

Special Editions

April 2015



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

The Maryland Traditions Project

The Special Collections department and Maryland Traditions, the state folklife program, are continuing to work together in partnership to process and make accessible several folklife collections. Documenting the art, work, and culture of Maryland communities, the collections include fieldwork documentation, photographs, audio recordings, documentary films, and even several artifacts - including an eel pot! Processing Archivist Nichole Procopenko and Volunteer Archivist Yuri Zietz have joined the Special Collections team to work on the organization, description, and digitization of the collections. Collection finding aids and other related resources are available at

<http://aok.lib.umbc.edu/specoll/folklife.php>.



L-R: Lindsey Loeper, Archivist; Susan Graham, Special Collections Librarian; Yuri Zietz, Maryland Traditions Volunteer Archivist; Nichole Procopenko, Maryland Traditions Processing Archivist; Tom Beck, Chief Curator.

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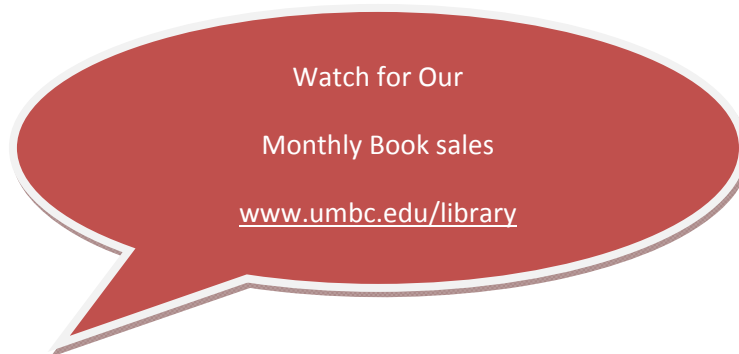


Reflections from Retiring Director

What will the UMBC Library's gift to future generations of students and researchers? Surely, it will not be a legacy of common things – the things that are becoming more ubiquitous on the internet every day no matter what we do. Rather it will be our unique holdings. Research at UMBC, and nationally, indicates that even in our circulating general holdings, more than 20% are likely to be unique in the region, and some unique in the country. But our main treasure trove of unique items is in the Special Collections, where tens of thousands of items are unique. I hope that the Library, with leadership and help from the Friends of the Library & Gallery, will continue to guard and preserve these holdings for the very long term.

Of course the primary preservation task for unique items is to keep them secure and as free from deterioration as possible. But the secondary preservation task - digitization - is becoming increasingly urgent. First, for materials that continue to deteriorate, like books printed on high acid paper and recordings in unstable media, we must digitize just to be sure we don't lose their content altogether. Second, the digitized versions of our unique holdings will be vastly more accessible and usable around the world than their original versions; most international users will not be able to use them at all unless they are digitized. I hope that the Library and the Friends will find ways to give all users, worldwide and for hundreds of years, our unique holdings by placing them online. There is so much more yet to do.

- Larry Wilt



Message from the Acting Director

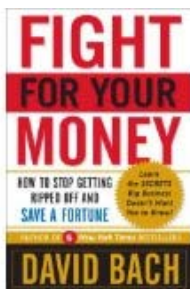
2015 marks a new chapter in the history of the Albin O Kuhn Library & Gallery, with the change in leadership. I would like to acknowledge Dr. Larry Wilt for his many contributions over the past thirty years. Dr. Wilt, who began working at UMBC in 1981, was appointed Director in 1990. Under his tenure, the Library Tower was completed, two new integrated library systems were introduced, personal computing became routine to the library, and a new discovery system was implemented. We appreciate his service to the Library and UMBC and wish him a wonderful retirement.

Our Library, thanks to an innovative architectural team and talented staff, was always intended to be the unique centerpiece of the intellectual community of UMBC. Our entry counts and website hits demonstrate that this vision has come to fruition. Shifting from a traditional learning environment to a flexible and student centered space, the Retriever Learning Center has played a large part in this development.

The Retriever Learning Center was made possible with campus support and many donations. We appreciate the support from many Friends, especially like you. The RLC is conducive to group study and discussion in a relaxed atmosphere. In addition to the Retriever Learning Center, your gifts have supported the purchase of important materials such as unique items for our Special Collections Department, and the Leisure Reading Collection. These and other purchases would not be possible without the support of Friends. Thank You!

As Acting Director, I want to express my gratitude to the Friends, the Library Staff, and the UMBC community, who have contributed greatly to the success of the Albin O. Kuhn Library & Gallery. I look forward to another successful chapter.

- Joyce Tenney, Acting Director



***Fight For Your Money** How to Stop Getting Ripped Off and Save a Fortune by David Bach*

This book focuses on strategies to keep your hard-earned money. One caution from the author is, when buying a new car, borrow from a bank and not a car dealer.

To check out this book and other interesting titles, visit the Leisure Collection on the first floor of the Library.

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And

Special Thanks to

Linda Durkos

Recently Hired @ AOK



I am Kathleen Bruce, the Course Reserves Coordinator at the Albin O. Kuhn Library. My work in libraries began when I was a teenager, working as a page to save money for college. I earned both of my Bachelor's Degrees at UMBC while working at the campus library. Now that I've returned, I'm excited to be in charge of electronic reserves and to oversee hardcopy reserves.

☀️ **John Breitmeyer** is the new Discovery Services Librarian at Albin O. Kuhn Library & Gallery. He received his undergraduate degree (B.A., English) from Michigan State University in 1990, an M.A. in English from the University of New Orleans in 1998, and his MLIS from the University of South Carolina in 2002. He worked as a Reference & Web Services Librarian at Loyola University from 2003-2014, he began working at AOK Library in July of 2014. He looks forward to working with you all and supporting progress and innovation in Discovery services for the entire UMBC community.

☀️ **Katie Hand**

Katie graduated from UMBC with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology. She worked as a student in the circulation department for three years prior to graduation and now returns as staff. She is currently working on a second bachelor's degree in Biology at UMBC.



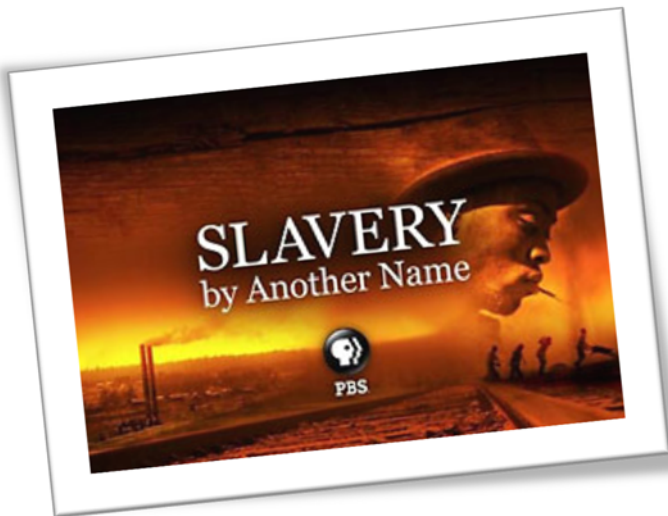
Austin Smith rejoins the library staff as Circulation Stacks and Student Staff Manager.

Welcome to All of Our Recently Hired Staff!

Created Equal Project Part II

The Africana Studies Department and The Albin O. Kuhn Library & Gallery presented another program from the award of a grant for the "[Created Equal Project](#)." This program was a part of the Bridging Cultures initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities. It is a partnership with the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History to encourage public conversations about the changing meanings of freedom and equality in America. We thank the Drescher Center for the Humanities for joining us as co-sponsors.

Recently, Americans have paused to remember and reflect on key anniversaries in U. S. Civil Rights movement, and this program is a way to honor individuals who supported the cause. The Created Equal Programs will be free and the community is invited to join us as we dialogue about such an important issue.



By 1865, despite the promise of the Thirteenth Amendment, many former slaves were not in reality free. Based on the Pulitzer-Prize-winning book by Douglas Blackmon, the film "Slavery By Another Name" tells the stories of men, charged with crimes like vagrancy, and often guilty of nothing, who were bought and sold, abused, and subjected to sometimes

deadly working conditions as unpaid convict labor.

The film "Slavery By Another Name" was screened at 12 p.m. on February 2nd and 4th in the Albin O. Kuhn Library, Room 259.

On February 9th, 2015 at 4:30 pm, the Library hosted a panel discussion with Dr. Spencer Crew in the Albin O. Kuhn Library Gallery. Dr. Crew is the Robinson Professor of American, African American, and Public History at George Mason University. He has served as president of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center and as director of the National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution. At each of those institutions Dr. Crew sought to make history accessible to the public through innovative and inclusive exhibitions and public programs. His publications include *Field to Factory: Afro-American Migration 1915 - 1940* (1987), *Black Life in Secondary Cities: A Comparative Analysis of the Black Communities of Camden and Elizabeth, N.J. 1860 - 1920* (1993), and *Unchained Memories: Readings From The Slave Narratives* (2002). Dr. Crew is also the Past Chair of the National Council for History Education and serves on the Board of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, as well as the Nominating Board of the Organization of American Historians.

Donations are Welcome! Become a Friend or Renew Your Membership to the Friends of Albin O. Library & Gallery

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:

Ms. Joyce Tenney, Acting Director
Albin O. Kuhn Library & Gallery
University of Maryland Baltimore County
1000 Hilltop Circle
Baltimore, Maryland 21250

Phone 410 455-2356 or send E-mail to tenney@umbc.edu

Announcement: for a listing of the Friends Events, see <http://aok.lib.umbc.edu/admin/friends/events.php>.

► **Friends Officers: Chair: Dr. Austin Platt, Secretary/Treasurer: Dr. William Bettridge**

► **Newsletter Contributors**

Editor: Simmona E. Simmons **Contributors:** Thomas Beck, John Breitmeyer, Kathleen Bruce, Linda Durkos, Katie Hand, Lindsey Loeper, Robin Moskal, Joyce Tenney, Larry Wilt

This newsletter is an occasional publication.

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