

Message from the Dean

As I entered the University Library recently, I thought about the hundreds of library users who were passing through UAlbany Libraries that day, just part of the thousands of users who were in our three campus libraries, or accessing our e-resources from afar. Each of these individuals—among students, scholars, researchers, alumni, and friends—was seeking quick, convenient, and reliable information.

Since 1845, when the school's first library was opened, our Libraries have been very successful at providing excellent library service. Now, more than 160 years later, assessment data indicate that UAlbany's Libraries continue to do a good job delivering the information students and faculty need. The Libraries recognize that each new generation of students and scholars has new needs. For those of you who were students here before the uptown campus was built, the Dewey Library was your library. Now, it serves those graduate students and schools on the downtown campus.



We are starting projects to upgrade the Hawley Reading Room, making the facility more attractive and user-friendly to

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Persico Honored for Support for Archives

Joseph E. Persico '52 was honored on March 22, 2006, with a full day of events commemorating his many gifts to Albany's Libraries.



The Persico Collection contains manuscripts for numerous non-fiction works, speeches for politicians and elected officials, correspondence, and notes for historical and biographical works. Author, researcher, and former speechwriter for Nelson A. Rockefeller, Joseph Persico is the best-selling author of *Roosevelt's Secret War*, a *New York Times* Notable Book of The Year; *Edward R. Murrow: An American Original*; *The Imperial Rockefeller*; *Nuremberg, Infamy on Trial*; and co-author of Colin Powell's autobiography *My American Journey*. Persico has written seven other important works of history and biography, and numerous articles and op-ed pieces.

Brian Keough, head of the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives, notes that Joseph Persico's papers span more than five decades. "With this additional donation of his personal papers, Mr. Persico adds to our rich collection of

material pertaining to New York State political history, including the papers of members of the gubernatorial administration of Nelson A. Rockefeller."

Mr. Persico began his political writing career in 1956, serving Governor Averill Harriman of New York as a writer and researcher. He was a Foreign Service Officer for the US Information Agency and served as Executive Assistant to the New York State Health Commissioner, Hollis Ingraham. By 1966, Joseph Persico became the chief speechwriter for New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller, a position he maintained as the Governor assumed the office of the Vice Presidency of the United States from 1975 to 1977.



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the many students and scholars who use this remarkable place.

Thanks to you and your generosity, we are able to move ahead with other service enhancements and facility upgrades to ensure that our collections, operations, and services remain attractive and valued. Our professional staff and librarians also participate in civic engagement projects, ranging from working with Albany High School's International Baccalaureate Program, and preparing special exhibits for visitors and library patrons, to leading discussions on books read by the entire campus community.

In this issue of *Update*, you'll read more about new acquisitions in archives and special collections, the ways in which endowment funds help strengthen our collections, and how our librarians enrich the campus community and the profession. One of our objectives is to communicate regularly with our supporters, to let you know how Albany's Libraries continue to evolve. Thanks to you all for continuing to help us keep Albany's Libraries among the top 100 academic research libraries in North America.

— Frank D'Andraia

HELP!

For the Libraries' continuing efforts to add to material on alumni, we would be grateful for any information from classmates of Harvey Milk '51. Contact Geoffrey Williams (gwilliams@uamail.albany.edu or 518-437-3936).

MYSKANIA's "Afternoon with Minerva" June 3, 2006

Join the University Libraries in welcoming alumni to view exciting exhibits on the 1940s and 1950s and learn of new developments in the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives. Contact Fran Shepherd '62 (845-297-6122) or Myskania@alumni.albany.edu.



Friends of Libraries Celebrate 25th Anniversary

The Friends of the Libraries marked their 25th anniversary on May 12, at the University Alumni House at an afternoon event featuring several speakers and many invited guests. The event commemorated a long history of association with and service to Albany's University Libraries. The Honorable Jack McEneny (D), who has represented NYS 104th Assembly District for more than 12 years, was the featured speaker. Mr. McEneny, a prominent state and local historian and leader in Albany's historical conservation programs, spoke on the role of the Friends in town-gown relations. He is also a former Friends' Board member.

Ben-Ami Lipetz, President of the board of the Friends, noted that "the Friends played an important and complex role

in the transition from a small college to a large university, maintaining the human and cultural qualities that might otherwise have been overlooked." Professor Lipetz also observed that the



From left seated: Ben-Ami Lipetz, Paul Ward, Alice Hastings Murphy; Standing: Ruth Abele, Frank D'Andraia, Del Cummings, Gloria Herkowitz

Friends will "look for a different role to play in the future, a role that will be determined by additional younger members of the larger community." Dean and Director of Libraries Frank D'Andraia congratulated the Friends for their work in supporting the

Libraries through volunteer activities and programs. "Albany's Libraries are fortunate to have the Friends serve so well, and for so long. The Friends have always supported student scholarship and staff awards, and it's always a happy event to have this fine group of volunteers and donors make their awards at our spring luncheon. These awards in themselves mark the great affinity between the Friends and the Libraries, and we are both grateful and proud of our long history together."

Over the years, the Friends have also donated funds for speakers and exhibits for the Libraries, programs that add to the intellectual life of the university and the greater community, and special items that enhance the Libraries.



Recently, the Friends have supported planting in the Atrium gardens, New Library, and helped create a Leisure Reading Area in the University Library. Their annual booksale is a hallmark event at Homecoming.

The Friends sponsored several speakers this semester, including Linda Greenhouse, the Pulitzer-Prize winning correspondent for *The New York Times* who has covered the U.S. Supreme Court for three decades. Greenhouse is the

author, most recently, of *Becoming Justice Blackmun* (2005).

Alice Hastings Murphy '40, a founder of the Friends and former Director of Albany's University Libraries, sums up the Friends' rich history: "It's meant 25 years of planning and sharing cultural experiences, both on and off the University campus. I've enjoyed the music and a variety of talks, trips, and social events which we've held to benefit the Libraries." For Ms. Murphy, the best part of the experience has been the Friends themselves: "I've loved the interesting people who have attended all our events. They have come from many different parts of the community, but they all shared an interest in the University Libraries, and that is what truly matters."



Linda Greenhouse

Why Endowment Funds Matter

UAlbany's Libraries are proud to have the support of donors like you. Your help, particularly in sustaining endowments, is critical to our mission.

Library budgets are being stretched to the limit by the need to provide technology as well as collections and by the effects of inflation on books and, especially, on journals. Endowments are an essential way to focus funds on building collections. The interest from endowment funds:

- Provides the flexibility bibliographers need to purchase works as they are published without having to wait for state funding and possibly missing titles that are published in short runs.
- Allows bibliographers to purchase older materials at auction and on the second hand market as soon and sometimes before are offered for sale to the public.
- Enables the purchase of expensive and rare items that would be beyond the means of annual subject allocations.
- Attract additional endowment funds and gifts in kind.

Libraries with strong endowments have opportunities to build truly excellent collections that are distinct from those at other libraries and that will inspire serendipity, encourage inquiry, and support the needs of current and future researchers. Thanks for your investment in one of the seven new collections endowment opportunities offered by Albany's Libraries.

— Mary Casserly
Assistant Director for Collections
and User Services

Support Collections Endowments

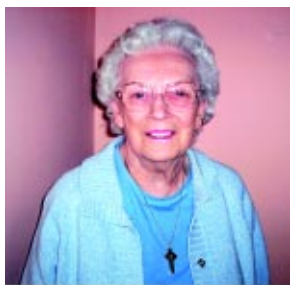
For information on "The Greatest Generation Fund" or other endowed funds, contact Roberta Armstrong (518-442-3540) or raarmstrong@uamail.albany.edu or go to <http://library.albany.edu/friends/>.

Greatest Generation Fund Doubles Goal

Forging well beyond their initial goal of \$100,000, the Campaign Committee for the *Greatest Generation Fund for the Libraries* will hit a \$200,000 goal by the end of the calendar year.

The great move upwards has been accomplished by a combination of individual effort and philanthropy all organized in aid of the GGF. Robert Spensley '45 and his wife, Adele Engelberg, M.D., were early participants in the University at Albany Foundation's Pooled Income Fund. Bob Spensley passed away several years ago, as did his wife in December 2005. The Spensleys were interested in many aspects of the University, and Bob Spensley was a librarian at Teachers College, at Columbia, for many years. The Spensleys' fund will become a significant part of the Greatest Generation Fund, as is fitting in a number of ways.

So, too, many individuals continue to work with others in the classes 1940–1949, encouraging by example major



Ruth Doran '48

gifts to the fund in cash and through planned giving. More than 100 people have contributed to this fund,

and 25 alumni have worked arduously on the Campaign Committee. One such person is Ruth Doran '48, who explains her involvement, starting at “..the time when I thought I would like to do a little more than my yearly contribution.” Ruth began with an out-

right cash gift to the Greatest Generation Fund, and started working to convince others in her class to join in the effort. She learned about planned giving opportunities, and “after checking the various plans available to support the Greatest Generation Fund for the Libraries, and the interest rates available elsewhere, I decided to make a Charitable Gift Annuity. Since I share a home with a relative, I chose the two-life annuity, which provides a fixed annual income for life. This income will support services that will be required as long as one of us lives in the home,” says Ruth.

Ruth Doran continues to enjoy supporting her class, her university, and the University Libraries—all through a gift annuity in support of *the Greatest Generation Fund for the Libraries*.

Thanks to you all!

UAlbany Librarians Teach in CCIS and Beyond

UAlbany Librarians have been teaching in the College of Computing and Information Systems (CCIS). **Elaine Lasda Bergman, Deborah Bernard, Mary Jane Brustman, Dan McShane, and Barbara Via** taught courses to more than 140 students during this academic year. These Library faculty members taught courses in their areas of specialization. Librarian **Mary Van Ullen** is team teaching a course, *China in the Post-Utopian Age*, with Chris Smith from the Department of Geography. The course covers the economic, political, and social geography of post-revolutionary China. More than 200 students are enrolled.



Students from Albany High School International Baccalaureate Program tour the University Library in March 2006.

These library professionals are successful ...



Mary Casserly, M.S. Drexel University,
Ph.D. Rutgers University



Carol Anderson,
MLS University of Missouri



Deborah Bernard, MLS UAlbany



Greg Bobish, MLS UAlbany



Heather Miller, M.A. Linguistics,
University of North Carolina;
MLS University of Michigan



Vivien Zazzau,
MLS University of Michigan,
Flint



Trudi Jacobson, MLS UAlbany



Barbara Via, MLS UAlbany



Candace Merbler, MLS UAlbany



Jane Kessler, MLS UAlbany



Carol Anne Germain, MLS
UAlbany

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

Library Update is a semi-annual
newsletter published to inform the
University community about University
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Responses from readers are very
welcome.



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Join us for
"An Afternoon
with Minerva"
at Reunion,
June 3, 2006!