In the last issue of *Library Update* (Summer 2015), Dean Mary Casserly announced that I was appointed Interim Dean and Director of Libraries, pending the conclusion of the search process. That short-term assignment has subsequently turned into a two-year appointment, and the past ten months have been a whirlwind of activity for both the Libraries and myself. I am honored to serve in this role, and incredibly thankful for the support of the Libraries’ staff. Everyone has worked together, demonstrating the value that we place on teamwork in support of the Libraries’ mission.

This Spring issue of the Libraries’ newsletter marks the beginning of a new design and frequency. We plan to bring you news about the Libraries on a quarterly basis, and we have expanded some of our reporting to bring you more news about library events, new hires, and library faculty research and publications. In this issue you will read about recent gifts to the Libraries from our generous benefactors, including alumna Marcia Brown, as well as the work that our graduate assistant is doing, thanks to the generosity of Roman Grygorcewicz, who established the Anna Radkowski-Lee Graduate Student Assistantship in memory of his sister Anna, who was a long-time employee of the University Libraries. You will also learn about recent events, as well as some of our librarians’ scholarship, publications, and presentations. I hope this issue shows how exciting and vibrant the Libraries are these days, much of it thanks to your generosity and dedication.

### Recent Gifts: Marcia Brown

The UAlbany Libraries’ M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives is delighted to announce that Marcia Brown, Class of 1940, left a substantial and generous gift to the University to support the use of special collections. Ms. Brown, who passed away in April 2015, was a prolific children’s book author and illustrator, who stipulated in her will that the Department of Special Collections & Archives will receive the annual royalties generated from her books, totally approximately $40,000 a year. This gift will be used to support the activities of the Miriam Snow Mathes Historical Children’s Literature Collection and develop programming related to the Marcia Brown Papers.

Brown graduated in 1940 from the New York State College for Teachers, a precursor of the University at Albany. An internationally renowned illustrator and author of children's books, Brown was the first three-time winner of the Caldecott Medal, the American Library
Association's highest award for excellence in children's book illustrations, for her books *Cinderella, or the Little Glass Slipper* (1954); *Once a Mouse* (1961); and *Shadow* (1982); six more of her books are Caldecott Honor Books. Ms. Brown named the UAlbany Libraries' M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives as the repository of her life's work, including her correspondence, manuscripts, drawings, final art, books, and puppets. Brian Keough, Head of the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives, describes the repository of Brown's life's work as "an astonishing look into the process of a gifted artist and storyteller. Marcia Brown's style and spirit is evident in the variety of mediums she used to create her books, such as sketches, drawings, woodcuts, woodblock prints, sketchbooks, and writings," says Keough.

The M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives held a symposium on April 8 on the life and work of Marcia Brown (see page 9).

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**Anna Radkowski-Lee Graduate Assistantship**

Erik Stolarski is the 2015/2016 recipient of the Anna Radkowski-Lee Graduate Assistantship Endowment, which provides a graduate student studying Library and Information Science with tuition support and professional experience working in an academic library. Anna Radkowski-Lee was the Libraries’ Personnel Officer for 11 years. The endowment was established by her brother, Roman Grygorcewicz, to honor her memory. This year, the Cataloging Services Department and the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives had the winning proposal to catalog Special Collections materials selected from a monograph backlog comprising 250 linear feet of materials purchased by the UAlbany Libraries over the past 40 years. Erik will also be cataloging 1,000-1,500 pamphlets selected for their historical and research value from the 20th Century Political Pamphlet Collection. These materials deserve full cataloging and inclusion in OCLC WorldCat (an online catalog that brings together the records of academic, public, and museum libraries worldwide) so that the added access to these materials benefits researchers both at the University and elsewhere.

Erik is from Hyde Park, NY, and lived there for most of his life. After a year at Dutchess Community College, he transferred to Binghamton University. History was an immediate choice for a degree, having been a passion of his for as long as he can remember. Erik graduated from Binghamton in the spring of 2015, earning a BA in History with a minor in Classical Civilizations. He had decided to pursue a career in museum and archival work which led to the combined MA/MSIS program at the University at Albany.

This past summer, Erik interned at the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Site in Hyde Park, performing many different duties within these historic homes. One of the largest projects was the re-cataloging of over seven hundred books into a digital form that could be used in their collection management software. This first experience working with old and rare books helped to foster his interest in them and led to his applying for the Anna Radkowski-Lee Graduate Assistant position, seeking to learn even more.
Since 1997, Carol Anne Germain, PhD, Subject Librarian for Informatics, Information Studies & Sociology, has been the liaison librarian to UAlbany’s Educational Opportunities Program (EOP). UAlbany’s EOP has been recognized as a model program on the state and national level. EOP provides academic, financial, social, and personal support to economically and educationally disadvantaged students who want to attend college. Every summer Dr. Germain teaches four different information modules to students enrolled in EOP’s Pre-Freshmen Summer Program—200 in summer 2015. Modules include instruction on evaluating resources, a tour of the University Library, an introduction to the Libraries’ online catalog, a primer on citation development, and an overview of a research project. During the academic year, Dr. Germain conducts EOP sessions that focus on accessing research materials for writing projects (“Persuasion through Research”), using dictionaries for word analysis (“What’s in a Word?”) and retrieving writers’ interviews and correspondence to determine authors’ perspectives about writing (“Writers’ Thoughts on Writing”). Many of Dr. Germain’s students go a step further by scheduling a PAWS (Personalized Assistance With Searching) session, a one-on-one research consultation with a librarian. Dr. Germain also conducts weekly office hours in the EOP Complex Computer Lab, which is just down the steps from the entrance to the University Library.

The Libraries held two large “welcome” events at the beginning of the fall 2015 semester. On August 24, the Libraries held an International Students Reception, an annual event that is organized by Yu-Hui Chen, PhD, Subject Librarian for Education and East Asian Studies. Over 150 students from 89 different countries enjoyed an international buffet of mini egg rolls, spanakopita, mini cheesecakes, fresh fruit, and much more. Several students were delighted to win door prizes—dining certificates donated by the Shining Rainbow restaurant in downtown Albany. Interim Dean of Libraries, Rebecca Mugridge, and Vice Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Education, Jeanette Altarriba, welcomed the students. The event was co-sponsored by the UAlbany office of International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) and University Auxiliary Services (UAS).

Two days later, the Libraries hosted “A Great Dane Welcome @ Your Library” in front of the University
Library. UAlbany Libraries staff were asked to donate their favorite “leisure reading” books and ended up contributing over 500 books to the event. UAlbany’s students were clearly intrigued with their librarians’ “good reads.” Staff were happy to provide reading recommendations in person, as well as to share information about such library services as Ask Us 24/7 (24-hour reference service), PAWS (Personalized Assistance With Searching) and iLearn Workshops (free classes on topics ranging from using Photoshop to finding scholarship money). Sports bottles—funded by a UAS grant and stamped with the Libraries’ logo—were handed out to students to encourage them to use the Libraries’ new, filtered-water drinking fountains instead of purchasing water in disposable plastic bottles.

The Libraries held a “Read-Out” on September 28, 2015 during Banned Books Week (September 27-October 3, 2015). Twenty students read passages from their favorite banned books. Some books that were read: And Tango Makes Three by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell; Twilight by Stephenie Meyer; Lord of the Flies by William Golding; The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins; Looking for Alaska by John Green; The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger; To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee; The Fellowship of the Ring by J.R.R. Tolkien; and In the Night Kitchen by Maurice Sendak. During the discussion about why books are banned, many students were surprised to learn that censorship was still an on-going issue in our country. The majority of those in attendance signed a poster (above) pledging to do what they can to take a stand against censorship. Amanda Lowe, Lending and Access Services Associate organized the event and looks forward to holding another “Read Out” during Banned Books Week 2016.

In October Yu-Hui Chen, PhD, Subject Librarian for Education and East Asian Studies offered two discussion forums for doctoral students: “Developing Your Academic Identity and Effectively Navigating Your Doctoral Journey” and “Strategies for Completing Your Dissertation.” For each forum, there was a panel of seven or eight faculty members from various academic departments representing three broad disciplines—humanities, social sciences, and STEM. The forums were offered again in February and March 2016.

For Homecoming Weekend, the University Library unveiled its nine new group study rooms and new Mac lab. The new group study rooms and Mac Lab were a collaborative project of the UAlbany Libraries and the UAlbany Department of Information Technology Services (ITS). Six group study rooms are glass-enclosed. Each new group study room is equipped with a whiteboard and a flat screen television monitor. Users can beam text, image, audio, and video files from their laptops, tablets, or
smartphones to a screen. Sharing the screen’s display is not limited to users in the room; users can share the screen with users located elsewhere on campus.

The Mac Lab at the University Library is the only place on campus where Macs are freely accessible for students to use. The Mac Lab contains forty-one iMac computers—a significant increase over the twelve Macs available previously. Each iMac has a 21.5 inch display, an updated operating system, four times more RAM than the previous Macs and a plentiful selection of software.

Each year the UAlbany Libraries sponsor an event during Open Access Week to help raise faculty awareness of how removing existing barriers to accessing published research could transform the way scholarly research and scientific inquiry is conducted. The 2015 event was held on October 20 in the Science Library’s Patricia & J. Spencer Standish Board Room. Speakers were UAlbany Professor of Philosophy P.D. Magnus, PhD and copyright attorney and UAlbany alumnus, Paul C. Rapp.

The Libraries’ Technical Services and Library Systems department, which comprises Acquisitions, Cataloging, Catalog Management, and Library Systems, held a Halloween open house on October 30. The open house was an opportunity for Technical Services and Library Systems staff to share in-depth details about their work responsibilities with their colleagues. An informative and delicious time was had by all. The event was well-received by all library staff who heartily exclaimed: “Halloween is scary. Technical Services is not.”

The Libraries’ second “Campus Conversations in Standish” event took place on November 4, 2015 in the Science Library’s Patricia & J. Spencer Standish Board Room and featured Rosemary Armao, investigative reporter, Director of the University at Albany’s Journalism Program, and WAMC Public Radio panelist. Professor Armao presented on “The 2016 Elections: What Happens When New Money Converges with New Media Technology.”
The UAlbany Libraries launched “Campus Conversations in Standish” in spring 2015 to showcase faculty research and expertise and to connect members of the UAlbany community in an exchange of ideas and perspectives. The first “Campus Conversations” was held on March 11, 2015. John W. Delano, PhD, Distinguished Teaching Professor Emeritus, Collins Fellow, and Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences spoke on “NASA’s Search for Life Beyond Earth.” All “Campus Conversations in Standish” are held in the Patricia & J. Spencer Standish Board Room on the third floor of the Science Library between 12:35 pm and 1:30 pm and are free and open to the public.

The UAlbany Libraries offered a multitude of activities to reduce student stress during finals week of the fall 2015 semester. The events and activities, known collectively by their Twitter hashtag, #StressLessUAlbany, were organized by Amanda Lowe, Lending and Access Services Associate, and included a yoga session, a visit from the ever-popular therapy dogs, chair massages, four late-night coffee breaks, a midnight primal scream, cookies, streaming Cat TV, and nine nights of all-night puzzles. After the therapy dogs visit, one UAlbany student tweeted: “Personal THANK YOU to UAlbany libraries for their therapy dogs today. Really made a stressful day uplifting.”

“Continuing Critical Conversations through Transformative Teaching and Learning,” a UAlbany diversity transformation project, launched its 2016 series of speakers and pedagogy workshops with a two-day conference titled “Anti-Oppression and Transformative Praxis: Sharing Classroom Strategies, Considering Curriculum Innovation.” The conference was held January 28-29, 2016 in the Science Library’s Patricia & J. Spencer Standish Board Room and was organized by Deborah LaFond, Subject Librarian for Africana Studies, Communications, Educational Psychology, Psychology, and Women's Studies. The keynote speaker was Betty Wambui, PhD, Assistant professor with a dual appointment in Africana & Latino Studies and Women’s and Gender Studies at SUNY College at Oneonta.

The second event in the series was a pedagogy workshop held on March 9, again in the Science Library’s Patricia & J. Spencer Standish Board Room. Titled “Creating Transformative Learning Environments: Using the Whole Self to Teach and Learn about Racial Justice,” the workshop was conducted by Angelica Clarke, Executive Director of the Albany Social Justice Center and Loretta Pyles, Associate Professor, UAlbany School of Social Welfare. For more information, see https://transformativeconversations.wordpress.com/
The Libraries held three “Campus Conversations in Standish” during the spring 2016 semester, all of which were free and open to the public.

The first conversation took place on February 24, 2016, when UAlbany Associate Professor of Chemistry, Rabi Musah, PhD delivered a talk titled “Smokes, Chews and Brews: The Dangers and Crackdown on Legal Plant Highs.”

On March 2, 2016, James Stellar, PhD, UAlbany’s Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, spoke on “Your Brain: Unconscious Decision-making and How it Affects Your Life and Learning.”

The final "Campus Conversations in Standish" of the spring 2016 semester was led by Richard Fogarty, PhD, UAlbany Associate Professor of History and Associate Dean for General Education with a presentation titled "What Can 1916 Tell Us About 2016? Europe, Islam, and the Middle East." Professor Fogarty addressed this historically significant question on Wednesday, April 6, 2016 from 12:35 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Patricia & J. Spencer Standish Board Room in UAlbany's Science Library. Professor Fogarty delivered a brief presentation and then responded to questions from the audience, many from students. Professor Fogarty’s discussion addressed how much of today's unrest and problems in the region have direct roots in the events of World War I.

The members of the “Campus Conversations in Standish” planning committee are Trudi Jacobson (chair), Head of the Information Literacy Department and Distinguished Librarian, Carol Lee Anderson, Reference Librarian, Irina Holden, Information Literacy & Science Outreach Librarian, and Joyce Rambo, Assistant to the Dean of Libraries.
The UAlbany Libraries have always been at the forefront of information literacy — teaching students to evaluate web-based sources and to use and create information ethically. On March 10, 2016, the Libraries furthered this essential cause with a one-day conference, “Engaging with the ACRL (Association of College and Research Libraries) Information Literacy Framework.” The members of the conference planning committee were Allison Hosier, Information Literacy & Undergraduate Outreach Librarian (chair), Trudi Jacobson, Head of the Information Literacy Department and Distinguished Librarian, Gregory Bobish, Information Literacy Librarian, Irina Holden, Information Literacy & Science Outreach Librarian, and Kelsey O’Brien, Information Literacy Librarian. Trudi Jacobson, who served as the co-chair of the ACRL task force that developed the new Framework, was the keynote speaker.

On March 15, 2016, the UAlbany Libraries’ Alice Hastings Murphy Preservation Department (Science Library, third floor) offered “Single Signature Pamphlet Binding” a full-day workshop that addressed the challenges of preserving paper pamphlets. Participants learned about pamphlet history and structures, two sewing techniques for single signature pamphlets, and evaluating damaged materials and determining preservation options. The workshop’s instructors were Karen E. Kiorpes, Preservation Librarian, and Ann Carroll Kearney, Collections Conservator. It was one of several programs the Preservation Department offers periodically to the University and the wider Albany area community on a broad range of subjects. For more information about the Preservation Department’s programming, see http://library.albany.edu/preservation/programming

The UAlbany community had the opportunity to hear a local, firsthand account of the civil rights movement on Monday, March 21 when the Libraries’ M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives presented a screening of “The Brothers: The Forgotten Struggle for Civil Rights in Albany.” Special Collections & Archives, which holds the records of The Brothers, held the event in collaboration with the UAlbany History Graduate Student Organization in the Science Library’s Patricia & J. Spencer Standish Board Room. The Brothers was a significant civil rights group in Albany during the late 1960s. A question-and-answer session with two founding members of The Brothers, Earl Thorpe and Purcell McDowell, followed the screening, and was moderated by Brian Keough, Head of the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collection & Archives.
On April 8, the Libraries’ M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives hosted over 60 scholars, students, teachers, and librarians to celebrate Marcia Brown. The symposium, *Celebrating the Life of an Artist: Marcia Brown (1919-2015)*, was headlined by Anita Silvey, former editor of *The Horn Book Magazine* and author of many books including *100 Best Books for Children* and *500 Great Books for Teens*. Silvey has been featured on NPR, *Today*, *60 Minutes*, and radio programs in the United States and Canada to talk about books for children and teenagers. Silvey spoke about her heartwarming and startling experiences gathering the stories for her book *Everything I Need to Know I Learned from a Children's Book*, talking specifically about Brown’s *Stone Soup*. The symposium had other speakers discussing such topics as Brown’s college life, her work at the New York Public Library, her experience living in Connecticut, her incessant impulse to travel, and the importance of historical children’s literature as a primary source material for historians. On hand to celebrate Ms. Brown included: Jeanne Lamb, New York Public Library; Kendra Smith-Howard, PhD, UAlbany Associate Professor of History; Dorothy Christiansen, former head of the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives; Gregory Wiedeman, UAlbany Archivist; and John Solum, music teacher and friend of Marcia Brown. There was also an exhibition of dozens of Marcia Brown’s original illustrations for her books. For next year, the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives is planning the first annual Marcia Brown Children’s Literature Lecture that will include an exhibition and a lecture by a prominent scholar of the history of children’s literature. For more information about Marcia Brown, see: [http://library.albany.edu/speccoll/marciabrown/](http://library.albany.edu/speccoll/marciabrown/).

UAlbany Professor of Africana Studies, Collins Fellow, and distinguished poet Leonard A. Slade, Jr., PhD, read a selection of his poetry in the University Library on Tuesday, April 19 at 6:30 p.m. This event was part of the UAlbany Libraries’ celebration of National Poetry Month. The reading took place in the northeast wing of the University Library’s first floor. The event featured readings of Dr. Slade’s original poems. Dr. Slade, author of 23 books, including 18 books of poetry said that he loved this quote by Langston Hughes, “Poetry is the human soul entire, squeezed like a lemon or a lime, drop by drop into atomic words.” Following the reading, some of Dr. Slade’s books were available for purchase and for him to sign. The event was free and open to the public.

The UAlbany Libraries’ Alice Hastings Murphy Preservation Department hosted a half-day workshop “Audio Digitization for Preservation & Access” on the afternoon of April 26, 2016 with guest speaker Howard Besser. Dr. Besser is Director of the Moving Image Archiving and
Preservation (MIAP) master’s degree program at New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts. Besser explored the challenges of planning and implementing music digitization projects, including selection, legal issues with duplication and broadcast, and understanding standards and best practices.

Last spring the UAlbany Libraries launched #StressLessUAlbany, a two week-long series of activities and events that were designed to help alleviate students’ stress during finals. #StressLessUAlbany was offered last fall (see page 6) and again this spring from May 1-12 (after a not-to-be-missed visit from the therapy dogs on April 21). The spring 2016 line-up included blowing bubbles, jigsaw puzzles, a midnight primal scream, five late-night coffee breaks, and cookies. #StressLessUAlbany was organized by Amanda Lowe, Lending and Access Services Associate. For a full list of activities and events, see http://libguides.library.albany.edu/stresslessualbany

Gary S. Kleppel, PhD, UAlbany Professor of Biological Sciences, former Director of UAlbany’s Biodiversity, Conservation, and Policy Program, and recipient of UAlbany’s 2016 President's Award for Exemplary Public Engagement, championed the revolution that is underway in farming on May 3, 2016 at 11:00 a.m.in the Science Library’s Patricia & J. Spencer Standish Board Room. A food system that is moving away from the corporate farming model to one that is sustainable and locally-based is the subject of Dr. Kleppel’s recently-published book, *The Emergent Agriculture: Farming, Sustainability and the Return of the Local Economy*. Copies of the book were available for purchase. The event was free and open to the public.

### Student Advisory Board

The UAlbany Libraries put out a call at the beginning of the fall 2015 semester for new members to join the Libraries’ Student Advisory Board (SAB). A total of thirty-two undergraduate and graduate students from many disciplines, age groups, and backgrounds signed up, including six dedicated members from last year. The SAB functions as a large focus group and is invaluable to the Libraries’ administration and staff for gaining feedback and suggestions. The SAB met twice during the fall 2015 and spring 2016 semesters. Topics such as library hours, lending laptops, library instruction, and reserving the new group study rooms were addressed.
Faculty Publications


Faculty Presentations


Faculty Grants

The UAlbany Libraries received a Coordinated Collection Development grant from the New York State Department of Education for fiscal year 2015-2016. The total amount received was $20,636 and is being used to purchase materials in the subject areas of Business, Biology, Atmospheric Sciences, Public Policy, Psychology, Educational Psychology, Anthropology, Social Welfare, and Criminal Justice.
Emily Mock started full-time as Coordinator for Gift Books and Assessment on August 6, 2015. She had worked part-time with gift books in the Collections department since 2012. Emily has a BFA in Writing from Green Mountain College and a MSIS from the University at Albany.

Joyce Rambo started full-time as Assistant to the Dean of Libraries on August 10, 2015. She had been working part-time as Assistant to the Dean of Libraries since 2011. Joyce has her BA in Art History from Vassar College and an MS in Information and Library Science from the Pratt Institute. Before joining the UAlbany Libraries, she worked at Nylink, the New York State Library, and as a research editor and fact-checker.

Angela Persico joined the UAlbany Libraries on December 3, 2015 as Resource Sharing and Reserves Associate in the Resource Sharing & Reserves unit of Access Services. Angela received her BA from Skidmore College and her MSLIS from Syracuse University. Prior to joining the UAlbany Libraries, Angela worked in interlibrary loan at the Lucy Scribner Library at Skidmore College.

Morissa McQuide was hired full-time on December 3, 2015 as the Evening Circulation Clerk at the University Library. For the previous four years, she worked for the Office of the New York State Comptroller. Morissa graduated from Hartwick College with a BA in English Literature and a minor in Anthropology.

John Heffernan was hired full-time on December 17, 2015 as the Evening Circulation Clerk at the Science Library. John worked previously for the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision. John is a 2004 graduate of Hudson Valley Community College, with a major in Communications.
Amanda Lowe was hired as Lending and Access Services Associate on December 22, 2015. Amanda started at the UAlbany Libraries as Information Commons Evening Coordinator in November 2014. She received her BS in English with a minor in Theatre Arts from SUNY Oneonta and her Masters in Library Science from the University at Buffalo.

On March 10, 2016 the Dewey Library welcomed Courtney Degonzague as Lending & Access Services Clerk. Prior to joining the University Libraries, Courtney worked at the Business Services Center, at the New York State Office of General Services.

Glen Benedict was hired on April 7, 2016 as the Access Services & Information Commons Evening Associate. Glen graduated from the University at Buffalo in December 2015 with an MS in Library and Information Studies. While in graduate school, he worked on campus at the Music Library and completed a practicum at Niagara University. Before starting graduate school he spent five years working with people with developmental disabilities.

On April 21, 2016, Heather Kearney was hired full-time as the Lending & Access Services Clerk at the University Library. Heather has a BA in Art: Graphic Design, Drawing and Photography from SUNY Plattsburgh. She comes to the UAlbany Libraries from the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance, where she had worked since 2013.
A member of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL)—the 124 largest, most comprehensive research libraries in North America—the University at Albany Libraries provide research services, resources, and programs to the students, faculty, and staff at the University at Albany to further their academic achievement and research success.

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