From Mary Casserly, Dean and Director Libraries

Although many of our resources and services are accessible from our website (http://library.albany.edu) anytime and from any location, all three UA library facilities are heavily used. Gifts from supporters like you make it possible for us to extend our hours during exams, keeping the University Library open 24/5 for almost three weeks each December and May. Thank You!

Photos of night owl students taken by the University Library night shift, December 2013.

Library Receives $119,000

The M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives received a 2013 Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR). The funds will be used to arrange, describe and catalog 710 cubic feet of National Death Penalty Archive (NDPA) collections over eighteen months. The goal of the project is to improve access to many of these nationally significant collections including the official records of the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, and the Capital Jury Project. More information on the NDPA and CLIR can be found at http://library.albany.edu/archive/ndpa and http://www.clir.org/hiddencollections/awards/

Fall Events and Programs

The UA Libraries celebrated Open Access (OA) Week on October 23rd with a program on open data and OA data sharing that featured speakers Chris Kotfila, a doctoral student in the Department of Information Science, and Dr. Adam Gordon, an assistant professor in the Department of Anthropology. OA Week is an international event that promotes the free, immediate, and online access to scholarly research. More information about this movement can be found at www.openaccessweek.org/page/about

On November 13th 30+ library and archives professionals from the Capital Region attended the workshop Mold in the Library, presented by Karen E. K. Brown, UA’s Preservation Librarian. The workshop was designed to help participants understand what mold is, how it propagates, how to prevent it, and what to do in the event of an outbreak. Tips for preventing mold in libraries are available at http://library.albany.edu/preservation/community-faq/mold

Members of the Libraries’ Information Literacy Department participated in Developing Metalliterate Learners: Transforming Literacy across Disciplines, a SUNY-sponsored conference held on December 13th in Saratoga. The event brought together librarians, professors, instructional designers, and K-12 educators to share ideas about the changing information needs and habits of today’s students. More information about metalliteracy can be found at http://metaliteracy.org/

Gift from Class of ’63

The UA Libraries received a generous gift of $4,000 from the Class of 1963. The gift will be divided among three of the Libraries’ funds and endowments, The Library Development Fund, The Honoring Our Professors Endowment, and The University Libraries’ Fund for Materials in Education. Mary Brankman ’63 and a member of the Library Development Committee lobbied her class officers to make the Libraries one of the recipients of the class’s 50th reunion gift. Does your class have a reunion coming up? Perhaps contributing to one of the Libraries’ endowments would be a good way to celebrate that occasion. A list of our endowment funds can be found at http://library.albany.edu/about/giving/currentendowed.html.

University News

Here’s what’s been going on at UA over the last several months:


The Great Dane Project Viewing

Campus departments and groups decorated 18 four-foot high Great Dane statues to celebrate the inauguration of President Robert Jones. The 19th was reserved as the “Community Dane” in honor of President Jones, who is UA’s 19th president, and was decorated with the thumb prints of President Jones, and UA students, faculty, and staff. The statues are currently housed in the atrium of the Science Library.

Trudi Jacobson (UA), standing rear left, Richard Fogarty(UA) standing rear center; Michele Forte (Empire State) standing rear right and Thomas Mackey (Empire State) standing front right at the metaliteracy conference.