



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

Message from the Chair of Friends Council

I have been visiting the Kuhn Library at UMBC for more than 6 years on a regular basis when attending meetings of the Friends of the Library Board, and I have noticed many positive changes in those years.

As I walk from the parking area to the front doors, I can't help but notice the increasing use of the open space to the east of the Library (Erickson Field). It is in constant use by students kicking balls, throwing Frisbees to each other and just "playing".

Entering the front doors years ago, it was just a sitting area, and now it serves as a refreshment center where students grab a cup of coffee or a refreshing soft drink and snack. It is a meeting destination, as tables fill with informal groups.

As I enter the front doors, I notice the Retriever Learning Center on the right where groups of students gather to study and to collaborate on assignments. The Friends contributed to this very popular feature not too long ago.

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Message from Chair cont.

Banks of well used computers take up a large area on the way to the elevators. The Reference Desk always seems to house a helpful and friendly person who will direct me to my destination.

On the way to the elevators, I've passed the Gallery and the entrance to Special Collections areas. Going into the Gallery I always find an exhibition of unique photographs or original art works, many owned by UMBC and representing a vast and growing collection.

Next, the Rotunda area which houses an interesting display of library treasures which changes with time. The Leisure Reading Collection is now just before the Rotunda, it is a pleasant place to linger. This Pleasure Nook, stocked with new works, is aimed to interest leisure readers. The Friends supports this growing feature of the library.

Going up on the elevator, I reach the top floor where there is a magnificent view of downtown Baltimore's skyline. The large space can hold large meetings and festive parties.

From bottom to top there has been a growing and vital troop of students. They use the Kuhn Library in huge numbers. The library continues to expand by offering more resources every year. The Friends continue to augment the library's treasures by acquiring volumes of value and by supporting new physical uses of the library by students, staff, and faculty.

The Friends Council is a valuable asset to the Kuhn Library and will continue to aid the library in its vital and important mission. —**Suzanne Schlenger**

Digging In and BreakingGround: Outreach and the University Archives

This Fall semester, UMBC launched BreakingGround, "a UMBC initiative that seeks to demonstrate and amplify the power of our students, faculty and staff as agents of meaningful change and renewal, on and off campus." Focusing on building new civic agency and engagement opportunities, and fostering those that currently exist, BreakingGround promotes the dynamic work of student groups and UMBC departments as they engage in their communities. I have been privileged to be able to participate in the BreakingGround online blog, sharing stories of engagement from UMBC's history and looking at

how archival records can inform and inspire students and staff today. Topics so far have included the

Bitch-In of 1968 and how we can draw inspiration from the aspirations and goals of UMBC's early leaders. This project has allowed me to look at UMBC's history as a powerful tool for improving and motivating the students and staff, and not just a source for "fun facts" and trivia.

View <http://umbcbreakingground.wordpress.com>.
You can also follow the University Archives on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/UMBC-University-Archives/119941214750613> -----

--Lindsey Loeper,
Archivist

Meet Our New Staff



I am Jodi Hoover the new Digital Media Librarian at the Albin O. Kuhn Library & Galley. I earned my M.L.S. in 2009 from the University of Maryland, College Park. For the past three years, I have been the Media Librarian at the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA). I am also a MICA alum and have a B.F.A. in Illustration. Whenever I have a chance, I love to put in some hours in the studio drawing, screen-printing or binding books.

Although I had always considered myself a "book person", working with media collections has been extremely rewarding. Images, both moving and still, can be powerful teaching and learning tools. I look forward to building upon the established collections and learning more about the needs of the UMBC community.



Hello, I am James Stephens the new IT Librarian at the AOK Library. I oversee the Library's IT department so it is my job to make sure all of the equipment in the building works and to plan for technology development. I received my Library and Information Science degree from Florida State University in 2005 with a focus on technology. Before coming to UMBC, I worked as a Reference Librarian and a Systems Librarian in and around Savannah, Georgia.



One of the first big projects I worked on at UMBC was deploying 40 new iMacs on the second floor of the library. I am very excited about the new iMacs, and judging by the number of students using them, I am not alone. Please, if you have any suggestions for new technology that you'd like to see us implement, let me know (jstephen@umbc.edu) and we can look into it!

► To discover other staff, check <http://aok.lib.umbc.edu/staff/>

Other News:

First Floor re-carpeted

Reference Desk moved

Leisure Collection moved

Copiers/Print Station relocated on the first floor

Friends and Tweets: Communication Today

By Emily Krause, Reference Department Intern



Friends, tweets, and blog posts are commonplace in today's society. While several forms of social media, such as Facebook, were started by bored university students for amusement, everyone from Subway to Disney to Duct Tape continues to recognize the value of social media.

In the past few years, the Albin O. Kuhn Library & Gallery has increased its use of these platforms to engage and inform its users. These tools allow the Library to create visual displays, market services and resources, and converse with library patrons in an interactive, online environment. In the past ten years, social media has gained ground as a meeting place for users of all types of products and services.

Social media allows us to communicate directly with UMBC students, as well as other members of the community. For example, a student may post that they are experiencing trouble accessing a database. We quickly see this, investigate the issue, and then reply to the student, providing a status update. If necessary, we can post a notice of a server issue, so that everyone remains informed. Students have also posted requests for certain materials as well as appreciation for particular services.

For information updates, librarians post inclement weather closings and upcoming events, such as photography exhibits, on Facebook and Twitter. Users can view historical images from special collections on Flickr, and book covers with links to their library catalog listing, on Pinterest. YouTube videos give students virtual tours of the Library, Media, Special Collections, and the Retriever Learning Center, making the students more comfortable visiting the library. Looking forward, the library is considering developing a Tumblr microblog, as well as an Instagram page with photographs and images.

The library is working on creating a "buzz," and encouraging students, faculty, and staff to follow our social media presence. We welcome feedback and ideas for engaging members of the UMBC community through social media. Follow us today!



E-Books at UMBC

For many, opening a print book, whether it is brand new or a well-worn favorite is a very satisfying experience, one that cannot be replicated with electronic books (or e-books). However, in the Library we recognize that our users' research needs and reading habits are increasingly diverse. Faculty, staff, and students are just as likely to be across the ocean as they are across campus. As a result, we are constantly seeking ways to better serve them and one way is by providing access to more e-books.

E-books have been part of the Library's collection since the early 2000s and we have been slowly expanding the number of available e-book titles. Depending on the vendor or the publisher, we provide access to many types of e-books. Our Reference Collection includes access to several online e-book resources: the Gale Virtual Reference Library, Oxford Language Dictionaries Online, and Oxford Reference Online, just to name a few. From other publishers and vendors we are able to purchase large collections of non-reference e-books that represent a variety of subjects. Two examples of these large collections include our eBooks on EBSCOhost collection which has over 9,000 titles and our Springer Verlag collections which have over 3,000 titles.

Additionally, this past year, we started two e-book demand driven acquisitions pilot projects which allow us to provide access to a specific group of titles that we have not yet purchased. We provide *access* to the e-books via links in the library catalog but we do not purchase them unless certain actions trigger a purchase (i.e. printing, copying, and viewing longer than a prescribed number of minutes). This approach allows us to purchase titles that *will* be used rather than titles that *might* be used. It is seamless to the users and we only pay for what has been used. Librarians also make our users aware of the availability of books that are older and out of copyright but are freely accessible as electronic versions from various organizations. These organizations include the Internet Archive and Hathi Trust.

While not all books are available as or suited for publication as e-books, the increased mobility and connectivity of our users means we must continue to seek ways to support all of the campus's information needs. If you want to know more about e-books at UMBC please visit our e-books web page at: <http://aok.lib.umbc.edu/help/ebooks/> .

-Lynda Aldana

"What is the value of libraries? Through lifelong learning, libraries can and do change lives, a point that cannot be overstated."

— Michael Gorman, *Our Enduring Values: Librarianship in the 21st Century*

Leisure Reading @ UMBC

It is important that an academic library serve not only the research, teaching and learning needs of its campus, but also contribute to the health, well-being and cultural enrichment of each library user. To that end, the Library and the Friends of the Library & Gallery have partnered to improve the leisure and cultural options available on the UMBC campus.



This prominent space dedicated to leisure reading was made possible by support from the Friends of the Library & Gallery, and especially a large donation from Reference Librarian Drew Alfgren. The room was planned and furnished by the Library, as was the original “seed” collection, but the books being added now come entirely from donations.

Take a break by browsing through the collection in the comfortable Leisure Reading room located on the first floor of the Library, next to the Circulation/Reserves service desk. There are nearly 500 titles in the collection and any registered UMBC borrower, including Friends members and community borrowers, can borrow the books. Books circulate for 28 days with one renewal.

Recent additions to the collection include Brian Caster’s Long Walk, Justin Cronin’s Twelve, Camilla Lackberg’s Stonecutter, and Oliver Sacks, Hallucinations, to name just a few of more than 20 titles added in January, 2013. Associate Director Robin Moskal created a wish list for additional books that we would like to offer, together with an easy path to donation through Amazon.com. To get full information on the Leisure Reading program, including the wish list, ways to donate, and a list of titles already owned, just Google “umbc wish list.”

Happy reading!

-Larry Wilt

Director of the Library



Special Thanks to Our Donors for 2012

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Expanding the Library Outreach via Storytelling

Who doesn't like stories? Young and curious people enjoy them for sure! Digital Storytelling is a powerful new method that offers stories from life by blending digital images, text, audio narration, video records and music. This innovative approach provides opportunity to show and tell what you want to share with your audience *in style*. Excited by the power of the digital stories, two librarians created two short videos for a library promotion. They have different styles and messages but they aim to draw attention of the members of the UMBC community to the resources, services and information awareness that the Library offers.

- **"Hidden Treasures,"** created in Spring 2012 by Gergana Kostova, features the library resources, services and various events that the New Student Support team in the Library offers to freshmen, transfer students, international and graduate students. The Library has lots of treasures that are waiting to be explored and utilized – comprehensive databases, extensive journal and book

collections, learning spaces and technologies. All of these treasures are highlighted in a unique way and combined with pictures taken during the events for new students organized by the librarians, library staff and student workers. This story is available at: <http://tinyurl.com/a5uzx3p>.

- **"Scientific Social Network,"** created in Winter 2013 by Shu Qian, features a story of how a busy scientist cat uses and enjoys the scientific social network. This digital story promotes a new type of social network designed just for scientists and researchers. The story's message highlights the benefits of these specialized networks that may connect experts in the same field and may result in constructive collaboration. This story is available at: <http://tinyurl.com/apj6roc>.

These two digital stories increase the virtual presence of the Library as well as the way the Library interacts digitally with the patrons.

-Gergana Kostova and Shu Qian



Donations are Welcome!

The Friends of the Kuhn Library & Gallery is a nonprofit, volunteer group dedicated to the support and advancement of the Library. If you wish to become a Friend of the Library & Gallery, see <http://aoklib.umbc.edu/adm/friends/friends.php>

Make checks payable to UMBC Foundation and 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

Newsletter Contributors

Editor: Simmona E. Simmons **Contributors:** Lynda Aldana, Linda Durkos, Gergana Kostova, Emily Krause, Lindsey Loeper, Shu Qian, Larry Wilt and Special Thanks to Joanna Gadsby & Robin Moskal

This newsletter is an occasional publication.

Merci

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