

# Library Update

Spring 2005

## Message from the Dean



In February, the Libraries welcomed Albany's new President,

Kermit Hall, to an office in the New Library. He wanted a closer connection to students and faculty and a "home" on the podium until the new administration building opens later this year, and we were pleased to accommodate him. A distinguished scholar and prolific writer, President Hall has written and edited more than twenty books. His new edition of *The Oxford Companion to the Supreme Court of the United States* was published in March, and we featured it on the Libraries' Web site for the month.

Although he is an eminent presence, President Hall is facing stiff competition for our attention this spring from a host of other featured scholars, distinguished speakers, and great performances

sponsored by the Libraries, the Friends of the Libraries, and many partners and collaborators. In this issue of *Library Update*, you can find a complete listing of the programs for our semester-long interdisciplinary series, "What Is 'Nature' in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?".

While welcoming our new president and planning many events, we also had to say some painful farewells. In December 2004, the Libraries, the Friends of the Libraries, and the University lost our dear friend and colleague, Professor Emeritus Kendall A. Birr. Ken played a vital role in the development of the Libraries over many years. He chaired the committee that called attention to the Libraries' dire need for additional space in the mid-1980s. He was a founding member of the Friends, a generous donor, and a University citizen *par excellence*. His passing leaves a large void to fill. We celebrate his life and pay tribute to his memory on page 4.

At the end of July 2005, I will be saying goodbye. I have informed Interim Provost Mumpower of my decision to retire from the University at the end of July 2005, and a search for my successor is underway. I have been very fortunate to have led Albany's Libraries for the past fifteen years during an exciting period of growth and development. I know I will leave behind a vibrant organization that has become an

integral part of the educational community it serves.

I have also had the pleasure of being the first to develop a fundraising program for the University Libraries, and together we are building a solid financial foundation to ensure a sound future. In support of that goal, I have created a new giving opportunity for the Libraries. *The Dean and Director's New Initiatives Fund for the Libraries* will support strategic investments in new initiatives to advance library collections and services. Another new fund, *Libraries Endowment for Enriching Programs in Science and Technology*, has been launched by several forward-looking and generous members of the Library Development Committee, including Dr. Roy and Shirley Stevens, Dr. Charles and Rene Gibbs, and Ms. Edith Quake. These and other library endowment and fundraising programs are described pages 4–6.

As I mark my fifteenth year of directing the University Libraries, I can think of no better way to celebrate than to take advantage of the delightful and impressive array of speakers, programs, and events planned by the Libraries and their partners this spring.

Meredith A. Butler

### In This Issue

"Nature" in the 21st Century .....	2
In Memoriam, Kendall Birr .....	4
Dr. Roy Stevens and Fund for Science/Technology .....	6
The Internet Goes to College .....	7

## **Dr. Frankenstein, Politics, Art, and the Whole Shebang**

From December 2004 through mid-February 2005, *Frankenstein: Penetrating the Secrets of Nature*, a traveling exhibit, was on display in the Atrium of Albany's Science Library.



The exhibit is funded by the National Endowment

for the Humanities (NEH), the National Library of Medicine (NLM), and the American Library Association (ALA). Albany University Libraries was one of 80+ libraries that hosted the exhibit.

The Libraries have worked with numerous co-sponsors to assemble an impressive array of programs, discussions, exhibits, and student contests to be held throughout the spring 2005 semester. In addition, the "Frankenstein Manifesto Film Series" is offering some of the most provocative science fiction and horror films from the 20<sup>th</sup> century to the present day for students, faculty, and community members.

The exhibit encourages audiences to examine the intent of Mary Shelley's novel, *Frankenstein*. The program lets people view Shelley's novel from literary, social, historical, and political points of view. Some contemporary artists—working in film, sculpture, painting, and new synthetic forms—also give expression to Shelley's themes.

The Libraries' program—"What Is 'Nature' in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?"—offers different perspectives on the age-old questions: what is the

nature of being "human" and how have these definitions changed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century? What are the effects of using our power to manipulate the "natural" world? What are the ethical implications of biomedical and biotechnical research and engineering?

Program co-sponsors include the Friends of the Libraries, the University Art Museum, the College of Arts and Sciences, the Science Library Colloquia, the New York State Writers Institute, the Departments of English and Women's Studies, the Program in Journalism, the School of Information Science and Policy, the Institute for Research on Women, and the Center for Humanities, Arts, and TechnoSciences (CHATS).

"A tremendous group of collegial people brought everything together," says Professor Mary Valentis, Department of English and Director, CHATS. "This is a great program."

Here's what's happened, and what is still to come:

➤ **February 8, 2005** — Presentation by artist Adrienne Wortzel, who works with robotics and telerobotics, University Art Museum, 7:00 pm, <http://artnetweb.com/wortzel/robotic.html>. Pre-



sented by UAM, supported by University Libraries and Friends of the Libraries.

➤ **February 10, 2005** — Professor Betty Bennett, Distinguished Professor of English, American University,



"Unmasking Monsters: Politics, Science, and Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*." Standish Room, Science Library, 4–6 pm. Refreshments served.

➤ **February 15, 2005** — "Media, Nature, and the Gothic Sublime," sponsored by the Department of English, Standish Room, Science Library, 4–6 pm. Interactive discussion led by Professors Richard Barney and Eric Keenaghan. Refreshments served.

➤ **March 1, 2005** — Lecture by Shelley Jackson, author of *Patchwork Girl*, a "feminist hypertext."

University Art Museum, 8:00 pm. Presented by UAM, supported



by University Libraries, Friends of the Libraries, Institute for Research on Women, and Center for Humanities, Arts, and TechnoSciences (CHATS).

➤ **March 10, 2005** — Professor Bonnie Steinbock, Chair, UAlbany Department of Philosophy and member of faculty in Bioethics, Albany Medical College and Union University, "Choosing Our Children's Genes." Standish Room, Science Library, 4–6 pm. Refreshments served.

➤ **April 13, 2005** — Author James Hughes, *Cyborg Democracy: Why Democracies Must Respond to the Redesigned Human of the Future*. Discussion. Standish Room, Science



Library, 4–6 pm. Co-sponsored Science Colloquia. Refreshments served.

➤ **April 19, 2005** — “The Monsters and the Media: A Fireside Chat on Science, Technology, and Journalism.” Moderator: Joan Wick-Pelletier, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences. Panelists include: Professor Thomas Bass, Journalism Program and English Department; science author and editor Richard Teresi, and Associated Press reporter Alicia Chang. Sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences, Journalism Program, the Center for Humanities, Arts, and TechnoSciences (CHATS). Standish Room, Science Library, 4–6 pm. Refreshments served.

The variety of the semester-long series was summed up by Janet Riker, director, University Art Museum, and a co-sponsor. “What a wonderful opportunity for UAlbany’s academic departments and programs to collaborate across disciplines in an examination of Mary Shelley’s novel and the profound implications of its subject in the arts, humanities, and sciences! The diverse range of offerings—from Boris Karloff to bioethics—and overlapping areas of interest proved fascinating to everyone.”

Two contests for undergraduate students were also part of the series. Librarian Carol Anderson explained: “Competition catego-

ries were “Writing”—short story, play, or hypertext fiction—and “Visual”—digital video or digital art. Winners’ names will be published and the winning submissions made public.” See Web site <http://library.albany.edu/imc/exh/stucomp.htm> for updated info.

### **Nancy Pearl Speaks at Luncheon on March 8**

Nancy Pearl, librarian extraordinaire, spoke on “The Perils and Pleasures of a Lifetime of Reading,” at a luncheon event on Tuesday, March 8, 2005. The event was hosted by Albany’s Libraries and the Capital District Library Council.

Seattle Librarian Nancy Pearl is an inspiration to all librarians: she started the program “If Everyone in Seattle Read the Same Book,” which has been replicated in many American cities. She has a weekly program interviewing authors on



NPR. Ms. Pearl is the recently retired Director of Seattle Public Library’s Washington Center for the Book. For many years, she also ran the library’s youth-services department. She is the author of *Book Lust*, a 2003 best-seller about her favorite books from the 1,800 or so she has read. She is writing a sequel to *Book Lust*, titled *The Morning After*, which will be published in 2005. Last year, Pearl was awarded a Washington Humanities Award.

And then there’s Nancy Pearl—the inspiration for the shushing

library action figure, which most librarians have received as a gift or purchased for laughs, because it’s great to be appreciated—finally.

### **What’s New in the Libraries**

**Brenda Hazard** now leads the reorganized Circulation and Media



Services Department. Development of electronic reserves system, UA Deliv-

ery services—desktop delivery of journal articles from periodicals and microforms—has transformed her old department. A similar transformation awaits Circulation Services, and will occur by using the rich potential of the ALEPH library system and its Minerva catalog. Creative applications of information technology will continue to drive change in library services.

The Libraries’ Customized Search Services (CSS) provides an hour-long, one-on-one appointment with a librarian to develop a research strategy for faculty, undergraduate, and graduate students.

**Elaine Lasda Bergman** notes that in November 2004, the Library experienced a

33% increase demand for CSS. “Of the 98 searches performed in the



2003–2004 academic year, 27 served faculty and staff, 55 served graduate students, and 16 served undergrads.”

**Brian Keough**, Head of the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives, and Professor Ivan Steen, Director of the Oral History Program in the History Department, will present “Building Our Traditions” for “An Afternoon with Minerva” event on



June 4, 3:30–4:30 pm, New Library Atrium. The multimedia presentation will include a description of the Archives’

oral history project to capture alumni recollections.

UAlbany Libraries offer a reference service internship for students in the School of Information Science and Policy (SISP). Recent interns in our three Libraries were **Barbara Bean, Jesse Daly, Joel Glogowski, and Evan Simpson**. In August 2004, Ms. Bean accepted a position as Reference Librarian at Michigan State University’s College of Law. Mr. Daly interned at the New York State Assembly, and was offered a position in state government. Mr. Glogowski and Mr. Simpson graduated from SISP in December 2004 and are seeking their first professional positions.

“The internship was a wonderful learning experience,” says Ms. Bean. “It provided background and experience both in serving the public and in behind-the-scenes planning that makes a reference operation ‘work’ on a daily basis.”

## In Memoriam, Kendall Birr

The University at Albany lost a great friend in December 2004, with the death of Kendall A. Birr.

An emeritus professor, Ken Birr began teaching at Albany in 1952 in the Department of History. He retired in 1990. His distinguished teaching, research, and service to the University is confirmed in his record of publications (several books, many articles); his administrative record (chair of several departments, associate deanships, and Chair, Academic Senate); and his numerous professional affiliations.

Professor Birr relied on Albany’s Libraries for access to research. In the 1980s, he discovered that some works he needed were simply not in the Libraries’ collections. He established the History of American Science and Technology Fund in 2000 “to enable the Library to routinely buy 10–15 new volumes in that field each year. It was and is my way of assuring that Library collections be strengthened.”

Ken was named a Collins Fellow in 1985, and honored as a Citizen of the University in 1993. He was one of the founding members of the Friends of the Libraries, and as an enthusiastic Board member, he contributed for more than 20 years to programs, discussions, and sponsored events. Emeritus Professor Ben-Ami Lipetz, president of the Friends Board, says: “Ken Birr was a true gentleman in every sense of that term. He had good taste and sound judgment, and was always tolerant and endlessly patient with people with whom he differed. Our university and community are much richer for the many services he performed so willingly and effectively in his genial and unpretentious way.”



Kendall A. Birr

## Library Endowment Initiatives Update

There are feature stories about two of the Libraries’ seven new endowment initiatives in this issue of *Update*. The spring issue of *UAlbany Magazine* has a story on Phil ’60 and Fran ’62 Shepherd and “The Preservation of Tradition Fund for the Libraries,” which has been given additional support by Dorothy Christiansen, retired faculty member. In addition, *UAlbany* features “Honoring Our Professors Fund for the Libraries,” initiated by Matt

’57, MA ’61 and Sandy MLS ’71 Ostoyich and also generously supported by



David A. Hardy ’57. Thus far, the Fund honors two professors in the Department of History, Harry S. Price and Matthew Elbow.

“Libraries’ Fund for Materials in Economics,” initiated by Professor Jeremy P. Schrauf ’75, has been supported by former Chair of the

Department of Economics Michael Sattinger. Current department Chair, Betty Daniel, is also supporting this fund.

“The Greatest Generation Fund for the Libraries” has reached over 80% of its goal. With more than 65 individuals from the classes 1940–

1949 supporting the Fund, the campaign committee believes

that the “Greatest Generation Fund” will reach its goal by December 2005, years ahead of schedule. That’s why it’s the Greatest!

“Libraries’ Fund for Materials in Fine Arts and Performing Arts” now includes Chavivan Prachuabmoh ’73, and Robert ’52 and Joan ’52 Barron among supporters in addition to campaign committee members who initiated the Fund: Carla Craft, Jim and Georgiana Panton, Mary Sellen, and Dr. J. Paul ’53, ’54 and Doris ’52, ’53 Ward.

Gifts to endowments are restricted. They assure our long-term growth and development. Endowments are a commitment to the future, and Albany’s Libraries are grateful to all donors who are helping us build that future. For more information about endowment opportunities, contact Roberta Armstrong (518–442–3540 or [Rarmstrong@uamail.albany.edu](mailto:Rarmstrong@uamail.albany.edu)).



## **Dean and Director’s New Initiatives Fund**

Our newest endowment fund is *The Dean and Director’s New Initiatives Fund for the Libraries* established in 2004 by a gift from Dean Meredith A. Butler.



This fund will provide income for future leaders of Albany’s Libraries to invest in new initiatives that advance collections and services.

“Research libraries always need money, and there are always many ideas that need support,” states Dean Butler. “The discretionary funds generated by this endowment will provide some flexibility and allow future library leaders to invest in new programs and services and create new opportunities for teaching and learning.”

The earnings from this fund may also be used for the acquisition of materials, technological advances, and/or capital improvements. Dean Butler points to some illustrations of personalized giving opportunities:

➤ **Archives and special collections.** Building a collection or enhancing an existent collection (acquisition, processing, maintenance, equipment). \$50,000+

➤ **Library/academic department partnerships.** Supporting joint initiatives that enhance undergraduate and graduate education. \$75,000–\$200,000

➤ **Graduate student internship or fellowship.** Providing funds for a student to work on a defined library project (e.g., special collections or archives; preservation laboratory). \$50,000+

➤ **Colloquia and programs.** Establishing a named series of seminars led by eminent librarians and scholars on topics of immediate importance to higher education as well as to the public. \$10,000–\$25,000

➤ **Research awards for library faculty professional development.** Providing support for academic projects that benefit the recipient’s field of expertise as well as the university. \$25,000+

There are many ways to give to *The Dean and Director’s New Initiatives Fund for Albany’s University Libraries*. Donors may make an individual cash gift or contribute to a collective gift to build the fund. All contributions are tax-deductible. A cash gift can be augmented with appreciated stock, real property, planned gifts that include annuities for the donors, or a bequest. Please use the pledge form and the attached envelope and make out checks to **The University at Albany Foundation**. Designate in the memo line: *Libraries Endowment, Dean/Director’s Fund*.

## People Who Glve: Dr. Roy Stevens '56, '58



Dr. Roy Stevens has been a member of the Library Development Committee since 2001. He has been Chair of the committee since 2003.

Roy earned his bachelor's degree in 1956 and his master's degree in 1958 from the University at Albany. He achieved his Ph.D. at Albany Medical College in 1965.

As a scientist, Roy has had a distinguished career. Dr. Stevens was formerly Director of Retrovirology/Immunology Laboratories in the Wadsworth Center of the NYS Department of Health. He has published extensively in peer reviewed journals on laboratory diagnostics and infectious disease, and was a principal in professional associations. As an Associate Professor in UAlbany's School of Public Health and Adjunct Associate Professor at the Albany Medical College, Roy Stevens understands the need for cutting-edge research materials. He is Diplomate Emeritus, American Board of Medical Microbiology and Fellow Emeritus, American Academy of Microbiology. He is Chair of the Bender Scientific Fund of the Community Foundation for the Capital Region.

"I've long been a supporter of UAlbany's Libraries," says Dr. Roy Stevens. The future, Roy adds, is in the hands of those who will join the campaign to advance *The University Libraries' Endowment for Enriching Programs in Science and Technology*. "It's a wonderful endowment initiative, and I hope other researchers and scholars will help support it."

## Development Committee Members Advance New Libraries Endowment for Enriching Programs in Science and Technology

Several members of the Library Development Committee, including its Chair, have joined forces to initiate a new endowment fund to support student and faculty needs for materials in science and technology.

**Dr. Roy Stevens '56, '58** is Chair of the Library Development Committee. He and his wife, **Shirley**, initiated *The University Libraries Endowment for Enriching Programs in Science and Technology*. They have been joined by commit-



tee members **Dr. Charles '73 and Rene '75 Gibbs and Edith Quake '63** to advance the Fund. These committee members have pledged \$10,000 each. The Fund has a goal of \$500,000.

The Fund will provide support to strengthen and maintain existing collections and add unique items to enrich collection strengths. The Science Library offers specialized services to the Earth & Atmospheric Sciences, Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Computer Science, Geology, Mathematics & Statistics, and Physics departments.

For the future, Dr. Stevens contends, "UAlbany's Libraries will provide the essential structures and

means to handle extraordinary, indeed astonishing, increases in information traffic." Stevens notes that the Science Library also supports the new College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering. New and emerging sciences and technology add formidable costs to what will be "basic" to students and faculty in future generations. "As a scientist," continues Stevens, "I know that information preservation, management and exchange are absolutely essential to the success of programs in science and technology. This Fund will assist the Libraries to make these materials accessible for students, scholars, and researchers."

**Gregg Sapp**, Head of the Science Library, concurs with Dr. Stevens. He is also pleased at the energy and commitment expended by Chuck and Rene Gibbs and Edith Quake, all of whom have expressed great interest in what their own contributions to the Fund can do. "Our Science Library bibliographers would love to talk to

interested donors about some specific acquisition opportunities for academic programs and research needs." Mr. Sapp suggests the following examples of personalized giving opportunities, noting that they are merely illustrative:

- Special designated areas or rooms within the Science Library, including but not limited to the Electronic Information Area (\$100,000) or the Reference Consulting Office (\$50,000)
- Science Colloquia Series, discussions led by eminent science writers on topics of immediate importance, open to the campus community as well as to the public (\$100,000)

- Small conference room (\$50,000)
- Modular computer workstations (\$25,000)
- Study tables, or carrels (\$10,000)
- Science Library's discretionary fund, including but not limited to new programmatic initiatives, acquisition of materials, technological advances, or capital improvement (\$100,000)

A naming opportunity can be initiated with a \$10,000 gift. Each gift at this level or above will be named according to UAlbany's donor levels.

A cash gift is payable outright or as a pledge paid throughout the life of the Campaign (through June 2008). Alternatively, gifts can be made through a combination of an immediate gift plus a confirmation of the donor's intent to make a future gift (deferred or planned gifts). Please use the pledge form and the envelope included. Designate in the memo line: *Libraries Endowment, Programs in Sci/Tech.*

### **Annual Fund Support**

Thanks for your support for the Libraries' Annual Fund as well as for endowments! As usual, you will find a tear-off pledge form on the back of the *Library Update*.

Gifts to the Annual Fund are *unrestricted*, and allow us to acquire books and other materials, provide library services and programs (e.g., student internships); fund new projects (the new leisure reading area); capital improvements (the "wireless" study area); and support symposia for students, scholars, and the community.

## **Living in the Future with Today's Technology**

Everyone knows that the Internet has changed our lives, but do we know how students use it? And what for? Do they use the Internet the same way they did last year, and in what ways will they use it next year?

These are some of the questions Dr. Steven Jones will address on April 6, at a luncheon and program sponsored by University Libraries.

Dr. Steven Jones, Pew Senior Research Fellow, is principal author of "The Internet Goes to College," a publication of The Pew Internet and American Life Project. The study is a major attempt to bench-mark and track the use of the Internet in American life. First released in 2002, the goal then was to learn about the Internet's impact on college students' daily lives, and to determine the impact of that use on their academic and social routines. An update came out in November 2004, and it includes an additional study targeting faculty and their use of the Internet.

"The findings in this new report and subsequent reports will have implications for all faculty and staff in their work with students," says Mary K. Sellen, Assistant Director for User Services. "Professor Jones' talk will be valuable for anyone designing and implementing services for students and faculty." For more information about the April 6 event, contact Mary Sellen at (518) 442-3617 or e-mail: [msellen@uamail.albany.edu](mailto:msellen@uamail.albany.edu).

Dr. Steven Jones is Professor of Communication and Research Associate in the Electronic Visualization Laboratory at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and Adjunct Research Professor in the Institute of Communications Research at the

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

A social historian of communication technology, Jones is author/editor of nine books, including *Society Online*, *Doing Internet Research*, *CyberSociety*, and *Virtual Culture*. His books have earned him critical acclaim and interviews in national and international media. Jones was co-founder and first president of the Association of Internet Researchers. He has made numerous presentations to scholarly and business groups about the Internet and social change and about the Internet's social and commercial uses. He is co-editor of *New Media & Society*, an international journal of research on new media, technology, and culture, and edits *Digital Formations*, a series of books on new media for Peter Lang Publishers.



# Support Your University Libraries

Faculty · Lectures · New Titles · Preservation · Research · Subscriptions · Technology

**Yes!** I/we support the University Libraries' mission of learning and discovery with an Annual Fund gift to the **UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY FOUNDATION**.

## THE PRESIDENT'S CLUB

**DAVID PERKINS PAGE SOCIETY** Gifts of \$10,000+

**FOUNDER** Gifts of \$5,000 to \$9,999

**SPONSOR** Gifts of \$2,500 to \$4,999

**MEMBER** Gifts of \$1,000 to \$2,499

## OTHER RECOGNITION CLUBS

**MINERVA CLUB** Gifts of \$500 to \$999

**CARILLON CLUB** Gifts of \$250 to \$499

**ALBANY CLUB** Gifts of \$100 to \$249

Please allow us to update our records:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

For more information, contact Roberta Armstrong, University Libraries, at (518) 442-3540 or [rarmstrong@uamail.albany.edu](mailto:rarmstrong@uamail.albany.edu)

## PARTICIPATE. DESIGNATE. MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

- ▶ Give Online. Go to [www.albany.edu](http://www.albany.edu) and click on "Support UAlbany"
- ▶ Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_, made payable to the **UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY FOUNDATION**. Please note "Library Development Fund" on the memo line of your check.
- ▶ Please charge \$\_\_\_\_\_ to VISA / MASTERCARD / AMERICAN EXPRESS / DISCOVER

Account # \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Exp \_\_\_\_\_

Name as it appears on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Please mail your check or credit card information, along with this form, to:*

**UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY FOUNDATION**, UAB 201, 1400 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12222



 **UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY**  
State University of New York  
University Libraries  
1400 Washington Avenue  
Albany, NY 12222

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 205  
Albany, N.Y.

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.

EDITOR: Roberta R. Armstrong,  
[rarmstrong@uamail.albany.edu](mailto:rarmstrong@uamail.albany.edu),  
(518) 442-3540

DESIGN & PUBLISHING: Linda Reeves  
WEB SITE: <http://library.albany.edu>

**MAKE YOUR GIFT ONLINE!**

<http://library.albany.edu/giving>