June 2008 cover. The publication is mailed to most academic librarians. The publication will also be available at the American Library Association (ALA) annual meeting in June 2008, which is attended by thousands of librarians and allied academics.

If you are interested in supporting special collections, contact Brian Keough at 518-437-3931 or Bkeough@uamail.albany.edu.



Message from the Dean

We are nearing the end of the spring semester, and there is much good news to share. Interim President George Philip has led us to request increased funding from the New York State Legislature to address critical maintenance issues on campus, to lower the 23.5 to 1 student/faculty ratio, to restore operating cuts mandated earlier by the State on SUNY, and to gain support for significant capital plan priorities. On Albany Day at the State Capitol, March 18, more than 500 faculty, staff, and students advocated for UA. The Libraries were well represented. It was a successful event, and we hope to increase participation next year.

Freshmen applications for fall 2008 admission have increased 6.2% over last year's numbers. Our new students are better prepared for their work here, and we look forward to serving them through our Libraries. We received a substantial Selective Investment Grant from the University, and this will help us as we move forward.

At the same time, budget hearings have begun for all campus units, including the Libraries. Because State tax revenues are projected to be down considerably, I envision all campus units being asked by the Administration to make operating economies. Clearly, we live in precarious economic times.

Our losses in State revenue can only be offset by private philanthropy. I am proud of our donors: people like you share our passion for knowledge and learning. Thanks to you, we have been successful in building our endowments. Throughout this publication, you'll read some inspiring stories about donor contributions for endowments. The

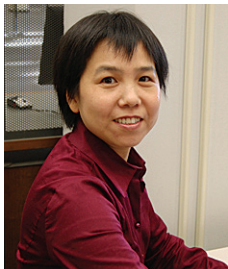


Dean Frank D'Andrea

Class of 1948 continues to lead the way in sustaining *The Greatest Generation Fund for the Libraries*. There continues to be class reunion giving for *Honoring Our Professors Fund*, and we have received two gifts from members of the Class of 1934 for *University Libraries Fund for Materials in Education*. Support for *University Libraries Fund for Materials in the Humanities* has passed the \$50,000 mark, and I envision it reaching \$100,000 by fall. We have also been fortunate to receive generous gifts-in-kind, which also help us support student and faculty research.

There is much work to be done. You know that great libraries are the foundation of a great university. Your gifts for endowments serve the students and professors of the future as well as those of the present. Thank you for your continued generosity and good will, now and into the future.

Honors, Awards, New Faces



Meiling Jiao

New Staff in UA Libraries

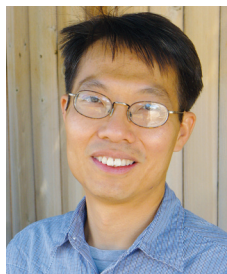
MEILING JIAO is a new programmer-analyst in Systems. She earned an MLS degree from UAlbany in 2006, and she was educated at Shanghai Second Polytechnic University in China, where she earned an undergraduate degree in engineering in computer applications. She has worked in other capacities in UA's libraries in the past

few years. **KABEL NATHAN STANWICKS** is the Libraries' new Head of Circulation. He comes to UAlbany from the University of Connecticut, where he is completing an MA in Historical Musicology.



Kabel Nathan Stanwicks

The Libraries also welcome **SETH GIARDENELLI**, Clerk I, and **JEFF GOLDSTEIN**, Extended Hours Coordinator.



Win Shih

UA Librarian Keynote Speaker at 21st Century Librarian Seminar Series

A joint committee of the Library Association of the Republic of China (Taiwan), the

National Taiwan Normal University, and the Chinese American Librarians has invited **WIN SHIH**, head of Systems for the University Libraries, to be a keynote speaker during the 21st Century Librarian Seminar Series scheduled for Taiwan July 7-11, 2008. Shih is lecturing on "Managing Library Technologies in the Web 2.0 Era." Win Shih joined the faculty of the Libraries in October, 2007.



Nancy Tessitore

Tessitore Outstanding Staff Award for 2008

At the annual Staff Recognition Luncheon, held on April 23, **NANCY TESSITORE** was given the University Libraries' Award

for Outstanding Staff for 2008. The award, which is given by the Library Development Committee, is competitive: supervisors nominate candidates, and a special committee evaluates the nominees. Karina Ricker, Tessitore's supervisor, says "I've had the good fortune to be her colleague for 25 of her 30 years of service to Albany's Libraries, and I can attest to the fact that Nancy is an outstandingly efficient, collaborative, and reliable colleague."

Barbara Via Retires from UA Libraries

Barbara Via, who has worked for University at Albany Libraries since September 1977, retired from her current full-time position as assistant director for Science and Dewey Graduate Library and Circulation Services in April 2008.

Beginning as a student in 1971, Barbara Via received her undergraduate and graduate education at UAlbany, and worked at Schenectady County Community College and Russell Sage College, Albany campus, before she returned to work at her alma mater.

Via has always been a vital presence in the Libraries and in UA campus life. She has worked as a reference librarian and as a bibliographer, and was appointed Head of Dewey Library in March 2000. She has taught as an adjunct professor in the Department of Information Studies; her scholarship has focused on reference

service and journal publishing. She has served on numerous campus committees, including Presidential Search and Dean Search Committees. She was awarded the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Librarianship (1992), and she was named Librarian of the Year, Association of College and Research Libraries, Eastern New York Chapter (2002).

"When I began my career in libraries, microcomputers had not been invented and everything that we did was based on paper, pencil, and typewriters," says Via. "I've been able to participate in amazing technological advances, and I've had great opportunities to meet people from all walks of life, and from many cultures."

Barbara Via will return to UA's libraries to work part-time through December 2008 with reference librarians to enhance reference services. She will also work at Hudson



Bookah and Barbara Via

Valley Community College as a part-time reference librarian, and will be teaching Information Sources and Services in the Department of Information Studies at UAlbany in fall, 2008.

In lieu of retirement gifts, Barbara has asked that contributions be made to *Honoring Our Professors Fund for University Libraries*, in honor/recognition of Alice Hastings Murphy. See p. 3 for further information, "Be Part of the Libraries' Legacy."

Class of 1934 Supports Endowed Fund, Materials in Education



Dorothy M. Griffin

The endowed fund, *University Libraries Fund for Materials in Education*, has received substantial gifts from members of the Class of 1934. Dorothy M. Griffin '34, a longtime major

donor to Albany's Libraries, gave the first alumna gift to the Fund.

The second gift, in honor of another member of that class, came through the



Mildred White Heggen

estate of Odvar Heggen in 2007. Mr. Heggen was married to Mildred White Heggen, BA '34, MA '41. Mrs. Heggen was a social worker for the WPA before she began

a teaching career at Heatly School, in Green Island, NY, a position she maintained until her retirement in 1970.

"It's our great pleasure to have support for endowments from alumnae who earned their degrees from one of our most prestigious Schools," says Dean Frank D'Andraia. "With this kind of philanthropic effort, we know we can help sustain the fine work that is done in the School of Education."

For further information, see below, or contact Roberta Armstrong at Armst13@aol.com or 562-594-8995 for information about a specific investment opportunity.

Be Part of the Libraries' Legacy!

The following endowments represent current investment opportunities for University at Albany Library donors.

- The Dean and Director's New Initiatives Fund for Albany's University Libraries.
- Honoring Our Professors Endowed Fund for University Libraries.
- University Libraries Fund for Materials in Education.
- University Libraries Fund for Materials in Fine Arts and Performing Arts.
- University Libraries Fund for Materials in Humanities.
- University Libraries Fund for Materials in Social Sciences.

- UAlbany's Greatest Generation Fund for the University Libraries.
- University Libraries Fund for Materials in Economics.
- University Libraries Endowment for Enriching Programs in Science and Technology.
- The Preservation of Tradition Fund for the University Libraries.

Gifts for endowment are invested by the University. The income from that investment is directed towards a purpose that is specified by the donor. Endowment funds are especially valuable because, once established, they provide interest income

for the library in perpetuity. Such funds allow donors the opportunity to honor or memorialize a friend or family member. It's a wonderful way to blend a donor's vision with University Libraries' objectives.

In addition to the current established endowment opportunities, you may choose to establish a named endowment fund with a minimum gift of \$10,000 to the University Libraries. All purchases made from book endowment funds are recognized by a special bookplate. Other library purchases are recognized by a plaque.

Contact Roberta Armstrong for more information (Armst13@aol.com or 562-594-8995 or 518-429-5588).



University at Albany Awarded Selective Investment Grant

This year the UA Libraries were awarded \$135,000 from the University's Selective Investment Funds to support a program entitled "Scholarly Digital Commons: Promoting and Enhancing Research with 21st Century Technology."

According to Mary Casserly, assistant director for Collections and Users Services, "With a collection of more than two million volumes, the University at Albany Libraries is one of the 100 largest research institutions in the United States. However, its collections lack the historical depth that is found in those collections that have been built over hundreds of years. The creation of the Scholarly Digital Commons will provide collection depth through the acquisition of significant primary and secondary resources in

digital format." Casserly notes that most of this new material will support student and faculty research primarily in the arts, humanities, and social sciences. "It will also help us address the expectations of our students and faculty for scholarly information that they can access anytime from anywhere," she adds.

The following resources have been purchased or are in the process of being purchased:

The New York Times Historical Archive.

The full text of the New York Times from 1851 – 2004.

African American Newspapers.

A collection of 19th century newspapers written by African Americans for African Americans.

The Nation Digital Archive. All articles published in Nation from July 1865 to the present.

New Republic Archive. The full text of more than 4,550 issues of the New Republic dating from 1914 to the present.

American County Histories. The full text of the histories of the counties in southeastern and central New York written between 1870 and 1900.

CQ Research Plus Archive. The complete archive of Editorial Research Reports—the precursor to CQ Researcher—dating back to 1923.

Readers Guide Retrospective. The index to approximately 3 million articles that appeared in 375 popular magazines published between 1890 and 1982.

Class of '48 Plans Reunion Gift

The Class of 1948 initiated *The Greatest Generation Fund for the Libraries* to commemorate their 55th reunion in 2003. The Fund now exceeds \$200,000 in cash gifts and planned gifts (annuities, pledged bequests). Now, they'll add to the Fund with their 60th Reunion gifts.

Numerous individuals from the Class of 1948 and people associated with the class spearheaded the initiative, and are still working to support it. Included are Eleanor Alland, Adrienne Caruso, BJ Chase, Arthur Collins, Sam and Dottie Dickieson, Wilma Diehl, Sheila Dingley, Ruth Doran, Ruth Elmore, Charlotte Koblenz, Wanda Methe, Gari Paticopoulos, Eileen Petterson, Helen Schick, and Alice Walsh. Curt Pfaff and Vivian Thorne actively supported the Fund until the time of their deaths. All these class leaders inspired others in classes 1940-1949 to make individual and class gifts in support of the Fund.

Eleanor Alland, class councillor, says, "To commemorate our 60th reunion, we urge the Class of 1948 to set a goal for a class gift, supplemented by individual gifts through planned giving. We can make a decision as to the goal and announce it at our Reunion luncheon on October 25, 2008."

For additional information, contact Eleanor Alland (518-640-9564 or ealland214B@nycap.rr.com).

For information about pledges or planned gifts, contact Roberta Armstrong (562-594-8995 or Armst13@aol.com).

We know we can do it—together, we always have!

Increases in Use for All Three Libraries

UAlbany Libraries posted impressive gains in user use and services in the past academic year. Here are some highlights:

- Gate count (building entries) Fall Semester 2007: 651,594.
- Gate count exam period Fall semester 2007: 61,335. The University Library is open for extended hours for a 10-day period.
- 43,353,463 visits were made to the Libraries' website Fall semester 2007, **an increase of 63% over Fall 2006;**
- Off site online database and journal access went from 256,000 sessions Fall 2006, to 453,000, Fall 2007, **an increase of 77%;**
- Online course reserve (E-Reserves): Users sessions Fall semesters 2006 and 2007, went from 103,000 sessions to 108,000, **an increase of 29%.**

"We continue to see rising use in our electronic services, but also a steady increase in use of Library facilities and on-site materials during exam periods," says Dean Frank D'Andraia.

Students Learn Research Skills

UAlbany partners with Albany High School to prepare students for success in school and work. These Albany High students recently attended classes in research skills taught by Librarian Greg Bobish. “I teach any instruction sessions they require as well as facilitating their use of our materials and computers. The students also receive informal assistance from the reference desk.”

The program, begun in 2005, educates approximately 70 students per year. Their degree is awarded after a challenging two-year curriculum and is widely recognized by the world’s leading universities.

Albany High School students in foyer, University Library.

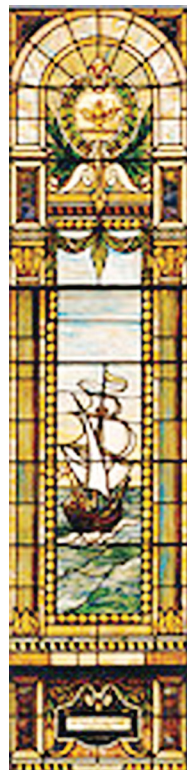


Restoration to Begin on Dewey Murals

Restoration work begins this year on the Dewey murals. The \$50,000 project will take five years to complete. Funding will

come from an existing endowed fund that supports maintenance of the Dewey murals and stained glass windows.

The Libraries are seeking auxiliary funding to complete the work.



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For more information please contact
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Library Update is a semi-annual newsletter published to inform the University community about University Libraries' collections and services. Responses from readers are very welcome.



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