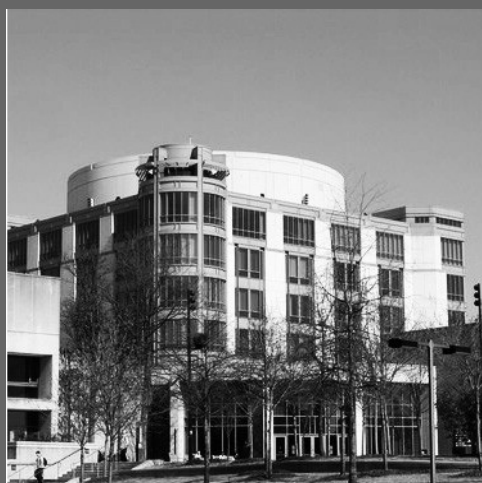
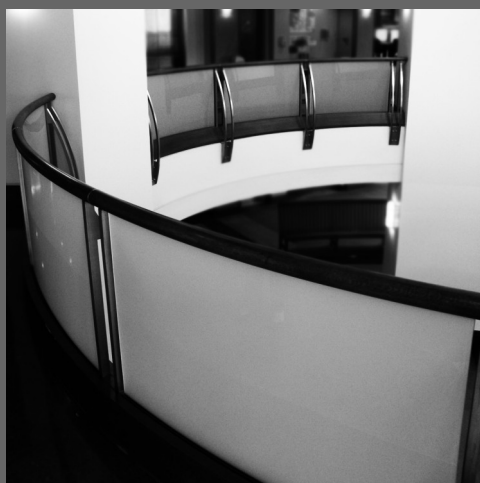


News from the Friends of the Albin O. Kuhn Library & Gallery

MARCH 2011



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Message from the Chair of the Friends Council

As a devoted friend of the Kuhn Library at UMBC, I welcome you as a member of this support group of book lovers and readers. We are always anxious to increase the treasures of the Library through its collections and special additions to its assets. We hope to add "the cherry on the top" of the Library's collections and facilities. The recent growth of new mediums makes our mission more pressing. Mass media and other methods of receiving information also needs our support. We welcome your support as a Friend of the Library; you can be a great aid to this treasured institution.

Suzanne Schlenger

Director's Perspective: Ebooks Have Arrived!



Librarians have not been enthusiastic about ebooks until 2010 when we seem to have reached a tipping point. UMBC is now on the verge of betting heavily on the future of ebooks. What has changed?

It is not that we avoided ebooks entirely; our online catalog included close to 10,000 commercially published ebooks at the beginning of 2010. We have experimented with ebook readers – ereaders - and encouraged faculty to select ebooks for the collection as an alternative to print. We liked the second generation of ebook readers, beginning with the Kindle in 2007, then the Nook and the Sony.

But, librarians recoil against proprietary ebook formats which could lead to companies having a monopolistic position in the emerging ebook market; we want to offer our users ebooks that can be read on a wide variety of readers, and of course on desktop and laptop computers. We also don't like the prices – publishers often wanted 50% to 70% more for

an ebook than they would charge for the same work in print format. Paying more is hard to justify, especially when we cannot be sure that users will use the ebooks we buy. And finally, we have not seen sufficient user interest; users had been slow to adopt ebooks, partly because reading on a computer was not comfortable, especially for a “long read,” and the proprietary readers need one or two more generations of development to be truly superior to printed books in ease of use. So, we have been conservative in investing in ebooks.

Publishers and vendors have been busy addressing these concerns. Now, the trend in ebook readers is toward handling both proprietary and open formats. Library ebook purchase prices are declining. Vendors are offering “Patron Driven Acquisitions” (PDA) selection systems through which cataloging records for ebooks are added to library catalogs, but the Libraries do not purchase an ebook until a user – or two or three users, depending on how the “trigger” for purchase is set – uses the work. Finally, the ereaders continue to improve: In November, 2010, the Nook

with a color screen was released, powered by the Android operating system. We can expect the next Kindle to be powered by Android as well. Such changes portend improvements in how we experience ebooks on ereaders, and a wider range of tasks that can be performed on ereaders. Among this range of tasks is one which is crucial to academic work: the transferability of econtent from ereaders to full function computers on which the bulk of academic work will still have to be done. Readability on handheld mobile devices is also improving, and may contribute to broad-based acceptance of ebooks. I believe that the tipping point in ebook and ereader acceptance will occur within two years.

The AOK Library will experiment with PDA ebook acquisitions this year with a \$25,000 to \$40,000 budget commitment in 2010-2011. That amounts to almost 10% of our monograph budget and is a lot for these economic times. But, the time is right for it.

Larry Wilt,
Director of the Library

“The AOK Library will experiment with PDA ebook acquisitions this year with a \$25,000 to \$40,000 budget commitment in 2010-2011.”



Music of the Mind: Jaromir Stephany Photographs and Digital Images

Longtime members of the UMBC community may be familiar with the name Jaromir “Jerry” Stephany from his many contributions to the campus including service on the

Visual Arts faculty from 1973 to 2009; his one-person exhibitions in the Library Gallery in 1977, 1990 and 2010; his works shown in group shows in 2007 and 2008; his contributions to the founding of the

Photography Collections; his service to the Friends of the Library & Gallery; and many other activities. Most will not know that music has always been central to making his photographs and digital images.

Stephany was born and raised in one of the world capitals of photography---Rochester, New York. He began making photographs as a youngster during the Depression, and was trained as a U.S. Army combat photographer at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, early during the Cold War. He was stationed at Rhein Main Air Force Base in Germany, and, as a draftee armed with a camera, fought the battle of the Officer's Club. (His photographs of officers and their girlfriends many years later formed the basis of a satirical body of work titled "Non-War Years.") After military service Stephany went to school, first at RIT for an undergraduate degree, and then to Indiana University for a graduate degree. His teachers were such luminaries as Minor White, Ansel Adams, and Henry Holmes Smith. During the early 1960s, he worked at George Eastman House where he assisted famed photographic historian Beaumont Newhall in teaching history of photography to RIT students. Soon Stephany took over the class and was solely responsible for it.

Throughout his life Stephany has been enamored of music, particularly composers such as Beethoven, Mozart, Haydn, and Tchaikovsky, and found expression for the emotionality of their music in his photographs. Like composer Aaron Copland, who believed that the power of music came from its emotional qualities, Stephany also considered that the true nature of music and art was the distillation of sentiments, the essence of experience transfused and heightened, and emotion expressed such that we may contemplate it at the same

moment that we are swayed by it. He found the form of his expression in *clichés verre*, cameraless photographs made by drawing on glass and printing the images onto photographic paper. Traditional *clichés verre* were made by covering a piece of glass with an etching ground, then scratching lines through the ground with an etching needle or other device to allow light to pass through when the glass plate was contact printed onto photographic paper. Artists who made traditional *clichés verre* included nineteenth century painters Asher B. Durand and Camille Corot. Their use of the technique was for reproducing drawings.

The modernist style of *cliché verre* that Stephany made is quite experimental compared to the traditional ones. He learned the technique at Indiana University from his mentor Henry Holmes Smith who covered a glass plate with Karo syrup and water, then exposed the plate to enlarger light. Stephany immediately improved the technique by using flash lighting instead of incandescent to prevent the blur that resulted from movement of the liquids. The visual results of Stephany's approach is rooted in Abstract Expressionism, and has the goal of expressing emotions as powerful as those felt while listening to music. He said: "Some of the images never would have occurred if I had not been listening to Beethoven. One of the strongest influences was Bruckner's Ninth Symphony." Drawing upon such musical influences, Stephany made non-representational images that for him often suggest both inner terrain as well as outer space. Stephany was a specialist in *clichés verre* and the only artist to devote so

much of his career to making them.

Copland believed that an imaginative mind is essential to the creation of art in any medium, but even more so for music because there is no story content, no pictorial representation, and no limitation of frame to hamper the intuitive functioning of the imaginative mind. Music is only meaningful insofar as the imagination is given free play, and the freely imaginative mind is at the core of both music making and music listening, he said. These same ideas may be expressed about Stephany's imagery which, on the one hand, aims to capture something of the rhythms of the cosmos, and, on the other, challenges the imaginative powers of his viewers in determining the meanings of the works.

Music of the Mind: Jaromir Stephany Photographs and Digital Images was on display at UMBC's Library Gallery from April 6 through June 11, 2010. A program for Friends members was presented on April 14th, the day that Jerry Stephany passed. He is greatly missed.

Tom Beck,
Chief Curator

"Most will not know that music has always been central to making his photographs and digital images."

Upcoming Friends Events

Poetry Reading by UMBC Faculty Members

Tuesday, April 12, 2011, 4:00 p.m. in the Albin O. Kuhn Library Gallery

A reception, sponsored by the Libby Kuhn Endowment Fund, will follow the readings.

For more details and other events, please see <http://aok.lib.umbc.edu/admin/>

*"Thanks to all who
helped us
celebrate
American Archives
Month!"*

American Archives Month Celebration

Special Collections was bustling with activity this October as we celebrated American Archives Month with several events to raise awareness about the value of archives. Archives-related books were on display on the first floor of the Library throughout October. Compiled by Special Collections Archivist Lindsey Loeper, the publications cover topics such as archival theory, public history, non-fiction texts heavily influenced by archival materials, and books exploring the use of archives in professional and personal situations. For a list of the featured books, visit: <http://aok.lib.umbc.edu/reference/displays/archives2010.php>.

Another month-long activity was our *In the Archives* essay series. *In the Archives* is a collection of essays originally posted on the Library blog, written by advocates and champions of the UMBC Archives and Special Collections who described how archives have influenced them professionally, academically, or personally. The contributing essayists included David Hoffman, Office of Student Life; Michael Bowler, Library volunteer; W. Edward Orser, American Studies; Jenny O'Grady, Institutional Advancement; Jody Shipka, English; Richard Byrne, UMBC Magazine; and Christopher Corbett, English. Their essays are available at: <http://aok.lib.umbc.edu/specoll/inthearchives>.

On October 6th, Associate Professor of Visual Art, Lynn Cazabon presented her series of photographs, *Discard*, in the Library Gallery. Professor Cazabon's work contains images of films that have been deaccessioned by libraries, archives, and schools. She says the work is a reflection on "the ongoing cycle of obsolescence, wherein technologies replace one another at ever increasing speed. With each iteration of this cycle, a particular way of seeing/knowing the world is lost." Cazabon's *Discard* is composed of beautiful images using the discarded films and related materials to create unique shapes and compositions, paying homage to their physicality and serving "as a memento mori to the recently obsolete medium of film." Additionally, she shared some of her newer work such as the *Uncultivated series, comprised of images of plants (often called "weeds") which sprout up in urban settings like the cracks in a sidewalk*. For more of Lynn Cazabon's work, please see: <http://www.lynncazabon.com/>.

Our American Archives Month events culminated with the panel discussion about *Using Images for Original Research*. Although the use of visual material in research has primarily been relegated to illustrate and to entertain, the wealth of information in images makes them excellent historical resources. *Using Images for*

Original Research acquainted researchers with opportunities to conduct original research using images and highlighted the importance of visual literacy, image-based research methods, and the scholarly potential held in visual materials. Barbara Orbach Natanson, Head of the Library of Congress Prints & Photographs Reading Room, spoke about looking at images critically, defining visual literacy as "close looking, comparing to other images, identifying visual conventions, placing images in context [including] information about the creator, the circumstances and technology for creating the image and... knowledge of the purpose and audience for which the image was originally intended." For more information on visual literacy and the Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, please see: <http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/resource/researchertool.html>. Tom Beck, Chief Curator of the Albin O. Kuhn Library & Gallery, discussed photography as historical evidence, using his research with Lewis Hine's photographs of child labor in Maryland as an example. His talk focused on how Hine considered that the realism of photographs stripped of unessential elements had a certain power and conviction. Hine put all of his commitment and passion into making remarkably perceptive, subtle, and artful images documenting the



Reference Librarians on the Move

difficult work and living conditions of child workers. For more about UMBC's collection of Lewis Hine photographs, please see: <http://contentdm.ad.umbc.edu/hine.php>. Two speakers from the University of Maryland Libraries, Douglas McElrath, Curator of Marylandia & Rare Books, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation Library Collection and Joanne Archer, Curator in the Special Collections Division, talked about using postcards for research. McElrath emphasized that postcards are highly manipulated, and discussed the methods of dating them and the importance of determining to whom the publishers were trying to sell the cards. Archer came up with potential research questions that postcards pose, such as what they can tell us about gender relations or class structure, or "what was the early 20th century idea of the exotic?" For more information on postcards at UMCP, please see: <http://www.lib.umd.edu/mdrm/gallery/>.

Thanks to all who helped us celebrate American Archives Month!

Susan Graham,
Special Collections Librarian

"The department sought to turn the traditional method of engagement—attracting students to the library—on its head by reaching outside of the library building to assist students in place on other parts of campus."

With the rapid growth of electronic resources, libraries across the nation are reconsidering additional methods of delivering services and meeting users in their spaces. Early in the spring semester of 2010, the reference department began an initiative to make its library resources and services more visible to graduate students. The department sought to turn the traditional method of engagement—attracting students to the library—on its head by reaching outside of the library building to assist students in place on other parts of campus. Although this project started out as one of a number of efforts the department has done to reach more graduate students, it has grown into a successful outreach venture for the wider college population.

First, a mobile reference unit was designed that would allow librarians to offer services at other highly frequented locations on campus. This provided an opportunity to simultaneously raise visibility and awareness levels for library services as students were assisted during their point of need. A Wi-Fi+3G iPad, a portable laptop stand and a standing sign were ordered for the project. The iPad has turned out to be the perfect tool for this project. It is lightweight, versatile and the 3G version allows for consistent connection to the Internet even when the wireless connection is not available. Library resources can be accessed from any location on campus in order to assist students and faculty when they have questions.

The first roving strategy was to take the mobile unit to events sponsored by student organizations and services such as the Graduate Student Association, the Office of Undergraduate Education and the

Department of Off-Campus Student Services. The project expanded to include roving during hours that commuting students were more likely to be on campus, which included visiting areas heavily populated by students such as the commuter lounge, the University Center, and academic department offices.

In order to collect data on usage of the roving service, the department's statistics reporting tool was altered to separately track activity of the mobile unit. A log is also maintained to document activity at each location and time. These data will assist in developing a stronger schedule at the locations that are most heavily frequented.

The project has been well received by students and faculty and is generating good publicity for the library. As the project continues, it has been noted that the roving service is reaching as many undergraduate and faculty members as graduate students. This has been an unexpected and positive outcome of the project since a wider audience is being reached than was previously expected.

For the future of this project, further marketing efforts are needed to advertise the service. Currently, the library's Twitter account is used to advertise the mobile unit's locations. Additionally, promotional bookmarks and flyers are being created and distributed on campus. It is hoped that this project will continue to help serve more students when their research questions arise and raise awareness for services offered by the library simultaneously.

Joanna Gadsby and Shu Qian
Reference Librarians

Welcome New Staff



Richard Hamilton

Hello everyone, my name is Richard Hamilton, and I am the new Billing Technician here at the library. I began my career in public service at the age of fourteen working as a host in local restaurants. For the past five years, I have had the distinct pleasure of serving the diverse public of both the Anne Arundel and St. Mary's County Public Library

Systems as a Circulation Assistant. In this position, I acted as Branch Volunteer Supervisor, responsible for hiring, training, evaluating, terminating, and coaching sessions for up to fifteen volunteers. In addition, I served as the Branch Staff Association Liaison, representing branch employees and forwarding their concerns to the

administration. I am working toward my Bachelor Degree in Graphic Design at the Anne Arundel Community College, and will transfer to UMBC in fall 2011 to complete my degree. In the future, I hope to complete my Master Degree in Fine Arts, Exhibit Design, or Library Science.

Richard Hamilton



Eric Jeitner

Hello, I'm Eric Jeitner, the new Digital Media Librarian at the Albin O. Kuhn Library & Gallery. I will be overseeing the functions of the Library Media Department and the Slide Library.

I received my degree in Library and Information

Sciences from the University of Pittsburgh in 2008. Prior to that, I received my M.A. in Creative Writing from Temple University in 2003, and my B.A. in Film and Media Arts in 1999, also from Temple University.

I have a lot of interest in

film, new media, visual arts, and exploring the way that these things can enhance learning and classroom environments. I look forward to working with the faculty, students, and other patrons at UMBC.

Eric Jeitner

Tiffany Wilson



I am Tiffany Wison, the new Electronic Resources and Non-Print Materials Cataloger at the Albin O. Kuhn Library & Gallery, where I have been cataloging on a contract basis for the past two years. My work experience also

includes working at The Johns Hopkins University Press.

I earned my MLIS in 2005 from the University of Rhode Island. In addition, I received my M.A. in Literary and Cultural Studies from Carnegie Mellon University in 2002 and a B.A. in Film

Studies from the University of Pittsburgh in 2001. My experience covers many areas in library science. I have a wide range of interests. That I love to share, and if you're not careful, I will talk your ear off about the Lindy Hop!

Tiffany Wilson

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Thank You!

Friends are Welcome

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Make checks payable to UMBC Foundation.
Send to Dr. Larry Wilt, Director
Albin O. Kuhn Library & Gallery
University of Maryland, Baltimore County
1000 Hilltop Circle
Baltimore, Maryland 21250

If you know others we should ask to join the Friends, or if you'd like to be a volunteer in the Library & Gallery, please call us at 410-455-2356 or send E-mail to wilt@umbc.edu

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