I am pleased to share with you the latest news and updates on the Libraries’ spring activities and programs. I draw your attention to our lead article, a report from our 2016-2017 Anna Radkowski-Lee Graduate Assistant, Philip Frisbie. In his report, Philip discusses how he has benefited from his experience working with Scholars Archive, the Libraries’ institutional repository, where faculty and student research is shared freely on the Web. You will also read about improvements to the University Library’s service desk, which will combine research support, circulation services, and information technology assistance in one location.

The Libraries celebrated its 43rd annual Recognition Luncheon at which 13 staff members were recognized for significant years of service anniversaries, two students were given Student Service Excellence Awards, one student was granted the Alice Hastings Murphy Scholarship, and one staff member, Stefania Curiale, was recognized for her outstanding work. Jesús Alonso-Regalado, Subject Librarian for History, Latin American Studies, and Romance Languages, writes about his experiences traveling to the Guadalajara International Book Fair to acquire difficult-to-find Spanish-language resources. And as usual you will read about the many programs the University Libraries sponsored during the spring semester, from lectures to stress-less events during finals. I hope you enjoy reading about the many ways the University Libraries’ staff support all of our students, faculty, and other library users.

The Anna Radkowski-Lee Graduate Assistantship provides a graduate student studying Library and Information Science with tuition support and professional experience working in an academic library. The assistantship was established by Roman Grygorcewicz, the brother of Anna Radkowski-Lee, to honor his sister’s memory. Anna Radkowski-Lee was the University Libraries’ Personnel Officer for eleven years. Philip Frisbie (left) was awarded the Anna Radkowski-Lee Graduate Assistantship for the 2016-2017 academic year. Prior to receiving his Master’s in Information Science last month, he wrote the following report.
I am extremely grateful to have been chosen for the Anna Radkowski-Lee Graduate Assistantship position at the Dewey Graduate Library. This opportunity helped me gain a broader understanding of what I can accomplish with a degree in Information Science.

My primary focus was Scholars Archive, the University Libraries’ online institutional repository (http://scholarsarchive.library.albany.edu/). Working as the Scholars Archive graduate assistant taught me how to take what I learned in the classroom and to apply that knowledge to real life job situations. Through this assistantship I gained a wide array of experience in areas ranging from learning about the intricacies of copyright to being involved with creating metadata, to setting up structures on the back end of the software, and to adding content to an institutional repository.

In addition to adding scholarly work to Scholars Archive, I also participated in a library committee. I was asked to join the Libraries’ Open Access Day committee. The Open Access Day committee organizes a symposium every October as part of Open Access Week. Open Access Week is a worldwide event conducted by the academic and research communities that focuses on removing barriers to scholarly research. I helped with planning the event and was also part of the A/V team on the day of the event. We recorded all the speakers’ presentations so that we could add them to Scholars Archive. After the recordings were complete, I took on the task of editing all the footage with some help from David Dickinson, Training Specialist, in the Libraries’ Interactive Media Center (IMC). I took advantage of other software available in the IMC, such as Audacity and Adobe Premier Pro, to get the video properly formatted for the Libraries’ YouTube channel. After the footage was added to YouTube, we were able to publish it in Scholars Archive. While challenging at times, this was a fun project that allowed me to call on my creativity and to expand my technical knowledge.

I worked on many other technical projects such as setting up a Google Calendar with Google Forms to create embargo reminders that will notify the Scholars Archive team when an embargo date has passed so that they will know when publications can be added to the digital repository. I created step-by-step guides so that there will be a record for the Scholars Archive community on workflow processes and on how to use the batch upload feature. Through some research and trial and error, I was able to find ways to help streamline many processes for the future.

I was able to put to use a lot of what I learned in my IIST 653 Digital Libraries class to my work with Scholars Archive. In class we learned about metadata standards and how to manipulate digital images for a repository, create watermarks, and make text recognizable for accessibility purposes.

I came into this position with very little knowledge about how institutional repositories operate. Now I can say that I have a greater understanding of all the steps it takes to add scholarly work to a digital repository. People may think it is very easy, but checking copyright and obtaining the correct versions of articles takes a lot of searching and communicating. Although it is a bit of a process, I see how being a part of an open access initiative can help make life easier for researchers. By removing “pay walls,” it is easier for users to gain access to the information they need to disseminate their research faster and further. Being a part of the Scholars Archive team has been a very rewarding and influential experience for me.
Student Awards

Alice Hastings Murphy Scholarship

Erik Stolarski, a student employee in the Special Collections & Archives department was awarded the Alice Hastings Murphy Scholarship, which was established to support student employees and staff members interested in pursuing librarianship. Erik is enrolled in the combined Information Studies and History master’s program and will receive both an MSIS and MA degree upon completion. Erik is shown above (second from left) with Mark Wolfe, Curator of Digital Collections (left), Nancy Poehlmann, Head of Cataloging Services (second from right), and Rebecca Mugridge, Dean of University Libraries (far right).

Student Service Excellence Awards

The University Libraries hire up to two hundred student employees a year and there are many who do an outstanding job. Two students this year, Cara McBride and Nathan Parrott, received Student Service Excellence Awards.

Cara McBride, a senior, has been with the Libraries since August 2013. Cara has been on the Dean’s List for the past four semesters and juggles her courses, two part-time jobs, and her participation in the UAlbany Field Hockey Club. Cara is pictured (left) with Laurie Constable, Science Library Circulation Supervisor (right).

Nathan Parrott, also a senior, came to the Libraries’ Alice Hastings Murphy Preservation Department as a freshman in 2013. He is described as enthusiastic, industrious, and innovative and as someone who sets a strong example for newer students to follow. An anthropology major, he will continue this fall in the masters of archaeology program at the University of Calgary. Nathan is shown (center) with Ann Kearney, Collections Conservator (left) and Karen Kiorpes, Head of Preservation (right).
2017 Patricia Stocking Brown Research Award

By Jodi Boyle, Supervisory Archivist, M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives

The recipient of this year’s Award was Sheri Sarnoff, a dual History/Psychology major. Ms. Sarnoff (center) received the award for her research on efforts to provide on-campus child care at the University at Albany, 1969-1983. The Department of History’s Ryan Irwin, PhD, Associate Professor & Undergraduate Director (left) and Kori Graves, PhD, Assistant Professor (right) served as Ms. Sarnoff’s faculty advisors. Ms. Sarnoff expects to receive her Bachelor of Arts degree in May 2018.

The Patricia Stocking Brown Fund for Feminist Social Justice Research in University Libraries was established by donors from the University at Albany’s Women’s Studies and Biology Departments, including Professor of Women’s Studies Emerita Bonnie Spanier, to honor Patricia Stocking Brown, the first female faculty member in the sciences at nearby Siena College. The fund supports and promotes students’ interest in and use of primary materials related to the study of feminist social justice, housed in the Libraries’ M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives. Brown, a self-described feminist who taught Biology and Women’s and Minorities’ Studies for 35 years died in 2004 from metastatic breast cancer. She was the wife of University at Albany Distinguished Teaching Professor of Biology Emeritus Stephen C. Brown. Patricia Stocking Brown’s papers are held by the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives.

Student Advisory Board

By Kelsey O’Brien, Co-Chair, Student Advisory Board
The Student Advisory Board (SAB) saw its largest membership to date this year, and included a mix of new and returning members from across majors, both graduate and undergraduate. The SAB students continue to provide an invaluable direct source for gauging the success of our library services.

During the first spring meeting we gave students the opportunity to share their general comments and concerns about what they enjoy about the Libraries, and suggestions for how we can do better. Common topics of discussion were printing costs, library hours, and laptop lending. Students also noted the speediness of interlibrary loan, the variety of library programs, such as the Therapy Dogs, and the help they have received on multimedia projects from staff in the Interactive Media Center (IMC).

Discussions with students often opened up beyond the agenda and revealed unexpected gaps in knowledge or misconceptions. For example, we learned that simple, colorful fliers work well for promoting library events and services, Library FAQs should be made more visible, and double-sided printing ought to be promoted more for its environmental benefits. Likewise, these open discussions provided students the opportunity to express their enthusiasm for things that are working well, such as the color-coded Library Zone signs.

Recent Events

Campus Conversations in Standish: Dr. Lawrence Schell on Eliminating Native American Health Disparities

On March 29, Dr. Lawrence Schell, Director of the University at Albany’s Center for the Elimination of Minority Health Disparities gave the last presentation in the spring 2017 “Campus Conversations in Standish” series. Dr. Schell, who is also a Professor of Anthropology and a Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the University at Albany, delivered a brief presentation titled “Minority Health Disparities: The Case of Native Americans” and then led a discussion on the topic. In April 2016, Dr. Schell’s Center for the Elimination of Minority Health Disparities received a $10 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to examine minority health disparities in the northeast United States.

The University Libraries launched “Campus Conversations in Standish” in spring 2015 to showcase UAlbany faculty research and expertise, and to connect members of the UAlbany community and beyond in an exchange of ideas and perspectives. “Campus Conversations in Standish” are free and open to the public and are held from 12:35 to 1:30 p.m. in the Patricia and J. Spencer Standish Board Room on the third level of the University at Albany’s Science Library. As this newsletter goes to press, the fall 2017 series is being finalized.
Libraries Participate in GSA Professional Development Day

Staff from both the University and Dewey Graduate Library set up a table at the annual Graduate Student Association (GSA) Professional Development Day on April 7, where they shared information about all the services and resources the Libraries provide. The GSA is a student-run group dedicated to enhancing the academic and extracurricular experience of graduate students. Several graduate students stopped by with questions about Scholars Archive, the Libraries’ online repository of UAlbany scholarship.

Jesús Alonso-Regalado, Subject Librarian for History, Latin American Studies, and Romance Languages; Carol Anne Germain, Subject Librarian for Informatics, Information Studies & Sociology; Lauren Puzier, Reference & Projects Librarian (right); Kristen Thornton-De Stafeno, Graduate Student Assistant (left); and Lindsay Van Berkom, Assistant for Dewey Graduate Library Operations & Scholars Archive Administrator staffed the Libraries’ table throughout the day.

2017 National Library Week

Every year the American Library Association designates a week in April to celebrate and promote library use and support. This year libraries have many causes for celebration, offering free access to trustworthy, online resources, as well as computers, scanners, and digital equipment; free workshops; and one-on-one research consultations. The theme for this year’s National Library Week (April 9-15, 2017) was “Libraries Transform.” UAlbany students told us how (right).
Monuments Men Screening at University Libraries

In recognition of “Preservation Week” (April 23-29, 2017), a week in April set aside annually by the American Library Association to acknowledge the importance of preserving our cultural heritage, whether it be paintings, sculpture, sound recordings, manuscripts, books, or buildings, the Libraries’ Alice Hastings Murphy Preservation Department organized a free, lunchtime screening of Monuments Men in the University Library’s Cobb Room. Monuments Men is a documentary about art treasures stolen during WWII and the work of the Allies to rescue them from being lost forever. Complimentary popcorn was also provided.

Poem in Your Pocket Day

April 27 was Poem in Your Pocket Day, a day sponsored annually by the Academy of American Poets and the League of Canadian Poets to encourage individuals around the globe to “channel their inner bard” by sharing poems with friends, family, colleagues, and classmates. The Libraries enthusiastically took part in the celebration by having a plentiful supply of poems ready for sharing at the University Library’s reference desk (left).

Student Photography Exhibition in Interactive Media Center

The University Libraries were proud to open an exhibition of UAlbany student photography in the Library’s Interactive Media Center on May 5. The photographs were created by students in Professor Danny Goodwin’s “Advanced Photography and Digital Imaging” class for their final projects. The idea for this university collaboration grew out of a conversation between Danny Goodwin, Associate Professor of Art, (below, second from right during class critique) and Regina Conboy, Head, Interactive...
Media Center. To ensure longevity and to encourage sustainable artistic practices, each single, limited edition photograph was printed on cotton rag paper using archival pigment inks and mounted on Museum Board.

#StressLessUAlbany at the Dewey Graduate Library

The Dewey Graduate Library treated weary graduate students to a variety of stress-reducing activities at the end of the spring semester. Aromatherapy stations, relaxing videos, chair yoga, as well as puzzles, Scrabble games, coloring pages, buttons, bookmarks, earplugs, and candy contributed to the stress less cause. An early afternoon coffee and tea break on May 16 was especially well-attended and appreciated. It was the first time the Dewey Graduate Library offered “stress less” programming to the University at Albany.

#StressLessUAlbany at University Library

There were many stress-relieving events during finals at the University Library as well, including a midnight primal scream, four late-night coffee breaks, cartoon videos, jigsaw puzzles, and a Post-it Positivity Wall at the library entrance (right).
Reference and Circulation Desks to be Combined

After much deliberation and discussion, the Libraries have decided to combine the reference and circulation desks in the University Library. The consolidated desk will be set farther back from the building entrance, and combine reference and research support, circulation services, and information technology assistance in one location, making things easier and more seamless for our students and other users. The larger lobby area will have comfortable seating arrangements and be more welcoming and attractive for visitors. The project is expected to be finished by the beginning of the fall semester.

Nancy Poehlmann, Head of Cataloging Services, who joined the Libraries in 2012, discovered that approximately 850 Master’s theses dating from 1914 through 1979 had not been entered into the online catalog or the Dissertations & Theses database, or, just as importantly into WorldCat, the cooperatively-produced online catalog of more than 70,000 library collections worldwide. The master’s theses were only listed in a little-known print catalog. With such titles as *Work of the United States in the Interest of Peace* (1915), *Use of Color in the Verse of the Romantic Poets: A Comparative Study* (1925), and *English...*
Education as Shown by the English Novel of the 18th Century (1932), it became apparent that many of these theses were important to the history of graduate education in the Capital Region, especially in the areas of education, atmospheric sciences, and public policy. Poehlmann applied for and was awarded a New York State Regional Bibliographic Databases Program (RBDB) grant from the Capital District Library Council. These grants provide an opportunity for libraries, museums and historical societies in New York State to make their undiscovered collections visible for all to discover and enjoy. The “Uncover UAlbany Master’s Theses” grant will join 13 other institutions in the Capital District in raising awareness of documents about micro-meteorites, experimental radio recordings, the quarries of Granville, the early residents of Lansingburgh, and more.

Faculty Awards

President’s Award for Excellence in Librarianship: Mark Wolfe

Mark Wolfe, Curator of Digital Collections in the Libraries’ M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives was recognized on April 26 with the President’s Award for Excellence in Librarianship. Mark was one of fourteen UAlbany faculty and staff who won excellence awards because they are “exemplary models of the outstanding performance expected from all University employees.” Mark is pictured at left (center), flanked by Rebecca Mugridge, Dean of University Libraries and Interim President James R. Stellar (right).

Faculty News

How Book Fairs and Librarians Engage Our Communities

By Jesús Alonso-Regalado, Subject Librarian for History, Latin American Studies, and Romance Languages

How can acquiring materials at book fairs stretch library funds, widen the diversity of our collections and engage the UAlbany community?

For the last eleven years as the Latin American Studies librarian at UAlbany, I have attended the Guadalajara International Book Fair (México), the largest book fair in the Spanish-speaking world. This
acquisitions trip serves as an excellent opportunity for me to learn about publishing in various countries, to acquire hard-to-find materials, to familiarize myself with new research trends, and to locate materials not normally available for purchase. These trips have allowed the University Libraries to save money and to maximize our purchasing power. By purchasing books directly at the book fair instead of acquiring the same books in the U.S., the Libraries saved $13,622 this year. This increased the Libraries’ total budget for Spanish and Latin American materials by 45%.

While at the fair, I make it a priority to acquire hard-to-find books and materials. As part of my efforts to assess the uniqueness of the books I purchase, I always run some searches in WorldCat (the combined catalogs of more than 72,000 libraries worldwide). This is what I found about the books acquired at the book fair:

- 93% are not available in any library within the SUNY system.
- 44% are not available in libraries in New York State.
- 16% are not available in any U.S. library.
- 10% are not available in WorldCat.

These figures are a good indication of how these new and unique acquisitions will enhance the educational experience of our students and the research efforts of our faculty. They also indicate how providing these materials to other libraries via interlibrary loan will greatly enhance the diversity of materials available throughout the SUNY system and New York State.

As for engaging the UAlbany community, I encourage students and faculty to participate in the book-buying process, from preparing for the book fair to processing materials once they are shipped home (right). I ask students and faculty for purchase recommendations, to explore the materials as soon as they are unpacked, and to prioritize the books they would like cataloged first. In this way, the Libraries engage students and faculty by encouraging them to be active participants in building a strong collection for their research, teaching, and learning needs.

Lindsay Van Berkom Attends Institutional Repository Workshop

By Lindsay Van Berkom, Scholars Archive Administrator (second from right)

Scholars Archive, the University at Albany’s institutional repository (IR),
was launched by the Libraries a little over two years ago and is quickly approaching 40,000 total downloads. Although the repository is growing, there is still a lot to learn about the intricacies involved in managing and growing a successful IR. So when I saw the announcement in March 2017 that bepress, the company that produces our IR software, would be offering its Repository Manager Certification Course again, I knew I had to be there. I was ecstatic when I received confirmation that my travel request had been approved and that I would finally have the unique opportunity to go to bepress headquarters in Berkeley, California to attend the course. Bepress describes the Repository Manager Certification Course as “an intensive three-day workshop for institutional repository administrators, where you’ll develop skills and expertise to help you succeed at one of the most demanding jobs in the field of librarianship and scholarly communication.” I came away from the course with a deeper understanding of the software and the versatility of its publishing tools in organizing various types of content within Scholars Archive. I also left the course feeling more confident about my knowledge of institutional repositories and about how Scholars Archive can be strategically aligned with campus initiatives to help meet the needs of faculty and students. I am eager to apply all that I learned and am excited about the many opportunities that lie ahead for Scholars Archive to become an integral part of the University at Albany.

**Recent Faculty Presentations**


Jacobson, Trudi E. “Fake News.” Panelist on discussion sponsored by the Public Relations Society of America Capital Region Chapter, the Alpha Alpha Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, and the Department of Communication, University at Albany, Albany, NY, March 2017.

The University Libraries’ 43rd annual Staff Recognition Luncheon was held on April 25th to, in the words of Rebecca Mugridge, Dean of University Libraries “celebrate the work that we have done over the past year, present some awards, and recognize the career milestones of many of our colleagues.”

The 1950s-themed luncheon was attended by 86 people, including four retirees. Ann Gunning, Assistant to the Dean and Library Personnel Assistant chaired the planning committee, which included Mary Ellen Cook, Adam Cybulski, Courtney De Gonzague, David Dickinson, Brian Doubleday, Meiling Jiao, Karen Kiorpes, Rebecca Nous, Angela Persico, Lauren Puzier, Joyce Rambo, Krishna Rayavaram, Peter Recore-Migirditch, Karina Ricker, and Lindsay Van Berkom.

Thirteen staff members were honored for their years of service ranging from ten to 30 years. Honorees were (from left to right): Lindsay Van Berkom, Meiling Jiao, Wendy West, Jessica Ernye, Jean Guyon, Mark Wolfe, Sue Kaczor, Regina Conboy, Deborah Bernnard, Carol Anne Germain, and Mary Ellen Cook. Honorees Ryan Gill and Mary Van Ullen are not in photo.
Outstanding Classified Staff Member

One staff member received special recognition. Stefania Curiale of the Libraries’ Invoicing Unit merited the Outstanding Classified Staff Member Award, which was created in 2007 “to recognize an exceptional Civil Service employee who enhances the work environment by fostering a positive attitude with a spirit of cooperation and creativity in support of the University Libraries’ mission and goals.” Stefania is shown (second from left) holding her Outstanding Classified Staff Member award. Kate Latal, Head of Acquisitions Services, (left), Nancy Lanza, Invoicing Unit (second from right), and Rebecca Mugridge, Dean of University Libraries (far right) join in congratulating her.

New Hires/Appointments

Jennifer Maloney (left) was promoted from Mail & Supply Clerk to University Library Shipping and Receiving Supervisor on March 19.

Ellen Abbott (left) was hired on March 23, as Lending & Access Services Clerk at the University Library. Prior to joining the Libraries, she was an interlibrary loan assistant at the Schenectady County Public Library.
Aaron Cohen (left) was hired on April 20 as Lending & Access Services Clerk at the University Library. He graduated from the University at Albany with a degree in English just last year.

Priscilla Seaman (left) was hired on April 20 as Subject Librarian for Anthropology, Geography & Planning, and Communication. Previously, she was Associate Professor and Reference/Instruction Librarian at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. She is a UAlbany graduate.

Richelle LaPolit (left) was hired on May 4 as Secretary to the Dean of University Libraries. Previously she worked at the NYS Justice Center and prior to that at the University’s Police Department.

Brian King (left) was hired on May 18 as Mail & Supply Clerk at the University Library. He worked previously in landscaping for 25 years.
Departures

Nancy Davis, Library Clerk (*left*) retired on April 28.

Jean McLaughlin, Honors College/Reference Assessment Librarian (*left*), retired at the end of May.

Social Media

What They’re Saying About Us On Twitter

WHOA! These projects sound so cool! Especially "The Digital Archive of Executions in the United States" @UAlbanyLibs Congrats all around!

—January 4, 2017

Full house for @Victor_Asal's talk at @UAlbanyLibs on http://www.sunypress.edu/p-6313-legal-path-dependence-and-the-l.aspx … @SUNYPress

—February 8, 2017
I got my #fairuse pin! Thanks @UAlbanyLibs! #FairUseWeek

—February 23, 2017

In the 2017 Trends Report @chronicle Information literacy is the first topic listed and @SUNY @UAlbanyLibs @PBKTrudi featured prominently!

—February 28, 2017

I really enjoyed [spending time] with lovely dogs in [the Science] Library today #lovelydog #dogtherapy #thursday #ualbany

—March 2, 2017

@UAlbanyLibs Deborah LaFond presents on Critical Campus Pedagogy at @ualbany #UAlbanyWGSS

—March 25, 2017

University Libraries—Past and Present

Past

Using the Dewey Graduate Library’s card catalog in 1974
Using the online catalog in the Dewey Graduate Library today.

About the University at Albany Libraries

The University at Albany Libraries comprise the University Library, the Science Library, and the Dewey Graduate Library. A member of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), the 123 largest, most comprehensive research libraries in North America, the University at Albany Libraries serve the University’s students, faculty, and staff to further their academic achievement and success, as well as the citizens of New York State, and scholars and researchers from around the world. For up-to-date information about the University Libraries, visit library.albany.edu.

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