



Special Editions

Newsletter of The Friends of the Albin O. Kuhn Library & Gallery

www.umbc.edu/library

Number 3

November 2007

Message from the Chair

To Friends of the Library and Gallery at
UMBC.

Welcome to another season of events for the Friends and students who will someday become members of "Friends."

We are now completing our programs for the spring semester. We hope you'll be pleased!



Our committees have been working very hard to bring new resources to our campus. The DVD and CD collections in the Media area have gone through a very significant expansion in acquiring a broad range of culture and historical materials. I had a delightful time this summer studying operas and musicals done in Germany and Eastern Europe in that strange time between the World Wars.. It gave me a better understanding of the terrible crash and the rise of Fascism and the horrible consequences.

Another project being considered is setting up an archival program to preserve the many tapes and videos we have. We should be preserving the history of the University through the various speakers, performers and interviews that were recorded from the very opening of this school. Many departments did so but now too many of these tapes are disintegrating. Like the university itself some of these tapes are about 40 years old and are growing older by the year. An imitative is being planed to collect and store this material. The next step would be to transfer this unique material

to a digital form so that it can be used now and in the future.

We have entered the digital age but even in analog times there was much wisdom!

The Friends can do more as there are now more of us. We can and should do more to make the Library the center for study, research and the opportunity to meditate.

Jaromir Stephany

Have You Seen the New Library Website?

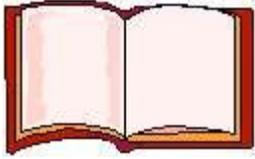
The Albin O. Kuhn Library and Gallery released a new website at the beginning of the Fall semester. The new design provides easier navigation and access to information and resources, including the numerous electronic databases, journals, special collections, and media owned by the library.

Comments can be sent to Janet Hack at jhack@umbc.edu



**Books are lighthouses erected in the great
sea of time.**

- Edwin P. Whipple



“The Big Read” Comes to UMB--by LaTanya West, Circulation Systems Librarian

The Friends of the Albin O. Kuhn Library and Gallery helped sponsor a Big Read program centered on Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury on October 24, 2007. “The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts, designed to restore reading to the center of American culture. The NEA presents The Big Read in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and in cooperation with Arts Midwest. The Big Read brings together partners across the country to encourage reading for pleasure and enlightenment.” (www.neabigread.org). Several other events were held by other organizations in the surrounding area.

Sam Weller, authorized biographer of Ray Bradbury, gave an entertaining presentation about the process of writing Fahrenheit 451 as well as an overview of Mr. Bradbury’s life. Some comments of interest included the fact that Fahrenheit 451 was written in nine days on a rental typewriter for a total cost of \$9.80. In addition, the book was a culmination of Mr. Bradbury’s feelings about the Nazi book burnings in WWII, Russian book burnings, and censorship in general. Mr. Weller also discussed the relevance of Fahrenheit 451 in context of current events and technology

The presentation ended with a phone call with Mr. Bradbury in which he praised libraries for making him a self-made well-educated man. At age 87, Mr. Bradbury continues to write on a daily basis and has

a new play coming to Broadway in the near future. A reception, partially funded by the Libby Kuhn Memorial Endowment, followed the presentation where Mr. Weller continued to answer individual audience member questions.

Please visit

<http://aok.lib.umbc.edu/admin/friends/events.php> for information about upcoming Friends events and programs.



Be a Part of the Buzz... Become a Friend?

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://aok.lib.umbc.edu/adm/friends/friends.php>

Checks are payable to UMBC Foundation. Send to

*Dr. Larry Wilt, Director
Albin O. Kuhn Library & Gallery
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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

Meet the Staff...

(Need to insert picture)

I am Susan Graham, the new Special Collections Librarian at Albin O. Kuhn Library & Gallery. I recently graduated from the College of Information Studies at the University of Maryland College Park with a Master of Library Science degree.

My passions for art and research were cultivated through my undergraduate studies, culminating in degrees in Anthropology and Photography. Professionally, I have had the opportunity to work in a number of different fields, including teaching English in Spain, research, design and marketing. Most recently, I worked as a graduate assistant in the Conservation Lab at UMCP's McKeldin Library, evaluating and repairing damaged books.

I am happy to be working in Special Collections, particularly with the photographs. I also have a keen interest in book arts, rare books, radical literature and Alternative Press literature. During my tenure here, I hope to continue to preserve our materials, to make them more accessible to users, including through digitization projects, to help people understand and use primary sources, and to get the word out about our great collection of materials so that more people take advantage of them.



I am Jessame E. Ferguson, Head of Public Services, University of Maryland, Baltimore County's Albin O. Kuhn Library & Gallery where I

provide leadership for the Reference, Circulation and Library Media units and for the Library's Instructional Services and Information Literacy planning initiative. I also develop and implement service improvements

that support library users at all levels and in all environments; develop first floor public services in accord with ongoing planning priorities. I participate in Library leadership and management as a unit head to help define Library-wide policies, procedures, objectives, strategies, and criteria for performance assessment; among many other things that can't possibly be described quickly here – feel free to stop by and chat with me!

Jessame completed an internship at University of Oxford's Bodleian Library and obtained a M.L.I.S. from Louisiana State University in 1995. She has a B.A. in English Literature from University of Massachusetts at Amherst. She has completed classes in computers, networking, web development, management and leadership. In 1993 Jessame completed took a seminar in Shakespeare and Literature at the University of Oxford's Trinity College. She is currently taking graduate classes in English Literature at University of Maryland College Park.

Prior work includes serving as Librarian for Digital Initiatives and Research & Instructional Services Planning, W.E.B. Du Bois Library University of Massachusetts at Amherst, 2000-2002; she also was Access Librarian, Andrew G. Truxal Library, Anne Arundel Community College, 1996-2000.

Jessame notes that her areas of professional interest/expertise are academic library management, leadership development, and analysis of organizations, workflow, and systems

Her personal interests include biking, hiking, walking, yoga, films, friends, community service, and of course reading.

If you want to meet Jessame, her office is located on the first floor of the Library.



May Chang joined UMBC in June 2007 as Head of Library Information Technology (IT) Services. She has held several senior positions in academic and special libraries, and has US and international work experience.

Her main responsibility is to lead, provide and support IT services in the Library. This includes developing and implementing IT applications, resources and services, as well as overseeing computing resources. She manages the Library IT Services department, and has implemented several library-wide projects and initiatives, including a better arrangement of the computer workstation clusters, and creating a website for access by mobile and hand-held devices to support mobile learning (mLearning) activities. May has also launched regular Technology Briefing sessions to increase awareness and engage staff in discussions on library IT developments.

To encourage student engagement in the library, she gathered some library student assistants and staff to develop a short video clip on library orientation. "The project is more about building community, resourcefulness, and the volunteer spirit than creating a Hollywood production, and I am proud of our students who stepped up to the plate," remarks May. She is also working with the Office of Undergraduate Education to provide student research opportunities with library faculty.

“**One of our goals is to foster student success** by providing IT and digital resources in the Library. I see my role as bringing people and technology together to make things happen,” says May. The Library IT Services department plans to continue expanding and enhancing IT in collaboration with faculty, staff, and students.

With campus activities and as a volunteer Conversation Partner at the English Language Center, May is interacting with a broad spectrum of the campus community. May says, "UMBC has a very collegial environment, and the international diversity is also a highlight for me."

Please send comments/suggestions to May (maychang@umbc.edu).



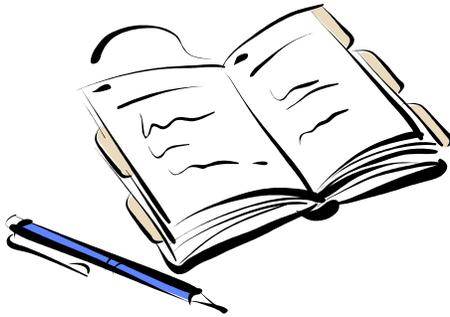
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Upcoming Events 2007- 2008



Forthcoming Literary Events at UMBC

Tues., Feb 5, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. - Manil Suri, author of "The Death of Vishnu" and Professor of Mathematics at UMBC, will talk about his new novel "The Age of Shiva."

Tues., March 4 at 4:00 PM - Gene Roberts, co-author of the 2007 Pulitzer History Prize winner "Race Beat" and Prof. of Journalism at UMCP, will speak about his book. UMBC Faculty Poetry Slam, April '08 TBA

All events will take place in the Gallery of the Albin O. Kuhn Library.

Additional information and updates can be found via the Library & Gallery website (<http://aok.lib.umbc.edu/news/>)

Albin O. Kuhn Library & Gallery
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1000 Hilltop Circle
Baltimore, Maryland 21250

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