

BOOKMARK



Issue 7
2022

The magazine of the UMass Amherst Libraries



A PLACE FOR ALL
The Libraries' critical role in
supporting student success

Welcome,
Dean Mani!





28 The recently acquired papers of Yolande Du Bois Williams, W. E. B. Du Bois's granddaughter, reveal that like her grandfather, she was a collector of historical artifacts of a life spent educating and advocating.

3 **23rd Annual Fall Reception**
Virtual reality, 3D printing, green screens, Oh My!

6 **Falcon Curriculum Takes Flight**
Peregrine falcons have been nesting atop the W. E. B. Du Bois Library since the late 1990s. Twenty-five years later, they officially enter the classroom.

8 **Paperbark Magazine**
View artwork and poetry from Issue 4, thanks to donors of the Library Sustainability Fund.

10 **Meet the Team**
Every year, the Libraries employ more than 150 students.

12 **A Place for All**
The Libraries' critical role in supporting student success

16



New Voices in Old Rooms
The Porter-Phelps-Huntington Museum undertakes an ambitious reinterpretation with help from UMass Amherst archivists, students, and faculty.



20 **Homecoming Huddle**
During Homecoming Weekend, alumni and friends attended a conversation with former Patriots General Manager and author Upton Bell.



22 **To Live or Die for Freedom**
Glimpses from the Black Power Movement



29 **Election Reflections**
Materials from the Stephen Driscoll Collection of Political Ephemera were on display at Homecoming, in time for the mid-term elections.



ON THE COVER
Students studying in the Learning Commons in the W. E. B. Du Bois Library

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BOOKMARK
is the magazine of the UMass Amherst Libraries.

A note from the
Dean of University Libraries

Dear Friends,

My first semester at UMass Amherst has been a whirlwind of warm welcomes and opportunities to learn more about how the Libraries have impacted people and where we may be able to deepen our partnerships. Through my experience as Associate University Librarian at the University of North Carolina (UNC) Chapel Hill, I led the development of the UNC Libraries' data science initiative to articulate how the library could contribute to campuswide data science initiatives, as well as participated in the development of the UNC Libraries' Reckoning Initiative. The experience I bring from UNC aligns perfectly with the aspirations of the UMass Amherst Libraries and campus to advance student success, research, and social justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion, and I am working in collaboration with Library and campus leaders to outline ambitious new initiatives, partnerships, and goals to improve and expand the ways we serve our patrons and community. The Libraries are critical partners in advancing the university's teaching, learning, and research enterprise, and I look forward to delving into these areas with my team and all of you to ensure that the Libraries be recognized as the indispensable partner we are.

I have been inspired by the meetings I've had with donors and friends and appreciate the incredibly generous and bold commitments of support for our mission. When I speak with people—whether alumni, students, faculty, or friends—it is evident that the Libraries have played an important role in the success of so many people at UMass Amherst. With such amazing work going on in the Libraries, I've asked our communications team to publish two issues of *Bookmark* magazine a year!

In this issue, you will meet some of our incredible donors, like Upton Bell, The Honorable Stephen Driscoll '73, '75MEd, and Francesca and Bill Lenville, all of whom entrusted their valuable collections to us to be used by students, faculty, and the wider community to fuel limitless learning and teaching possibilities. You will also get to meet members of our spectacular student staff. We've got more students on campus (and online) this semester than ever before, so a huge shout out to our team who help make the Libraries' spaces and services open for all. We've featured a few of our student workers on pages 10 and 11 who inspire us every day with their energy and enthusiasm and help keep us connected to the pulse of the university.

I hope you enjoy learning more about the UMass Amherst Libraries' work in this issue of *Bookmark*, and I look forward to sharing even more with you in spring!

Nandita Mani

Nandita S. Mani, PhD
Dean of University Libraries



Nandita Mani, PhD, Dean of University Libraries, visits the election memorabilia exhibit curated by The Honorable Stephen Driscoll '73, '75MEd.

JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION (JEDI)

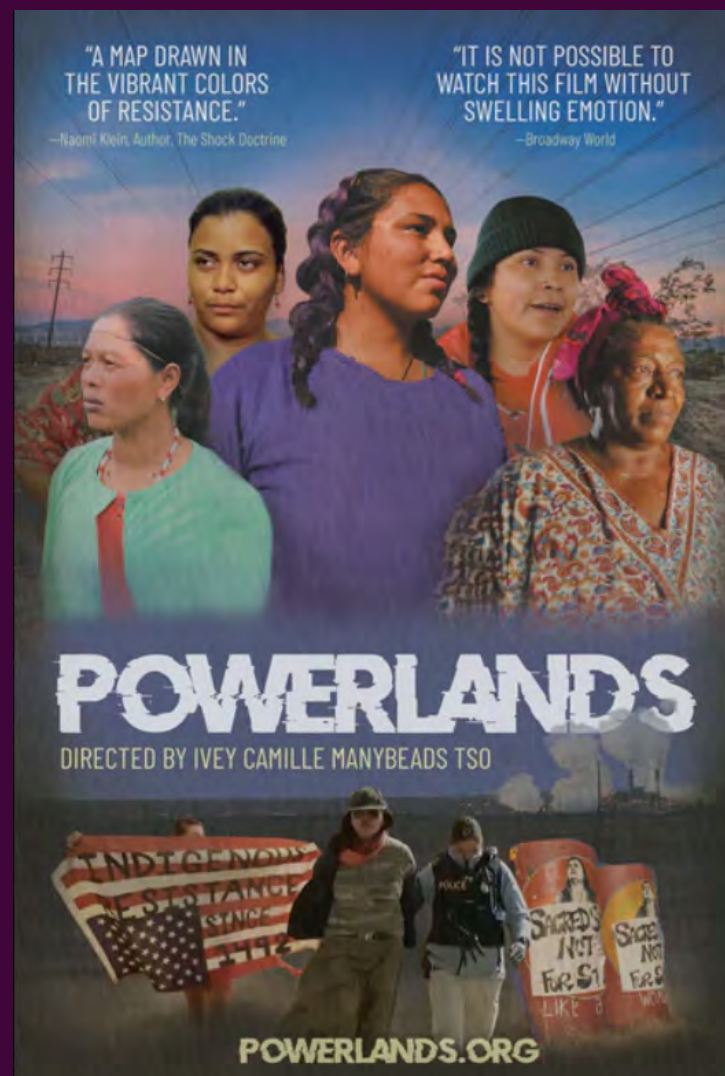


To celebrate Latinx Heritage Month in October, the Libraries co-sponsored a dance class, Move to Bomba (above). A diverse group of undergraduates, graduate students, UMass staff, and community members learned history and celebrated culture.

As part of Indigenous People's Month, the Libraries co-sponsored screenings of the movie *Powerlands*. The film's director, Ivey Camille Manybeads Tso, is an award-winning queer Navajo filmmaker who began working on the film when she was 19.

Tso's film investigates the displacement of Indigenous people and the devastation of the environment caused by the same chemical companies that exploited the land where she was born. She travels to the La Guajira region in rural Colombia, the Tampakán region of the Philippines, the Isthmus of Tehuantepec in Mexico, and the protests at Standing Rock. In each case, she meets Indigenous women leading the struggle against the corporations that are causing displacement and environmental catastrophe in her own home. Inspired by these women, Tso brings home the lessons from these struggles to the Navajo Nation.

In addition to the screening, there were discussions with the director; a Q&A with deans and faculty; and a dinner featuring Native American cuisine.



23rd Annual FALL RECEPTION



VIRTUAL REALITY, 3D PRINTING, GREEN SCREENS, OH MY!

Nearly 100 Library donors gathered in November to welcome Nandita Mani, the new Dean of University Libraries, and experience digital technologies used by our students and educators in the expanded Digital Media Lab. Student employees showcased equipment and projects from 3D visualization to podcasting.

“What an ambitious event,” said Tom Fels. “I was amazed at what present technology offers students today.” During dinner at the Old Chapel, guests had a chance to connect and learn about Dean Mani’s vision for the Libraries.



Top L to R: Nandita S. Mani, Dean of University Libraries; Trung Do '23, Mathematics, a XR/UMass Create student assistant in DML, chats with a guest; center, from left, Gary Tartokov, Irma McClaurin '76G, '89G, '93PhD, Nandita Mani, PhD, Carlie Tartakov. Below right: Provost John McCarthy '89 and Ellen Woodford check out a Museum in a Box with student employees Anusha Sankar '24 and Vani Korepu '26G; Guests connected with each other over dinner in the Old Chapel.



Adam Quiros, Digital Media Lab Desk Supervisor shows green screen technology to Tom and Jennifer Fels.



Luviana McLean '23, student employee in the Digital Scholarship Center chats with Dennis Bromery '86, '88G, and Linda Marston '75, '89 Ph.D.



COMMUNITIES as a Foundation for Action

The Libraries celebrated Open Access Week 2022, “Open for Climate Justice,” with a keynote address by Micah Vandegrift, Senior NIH Strategist and former open knowledge librarian at North Carolina State University.

Vandegrift began his keynote by showing old family photos of Hurricane Erin in 1995, which was the first time that he evacuated his home due to severe weather.

“I remember the mixed emotions... seeing my parents in deep anxiety,” Vandegrift said. “My experience is a far cry from any kind of climate displacement or serious concern, but it felt real to me as a young kid,” he added. “[It was] the first time I can recall at being awed at how the weather can radically change people’s lives.”

Vandegrift described the rise of open access from 1990s through today. A key turning point was the Obama Administration’s 2013 Holdren Memo, issued by the



Office of Science and Technology, saying that “the direct results of federally funded scientific research are made available to and useful for the public, industry, and the scientific community.” When he reached present-day, Vandegrift referred to this as an era of open science, “a renaissance in technology, for good and for ill.”

He recounted his experience at North Carolina State, saying he was “shocked, excited, [and] uneasy at how commonplace open access seemed to be” there. Public knowledge is “a recognition that change is occurring, and therefore we need to focus on adaptability and resilience as a research measure,” Vandegrift said.

Vandegrift’s address concluded by offering resources on how to get involved in the open access movement, directing participants to openclimatecampaign.org/get-involved. “Let’s listen to communities as a foundation for action,” Vandegrift stated. “Academic knowledge in the public sphere—that’s my goal,” he said.

Excerpted with permission from Mia Vittimberga ’26 October 26, 2022 story for the *Massachusetts Daily Collegian*.

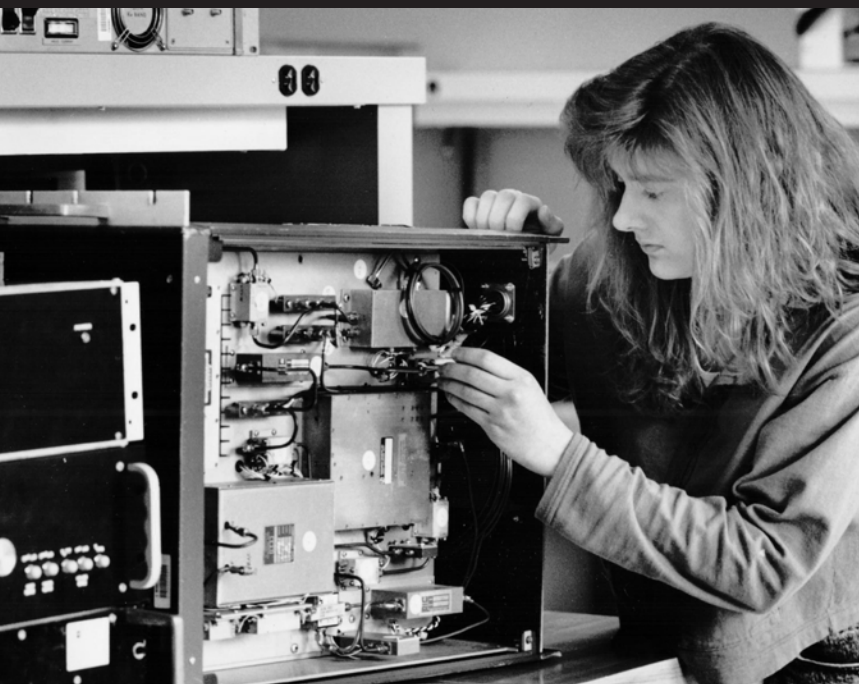


In July, we hosted the first Du Bois lecture since February 2020. The event was held at the Old Chapel and began with a reception followed by a keynote speech and dinner.

Phillip Luke Sinitiere, PhD, the Center’s Scholar in Residence, delivered the lecture, which focused on the history of the Du Bois Papers and their incredible significance as an archival resource. The event was attended by Du Bois scholars, friends, community members, faculty, university staff, and donors.

Above left: Phillip Luke Sinitiere, PhD; above right: 2022 Du Bois Fellows Rich Benson, PhD, University of Pittsburgh; LeTrice Donaldson, PhD, Texas A&M University; and David Hobbs, PhD, University of Lethbridge.

ENGINEERING@75



ON EXHIBIT THROUGH DECEMBER 2022
Science and Engineering Library
Lederle GRC Lowrise, Floor 2

“Engineering@75” marks the 75th anniversary of the College of Engineering. It contains a collection of archival documents and photographs spanning the decades from 1947 to the present day that reflect upon the events, research, everyday moments, and people that have helped shape the college.

Left: Ellen Martin Ferraro ’89, ’94PhD in radar laboratory, ca.1992

The Science and Engineering Library hosted five extra-curricular fun events during the fall semester, each themed and librarian-led, including origami flower-making with Paulina Borrego, building a roller coaster made of straws with Anne Graham, leaf and vegetable chromatography with Rebecca Reznik-Zellen, retro toys with Ellen Lutz, and the board game “Wingspan” with Melanie Radik.



FALCON CURRICULUM TAKES FLIGHT



Peregrine falcons have been nesting atop the W. E. B. Du Bois Library since the late 1990s. Twenty-five years later, they officially enter the classroom.

by Lauren Weiss
Associate Editor, Digital Content



Photo: Hoang "Leon" Nguyen/The Republican/Springfield, Massachusetts

Above, L to R: Margaret Krone '12MS, '25PhD, Lauren Weiss, Richard Nathhorst '79

A new peregrine falcon curriculum for pre-kindergarten through grade 12 is now freely available for educators worldwide to use, share, and remix, thanks to staff ingenuity, creative Massachusetts teachers, generous donors to the Library Sustainability Fund, and, of course, the resident falcons atop the W. E. B. Du Bois Library.

As the Libraries' associate editor of digital content and member of the falcon team, it is my privilege to monitor the rooftop livestream camera during the spring-summer nesting season and run the @DuBoisFalcons Twitter account to keep our falcon fans updated as eggs are laid and chicks hatch, grow up, and fledge. During the 2021 falcon nesting season, three Massachusetts teachers were streaming the live feed from the falcon camera into their kindergarten, first, and fifth-grade classrooms, and their students had lots of questions. Why do the falcon parents sit on their chicks? How can you tell which is the mom and which is the dad? How big are falcons compared to five-year-olds?

With help from Richard Nathhorst '79 (research facilities manager), Tom French (retired assistant director of MassWildlife's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program), and David Paulson '10MS (supervisor of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation Wildlife and Endangered Species Unit), I answered every question posed by the students throughout the nesting season. Additionally, I sent the classes stickers and falcon keychains, which were 3D-printed in the Libraries' Digital Media Lab,

encouraged the young fans to enter the falcon chick naming contest, and invited them to take part in the first annual FalConference, a free, virtual conference where the falcon team shared all things peregrine with bird lovers across the country. The students especially enjoyed watching the live Birds of Prey program hosted by local raptor rehabilitator Tom Ricardi of Conway, Mass., who is seasoned at engaging audiences of all ages, as he often speaks in classrooms and public libraries.

The positive feedback I received from the educators and their students, coupled with the success of the conference, led our falcon team and partners at MassWildlife to think about ways the Libraries could formalize outreach and share educational information with others who might be interested in incorporating the falcons into their classrooms. The idea for a falcon curriculum encompassing lessons for pre-kindergarten through grade 12 was hatched.

French and Paulson were particularly enthusiastic about the project as a way to teach young people about the science and history of this once-endangered species. "I am incredibly excited for the curriculum," Paulson says. "There is a lot of interest in this effort. The peregrines have really become a passion. Their recovery is a conservation success story, and they serve as ambassadors for conservation here in Massachusetts, being both charismatic and accessible."

In alignment with the Libraries' goal of accessibility, the curriculum was designed from the beginning to serve as an open educational resource (OER), meaning that it would be freely available to anyone, anywhere, to use and/or adapt.

The Libraries, and UMass Amherst as a whole, adhere to principles of open access and support the creation of OERs. The Libraries maintain an online open access institutional repository as well as partner with the Office of the Provost, the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL), and the Instructional Design, Engagement, and Support (IDEAS) group to award annual Open Education Initiative grants to UMass Amherst instructors to adopt, adapt, and develop OER materials.

While serving as interim dean of the Libraries, Sarah Hutton, PhD, reached out to Margaret Krone '12MS, '25PhD (College of Education). Krone had received a sustainability curriculum fellowship, a year-long interdisciplinary fellowship from the chancellor's office that provides funding toward developing or augmenting courses with sustainability-related topics. Krone eagerly accepted the task of going through the Common Core educational standards for pre-kindergarten through the 12th grade and selecting which standards would be appropriate to map to the falcon curriculum.

"I got involved with this project due to my love of OER and for creating engaging educational content," says Krone. "Products like this are important because they allow people to think creatively while using systems of structure or framework already in place." She says she learned much in the process and hopes the falcon curriculum "serves as a model for other people to learn about how to collaborate and build resources that are available to others."

Due to my work on the falcon team, I took on the roles of project researcher, resource collector, and lesson plan developer, building out STEM/STEAM-based activities for each Common Core standard Krone selected. A kindergarten standard outlining students' understanding of basic motion and forces, for example, begs the question, "How do birds fly?" with associated lesson plans of watching short videos, building paper birds with moveable wings, and even learning falcon flight-inspired yoga poses.

With regard to the short videos, I recruited my brother, Max Weiss, a recent graduate from Quinnipiac University's film studies program, to develop the curriculum's video content. Max's background is in producing engaging online educational content for students, so it was a perfect fit. "My passion for *Star Wars* led me to this project," Max says. "The creatures in the worlds of those films amaze me and encourage me to learn more about the real-life animals that many of them are based on."

Coincidentally, much to Max's and my delight, two of the winning entries in the 2022 Du Bois falcon chick naming contest were Han Solo and Chewbacca, the famous pilots of the *Millennium Falcon* in the *Star Wars* movies. Our Han and Chewie, along with their siblings Dewey Duck and June, and other Du Bois chicks from previous years,



This falcon yoga chart by illustrator Chloe Deeley '18 is an example of original content created for the falcon curriculum.

are featured in the videos, which focus on a range of topics from basic falcon information to their comeback from near extinction in North America.

We've been working on this project now for more than a year, and we hope that, like peregrine falcons, our curriculum "migrates" to local, national, and possibly even international educators looking to teach their students about these incredible birds.



Paperbark Magazine staff

Front row L to R:
Rachel Tanaka '25, Jen Valdies '25,
Veena Mohan '23, Evelyn Maguire '23,
Kathryn DiBlasio '23, Jane Feinsod '23;
Back row L to R:
Caroline Donaghey '23, Jade Gaynor '25,
Anna Chapman '27, Joseph Fritsch '25,
Noy Holland, professor of MFA program
for Poets and Writers, Georgia Ezell '24.

Photo by Caroline Donaghey '23



Thanks to donors of the Sustainability Fund, the Libraries can continue to co-sponsor *Paperbark Magazine* created by UMass Amherst students. Artwork and poetry from Issue 4 are on these two pages.

Paperbark contains art, essays, poetry, and short stories, with themes related to sustainability. Past issues can be viewed in their entirety at: scholarworks.umass.edu/paperbark/

Seeds & Spirits

chelsea
granger



michael rogner

Glacier

We are both being erased slowly in the sun. As they depart like elves at the end of books grasses rejoice. I imagine the foremost ice sage being born next Thursday and when she understands her gift everything will have melted. This is when it will help to be fond of brisk swimming in cirques. I took Going-to-the-Sun-Road and a hiker rolled a melon sized boulder which bounded as rocks are apt to do and fell one thousand feet to much surprise of our van door. One foot higher and pink mist where my head once sat pondering the rise of the automobile in planning departments. So thank you hiker. I hope you had a nice holiday and saw bears and such. You and I have murdered the glaciers. And yes if you are wondering it is too late. So drive fast with screeching tires. Burn it all. If we meet you will know almost nothing about me or the quiet worker bees at home in my liver but I do know that glacial milk is just water with suspended silt. I will push forward slowly which is all we can do. On my hike I stopped and rested with one foot on the dusty ice. A yellow bird landed on the glacier. The glacier moved. The bird flew. I placed a frozen sliver on my tongue which is as close as I got to the sun.

Transformation Station

chelsea
granger



tim moder

Herping

Yellow throated American Bullfrogs chant musky hymns as dusk descends upon the Empire swamp.

The Ranidae and the Hylidae— an ambrosian chorus of Spring Peepers; oracular, boreal, orphic psalms.

A smear of slime and Mink Frog eggs hovers on the surface of Muck Lake spreading indistinct, complementing

the reflection of the full moon. An Otter slides silently through the lily and the reedbed, herping.

MEET A FEW MEMBERS OF THE TEAM!

Every year, the Libraries employ more than 150 students to help with everything from lending laptops to reshelving books.



Kelsey Durant '24, works in Wadsworth Library, Mt. Ida campus. Hometown: Oxford, Mass. Insiders tip: "The loft of the Wadsworth Library is a great place to study!" Fun fact: "I have a rescue pup named Sundance and a betta fish named Bo, they're both very good boys!"



Jordan Richo '23, English major, works in the Development and Communication Dept. in Du Bois Library. Hometown: Herndon, Va. "My favorite spot in the Libraries is the courtyard outside of the Learning Commons." Fun fact: She reads tarot cards and is involved in two K-Pop dance teams.



Rohini Josh '25, Biomedical Engineering major, works in the Digital Media Lab. Hometown: Andover, Mass. Favorite spot: "The Lower Level group study rooms and the Learning Commons: great place to study and hang out with friends." Hobbies: Drawing and crafting.



Andrew Bielecki '24, History & Anthropology dual major, works in the Robert S. Cox Special Collections and University Archives Research Center. Hometown: Tewksbury, Mass. Favorite spot: "The 8th floor is the best study spot—always super quiet and it's not crowded except for finals week." Fun Fact: "I've started learning Turkish and Arabic recently—very cool languages that I would recommend to anyone of any skill level."

Thank you!
I was able to find a job on campus
at the library and support myself.
As well as have a place to focus and
study! 😊
-Sanya Psychology Major
Class of 2024



Mana Kalra '25, journalism major. Works as a Library Outreach Assistant. Hometown: New Delhi, India. Favorite spot: "The 16th floor for the win! Private study rooms are the best." Fun fact: "I would like to believe I can sing pretty decently :)"



Ruth Tony-Alabi '24, Political Science major, works in the Science and Engineering Library (SEL). Hometown: Johannesburg, South Africa. "The chairs and desks up against the window on the quiet floor in SEL are one of my favorite places to write." Fun fact: "I'm a tap dancer."



Kevin Bean '23MS (with Library falcon), Geography major. Works at Wadsworth Library, Mt. Ida campus. Hometown: Islington, Mass. Favorite place to study: Steinbrenner Computer Lab, Wadsworth Library. Fun Fact: "I've met every Secretary of Education that has served in the 21st century (so far)."



Mehak Tulsyan '23, Computer Science, works at the Information Desk in Du Bois Library lobby. Hometown: Calcutta, India. Favorite spot: "I love the 23rd floor. It has the best view, and also the calmness to study on your own." Fun fact: "I like to explore new places and new cuisines."



Bingo night on Floor 2 in Du Bois Library

A Place for ALL

The Libraries' critical role in supporting student success

The Libraries' former map room is now a destination in its own right.

With the removal of oversized maps and books from half a floor in the W. E. B. Du Bois Library, the space is opened up and outfitted with movable furniture that glides easily to support casual groupings and impromptu project spaces. Existing shelving holds board games, puzzles, and an assortment of craft materials, free for students to use and share. Whiteboards bookend the entryway with information about the space, trivia questions, and little doodles left by anonymous visitors.

One corner of the room filled with comfy seats sports the EconoLodge logo; the motel was an overflow housing respite for students early in the fall term—a space of their own, on campus. The north end of the room is used as a staging area for the weekly Libraries Outreach Series events, ranging from bingo and board games to arts and crafts and open mic nights.

In a nod to the floor's former role, a world map hangs opposite the entryway, inviting those who stop by to pin their hometown on the map. The space, currently referred to as "RECESS" (Recharge, Engage, Connect, Energize, Support, and Succeed) until students name it via a contest, is designed to be welcoming to everyone and foster a sense of belonging.

What does any of this have to do with the business of being an academic library?

Of the more than 300 Libraries Outreach Series attendees surveyed to date, every student respondent has indicated these activities helped with a combination of well-being, making connections, relaxing,

and recharging. Many commented that they appreciated: "being able to wind down and take my mind off things"; "meeting new people, the chill environment"; and "[relaxing] with friends in a space big enough for all of us."

More than 90 percent of students surveyed said they would be more likely to use library services and resources after attending a Libraries Outreach Series event.

"Creating spaces where students feel they belong is a critical component of supporting student success," says Dean of Libraries Nandita S. Mani, PhD. "Feeling like they belong helps students make connections, which directly supports their mental health and their academic journey."

"Learning to live well and attend to one's mental health are skills college students can and should develop during this

time, and academic libraries are increasingly playing a role in this part of the student experience," extolled editors Sara Holder and Amber Lannon in their 2020 book *Student Wellness and Academic Libraries: Case Studies and Activities for Promoting Health and Success*, published by the Association of Colleges and Research Libraries (ACRL).

College students' sense of belonging continues to be an important predictor of mental health. That's why Dean Mani hit the ground running in her first few weeks, working with campus leaders to support and grow a sense of belonging across campus.

During fall 2021, the Office of Equity and Inclusion (OEI) kicked off *Belonging@UMass*, a series of educational and inspiring talks, panels, and workshops for students, staff, and faculty, to learn about equity, inclusion, and belonging for all.

"*Belonging@UMass* grew out of a desire to create a strong, unified sense of community while improving the experience of campus groups that feel a lower average sense of belonging," says Nefertiti Walker, vice chancellor and chief diversity officer.

Along with courses, housing assignments, and financial burden, today's college students are exposed to stressors that can stretch far beyond the expected strain of staying on top of studies. Students can become overwhelmed by a culture of erratic sleep schedules and eating habits, emerging financial independence (and its associated pitfalls), and taxing social relationships, all while under the pressure of supposedly living the best years of their lives. The coronavirus pandemic exacerbated those conditions.

Universities have been in the trenches of a mental health crisis for at least the last decade. In 2019, experts began releasing data that displayed thoroughly for the first time that college students were struggling in record numbers with mental health crises, and that universities and colleges were working to expand resources to keep them afloat. In order to be effective, attention to well-being needs to pervade all aspects of campus culture.

In line with educational institutions' emphasis on student well-being, many academic libraries, like the UMass Amherst Libraries, have been creating their own wellness

initiatives. Libraries' growing involvement in supporting well-being on campuses has been identified as one of the 2020 top trends in academic libraries by the ACRL.

The emerging interest in developing library services, programs, and spaces that facilitate student wellness is an example of a social turn in library innovation, or a shift from collection-based to community-oriented service models. In this new framework, libraries take a holistic approach to the student experience, actively seeking partners and collaborators within and beyond the institution.

As educators and advocates, serving students must be at the center of the campus's work, says Pearson, director of New Student Orientation and Transitions. "The creation of this space is a testament to putting students first. The Libraries should be

a liberating, inclusive environment where students can feel intimately connected and cared for, and that is what the creation of RECESS has done. Many incoming students have a limited perspective of what a library can provide, and our library continues to raise the standard."

More than 91 percent of students surveyed said they would be more likely to use Library services and resources after attending a Libraries Outreach Series event.



Craft night: Door decoration workshop

Game Nights & Dog Kisses

Libraries Outreach Series (clockwise from top left): Mini-golf; Little e; a cappella; Halloween; craft night: 3D pumpkin painting; open mic; card making workshop



The Libraries have long been focused on welcoming all students, including finding creative ways to bring them through the doors. Before the pandemic, the Libraries offered Finals Fun with snacks and arts and crafts to de-stress and partnered with peer health educators on campus to provide canine cuddles twice a semester with Bright Spot Therapy Dogs.

spring 2021, which, in addition to game nights, offered weekly activities such as yoga, virtual concerts, an open mic night, and online visits with the therapy dogs. For the 2021–2022 school year, the Outreach Series moved to in-person, which allowed for even more types of events, including arts and crafts activities and an improv workshop.

During remote learning, connecting with students became even more important. After working together on a successful fundraiser for the Student Care and Emergency Response Fund, Annette Vadnais, student success and outreach librarian (also known as the Purple Hair Librarian), and Lauren Weiss, associate editor of digital content, hosted the Libraries' first virtual Get Your Game On board game night. More than 70 students logged in on Zoom and spent almost two hours playing bingo, Pictionary, Scattergories, and trivia. As the event wrapped up, a number of attendees asked for more events like it.

Equipped with survey data proving the impact of the Libraries' focus on well-being, Vadnais and Weiss proposed converting the unused map room on Floor 2 in the Du Bois Library into a study break space with games, crafts, and opportunities for connection as well as a central location for the Libraries Outreach Series.

With students craving opportunities for connection, and the Libraries being an interdisciplinary unit that serves all, Vadnais and Weiss built out a bimonthly virtual game night series for the rest of the semester.

The runaway success of those events led to the development of the Libraries Outreach Series during



Above, right: Paws Program therapy dogs; Below: Get Your Game On



Spaces for student wellness embedded in places where intellectual wellness is already supported on campus provide the best opportunities for students seeking assistance. “Student success, student well-being, and student belonging

must be integrated, collaborative work from our entire campus,” says Pearson. “The Libraries’ creation of RECESS demonstrates their commitment to student success, and to listening to the campus and institutional student needs.”



L to R: Annette Vadnais and Lauren Weiss



Above: Joshua dos Reis '23, UMass student in public history and the museum's summer tour guide. Photo: Carol Lollis, *Daily Hampshire Gazette*

New Voices *in* Old Rooms

By Madeline Zelazo '22

When the Porter-Phelps-Huntington Museum in Hadley, Mass., opened in 1949, visitors learned about six generations of the family that lived there while strolling through rooms of imported furnishings and other decorative examples of refined taste. The original experience was curated by James Lincoln Huntington, who opened the museum, actively shaped its interpretation, and, until his death in 1968, led most tours of the house himself.

Seven decades later, visitors to the museum now hear stories that encompass the lives of many people who lived and worked on the farm known as “Forty Acres”: free and enslaved Black and Indigenous people, and the Porter-Phelps-Huntington women who kept the family farm running for over 200 years, some of whom were active abolitionists. This retelling is thanks to decades of work by the Porter-Phelps-Huntington family, the

Foundation, the Museum, and UMass Amherst students and faculty working to help reinterpret the site through its extensive collection—thousands of letters written between scores of relatives and hundreds of objects original to the farm and home.

To make the house conform to his vision of genteel domesticity, James Lincoln Huntington transformed a summer home into a Colonial showplace. As he restored the property, he erased other parts of his family's past. Victorian era furniture was tucked away, and the places where work was done—the barn and the outbuildings—were sold or torn down. The house that remained emphasized his ancestors' gentility, destroying evidence of the complex labor and social relationships that linked the household at Forty Acres to the community and region.

The reinterpretation of the historic house museum is the

result of a unique partnership forged between the Porter-Phelps-Huntington Foundation and the UMass Amherst Libraries; the two institutions formally pledged to work together to support ongoing research and outreach efforts. In 2021, the foundation moved its extensive archive, the Porter-Phelps-Huntington Family Papers, to the Robert S. Cox Special Collections and University Archives Research Center (SCUA) to facilitate, among other objectives, the work of UMass graduate students and faculty researchers actively uncovering the diverse stories the site holds, such as its ties to the Atlantic slave trade and the displacement of native Nonotuck peoples.

“We knew the papers needed to be in a place where people could continue to work with them. They had to stay accessible,” says Karen Sanchez-Eppler, head of the board of directors of the Porter-Phelps-Huntington Foundation. “Collecting regional history is a priority for the research center, and the campus's commitment to social justice resonated with the family. It's also a rich collection for understanding agricultural history, so it fits with UMass in many ways.”

The papers had previously been on deposit at Amherst College and are now permanently part of UMass Amherst's collections. Because of its timespan, the collection has been extremely valuable in enabling scholars to think about patterns across large demographic swaths. Another motive for the move, and one reason the collection is so distinctive,

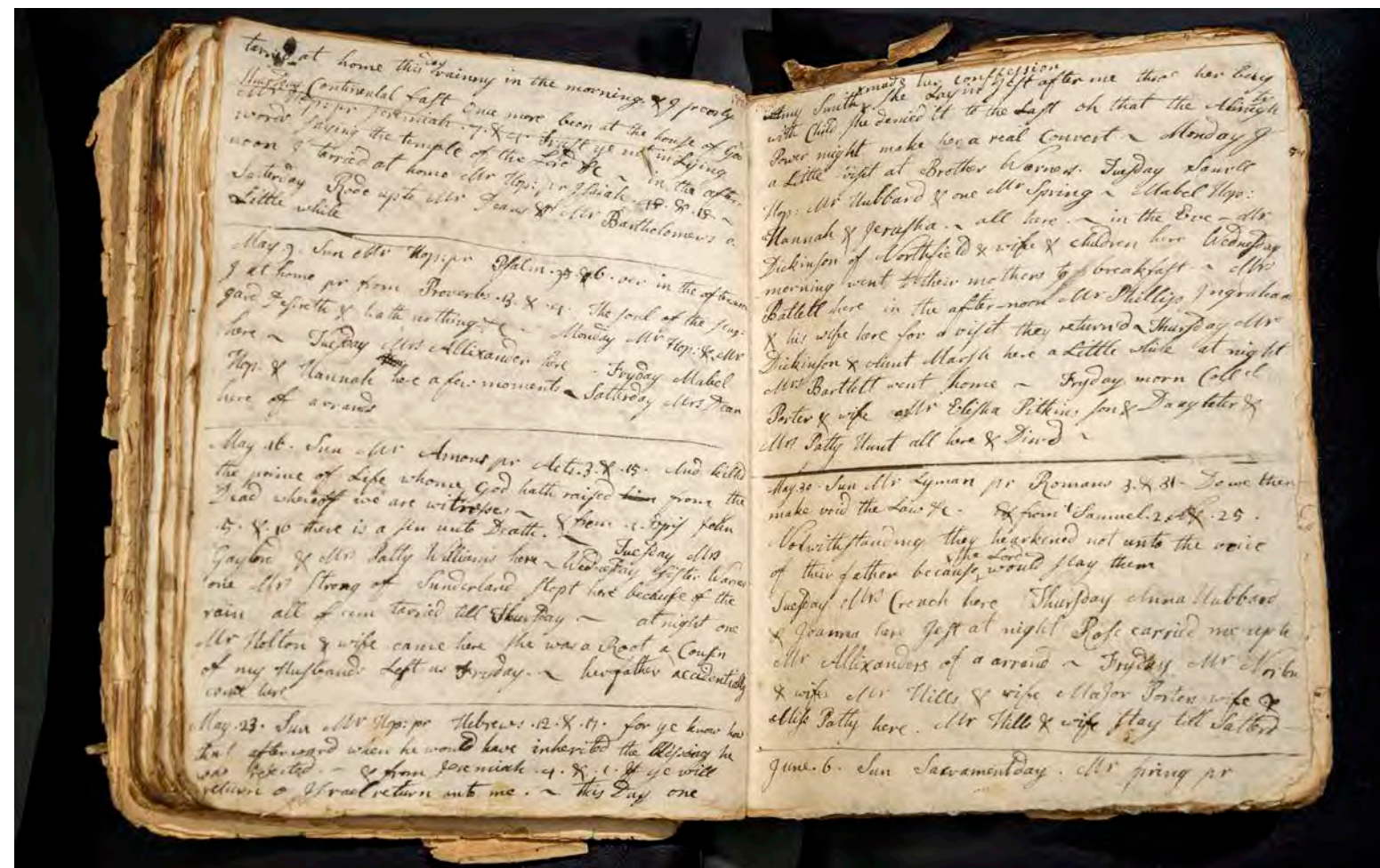
is because it is continuously expanding. “It keeps growing and changing as family members continue to donate more papers,” Sanchez-Eppler says.

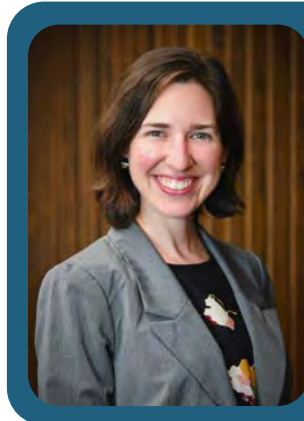
The meticulously kept records and documents provide a wealth of original source material for researchers. One item in particular, Elizabeth Porter Phelps's extensive diary covering all facets of daily life, is considered to be one of the most important documents of the time period for understanding American culture, says Joshua dos Reis '23, a UMass student in public history and the museum's summer tour guide. “Not just by the museum,” he adds, “but by the historical community at large.”

UMass's connections with the collection stretch back to the late 1980s when then-student Kari Harmon (née Federer) '87 organized, described, and processed the family papers for her senior project. Harmon's work resulted in the original guide to the collection's contents and arrangement.

“In the 1990s, the museum undertook its first reinterpretation initiative, which wanted to think about broader stories the site could tell, and it really responded to the flourishing of women's history,” says UMass Amherst history professor Marla Miller, who guides graduate students' current work in the collection. “One of the outcomes was that the site shifted its focus to the women's and labor history stories, so the tour was about the family who lived there, and also about the women who lived

Below: Pages from the diary of Elizabeth Phelps Huntington, ca. 1775.





In October, PhD candidate Alison Russell led the discussion “Charles Porter Phelps, Citizen of the United States: Constructing Identity in the Transatlantic Trade,” on the construction of citizenship and American economics in Hadley and the wider world, particularly with regard to slave labor after it was abolished in Massachusetts, based on her work in the Porter-Phelps-Huntington Papers.

The work to reinterpret the museum was made possible through a National Endowment for the Humanities “More Perfect Union” grant, an “Expand Massachusetts Stories” grant from the Mass Humanities Foundation, and an “Underrepresented Communities” grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

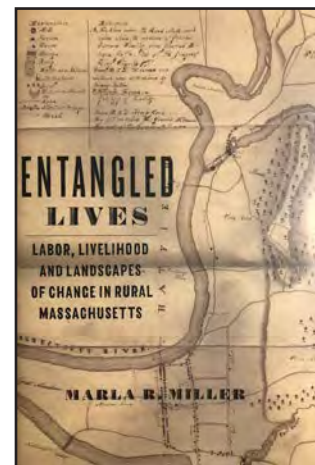
and worked there, and also the women and men who were enslaved there.”

In 2002, during a family reunion celebrating the 250th anniversary of the estate, foundation board members were met with pleas from the family to continue studying the collection. “My sense is that the family had a sense of their own history from the get-go. They saved everything,” says Susan Lisk, the executive director of the Porter-Phelps-Huntington Foundation. “The museum, from the beginning, was an archive, and James Lincoln Huntington always understood that was a strength.”

Beyond paper records, the museum’s weathered beams and floorboards have preserved a 270-year-long physical history of dairy farmers, laborers, slaves, indentured servants, seamstresses, Indigenous people, and Hadley elite. The Porter-Phelps-Huntington Museum is a rambling house with many additions, all filled with mostly original furnishings. It’s a shining local example of early settlement and significant architectural nonconformity.

The estate’s first sections were constructed in 1752 and then continuously owned, improved, and expanded by six generations of a Hadley “River God” family—a local lineage that prospered from trade along the Connecticut River. The main house and the surrounding estate operated as a farm and comfortable summer home for nearly two centuries before being converted into a museum by its last family occupant.

Professor Marla Miller works directly with students on the retelling of the museum’s story through the archives. Miller first became involved in the project while researching her 2019 book *Entangled Lives*, an examination of the Anglo, African, and Native American women who lived

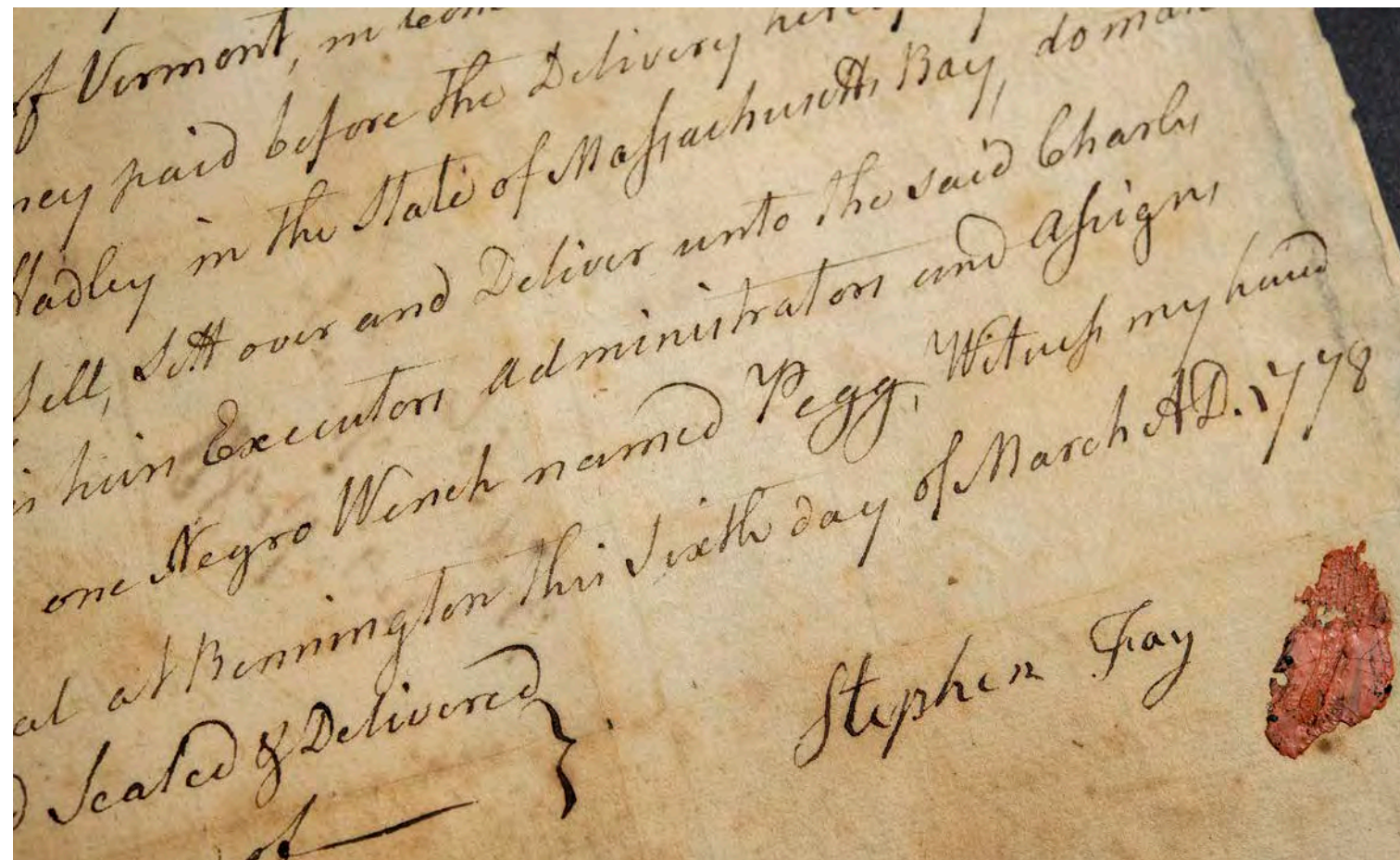


in Hadley during the town’s transformation following the Revolutionary War. In the wake of racial reckoning following the murder of George Floyd, “the museum wanted to do more, to surface even more diverse stories,” says Miller.

UMass public history graduate students have been working for two years on grant-funded projects focused on the reinterpretation of the site: to rewrite the National Register of Historic Places nomination; to uncover the twentieth-century rural Hadley Black community; and to redesign the museum’s tour in a way that encompasses the lives of all the people who lived and worked there.

Students have undertaken research to understand the ways in which people and communities articulate their understanding of their own history. Miller explained that, for instance, a visitor might look at the mahogany tea table and appreciate the artistry in it and the skill of the carver, because it’s a beautiful thing that this wealthy family could afford to purchase. “Now we think about what it meant to consume mahogany in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries,” says Miller, “because mahogany, like many things, was dependent on a large, enslaved workforce.”

Graduate student Alison Russell ’26PhD has worked to uncover the family’s ties to the Atlantic slave trade. In her research, she studied a box of receipts originally found in the attic of the barn at the museum that document Charles Porter Phelps’s involvement in and profit from Cuban sugar imports that he resold in a multitude of places, including Europe. “He made connections in Denmark and Russia, and there are these letters from Saint Petersburg and a city in Russia called Archangel. It is amazing what connects with Hadley,” says Russell.



Receipt for purchase of an enslaved person, Pegg, by Charles Phelps, Jr., 1778.

Graduate student Brian Whetstone ’25PhD is updating the museum’s original successful 1973 National Register of Historic Places nomination, to better encapsulate its historical significance. “I like to say that nominations in those days were kind of like the Wild West, like you could kind of just say whatever or do whatever. Their standards hadn’t really been established for this practice yet,” Whetstone explains, adding that only 3 percent of nominations are ever updated to represent new history.

The original nomination only mentioned early settlement and architecture as criteria, glossing over the agricultural importance of the site and much of its other history.

“Our task was to both literally and physically expand the nomination as well as tie in stories that the original nomination had overlooked,” says Whetstone. In his research, Whetstone studied how James Lincoln Huntington manipulated the site by removing farm structures no longer in use to tell a story of what he considered to be significant about the site. “He was interested in a romanticized idea about Colonial life where everyone was bred in dignity and refinement and they all lived genteel lives,” says Whetstone. “Meanwhile, they had enslaved laborers at the house that were making that possible.”



This past summer, PhD candidate Brian Whetstone gave the talk “Conserving the Connecticut Valley: Placing Preservation at Porter-Phelps-Huntington Museum.” The talk explored the Porter-Phelps-Huntington Museum within the historic preservation movement of the broader Connecticut River Valley region and examined the role of historic preservation at this site known as “Forty Acres” since its transformation into a house museum beginning in the 1920s. Whetstone has generated nominations to the National Register of Historic Places and is cochair of the National Council on Public History’s New Professional and Student Committee.

Play by Play by Play

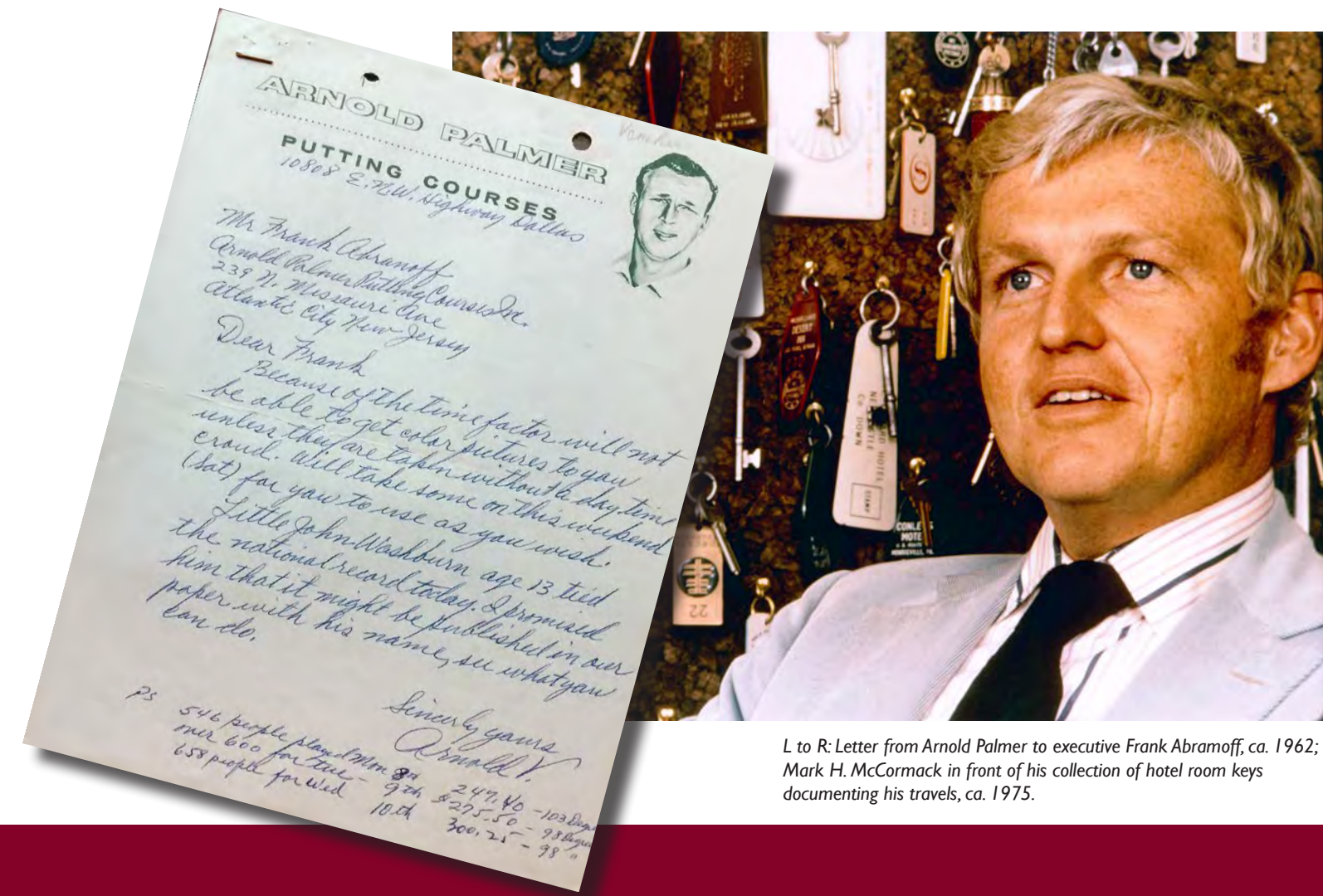
A handshake with Arnold Palmer in 1960 launched what would become the largest sport management company in the world, IMG Worldwide. Its founder, Mark H. McCormack, soon signed Gary Player, Jack Nicklaus, Björn Borg, Chris Evert, and Derek Jeter, and later, a host of other athletes and celebrities, all the way to Tiger Woods.

In 2010, when the Mark H. McCormack Collection came to UMass, educators and library leaders knew the thousands of boxes containing letters, memos, and other documents would help explain how the late McCormack built the company. Throughout his career, McCormack kept meticulous records using unique tracking, referred to as the “chron files”—short for chronology. They include memos, letters, business schedules, agendas, and more, all organized by months and years.

Lisa Pike Masteralexis, senior associate dean and professor of sport management, who helped secure the collection for UMass, explains that McCormack would send these files to his children to read so

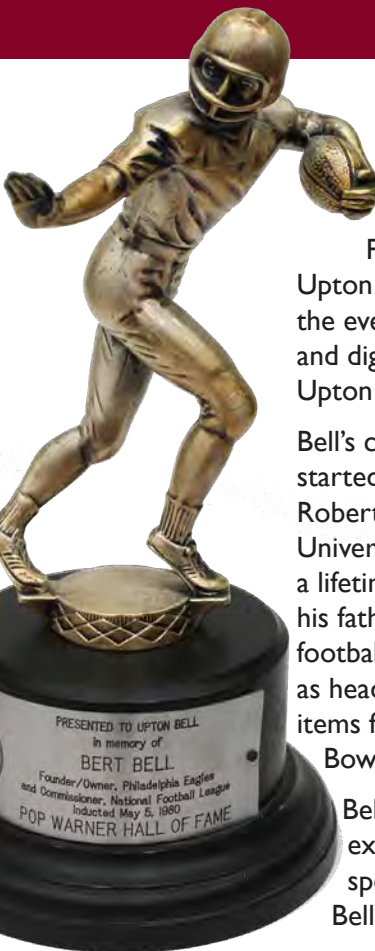
they could understand the business. “There’s a wealth of knowledge in the entire collection,” says Pike Masteralexis. “You can see how the man was thinking.”

The Robert S. Cox Special Collections and University Archives Research Center (SCUA) has completed phase one of a project to digitize McCormack’s correspondence and files, providing online access to internal memos and letters with clients and other corporations. The documents cover the period from 1958, before the founding of IMG, to 1994, with more than 50,000 items. Thanks to new funding from the McCormack family, SCUA will begin phase two for digitizing and creating metadata on the rest of the correspondence and files covering 1994 until McCormack’s death in 2003. The complete digitized records will provide access for students, faculty, and the public to over 85,000 documents in the collection through SCUA’s digital repository, Credo (credo.library.umass.edu).



L to R: Letter from Arnold Palmer to executive Frank Abramoff, ca. 1962; Mark H. McCormack in front of his collection of hotel room keys documenting his travels, ca. 1975.

Homecoming Huddle



During Homecoming Weekend, alumni and friends conversed with former Patriots General Manager and author Upton Bell. In partnership with UMass Athletics, the event celebrated the opening of both physical and digital exhibits highlighting items from the Upton Bell Collection.

Bell’s connection to UMass Amherst started with his 2018 donation to the Robert S. Cox Special Collections and University Archives Research Center of a lifetime of artifacts from his and his father’s careers in professional football, including Bell’s Super Bowl ring earned as head scout for the Baltimore Colts. Several items from the collection, including the Super Bowl ring, were on display at the event.

Bell, media personality and former NFL executive, discussed his life and career with sport innovation archivist Kirstin Kay. Upton Bell’s career in professional football began



in the early 1960s while he was working at the Baltimore Colts training camp and ticket office; he had advanced to head scout by the end of the decade. Bell served the team through two NFL Championships and two Super Bowls, winning Super Bowl V in 1971. After leaving the Colts, Bell was hired as general manager of the Boston Patriots, encouraging their name change to the New England Patriots. Bell then began a broadcasting career in Boston, where for more than 40 years he has been a host and commentator covering the country’s top newsmakers. He is a three-time AP Talk Radio Award winner and author of *Present at the Creation: My Life in the NFL and the Rise of America’s Game*.

Upton Bell is the son of Bert Bell, NFL commissioner from 1946 to 1959. Growing up inside the early NFL, Upton witnessed his father’s leadership: implementing a proactive anti-gambling policy; negotiating a merger with

the All-America Football Conference (AAFC); bringing professional football successfully to television; creating the NFL Draft; and initiating the “sudden death” rule, which launched the meteoric rise in the popularity of professional football.



Upton Bell Collection on display at the Homecoming football game.



L to R: Kirstin Kay, Sport Innovation Archivist; Upton Bell; Nandita S. Mani, Dean of University Libraries; Chancellor Kumble R. Subbaswamy; Upton’s wife JoAnne O’Neill; Jeffrey Rothenberg, Executive Director of Development, UMass Amherst Libraries.

To LIVE and DIE for FREEDOM

GLIMPSES FROM THE BLACK POWER MOVEMENT

by Aaron Yates '22G, PhD candidate sociology,
Du Bois Doctoral Fellow 2019-2021



I first realized that all stories have a point of view when I read *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*. I was a 13-year-old 7th grader in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1997.

Growing up, I had been told that Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr., represented opposite poles—strategically and morally—of what it meant to struggle for Black freedom in America. According to the conventional narrative, King represented the righteous, sane, and morally defensible approach to the freedom struggle, while X represented Black anger erupting into indiscriminate violence. It was in X's telling of his own story that I first gained an appreciation for the importance of understanding the historical and social context within which these men and their communities struggled.

The Robert S. Cox Special Collections and University Archives Research Center recently acquired the Frankie Ziths Collection, believed to be the largest public collection on the East Coast of materials related to the Black Panther Party (BPP), Black Liberation Army (BLA), and National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners (NCDPP). When I heard the news, I felt that same sense of curiosity that I experienced more than two decades before while reading X's autobiography. As with Malcolm X, everything I heard growing up had painted the Panthers in the same light: violent, extreme, dangerous. Over the years I encountered other perspectives, but reliable information felt hard to come by.

The Ziths Collection is a chance to explore the records and stories of the Panthers in their own words, curated by their own hands: who they were, what they experienced, and what it meant for their individual lives and the struggle for Black freedom. I had never heard of Ziths, or his role as photographer and coordinator of BPP programs in New York City and the Harlem branch office during the 1970s. As I learned about him, I began to see Ziths as an increasingly complex figure. His personal history intertwined with the social histories in which he was embedded.

I found three distinct lines of inquiry inspired by the collection that seem fruitful directions for both teaching and research. The first is about the Black experience of, and resistance to, the carceral state in the mid- to late twentieth century. Ziths's early involvement documenting the Panther

21 trial lives on in photos and in handwritten courtroom notes. The trial ended in acquittal for all 21 Black Panther members when it was discovered undercover police played key organizing roles as agents provocateurs. Through posters, pamphlets, and flyers for campaigns to free Black political prisoners, the records and correspondence of the NCDPP, and numerous letter exchanges between Ziths and various prisoners, the collection offers multiple entry points for study and learning. There are records of funds sent to prisoners for commissary, as well as letters to convey news about the movement or family and friends on the outside. There are book-length manuscripts and plays written by Black prisoners, as well as poems and drawings by Assata Shakur, a prominent member of the BPP and BLA who continues to live in exile in Cuba after escaping from prison in the late 1970s. In 2013, she became the first female ever to be placed on the FBI's most wanted list, and she remains on the list to this day.

Jamal Joseph is another individual for whom many materials have been collected in the archive, ranging from poetry to letters to a play. Joseph was one of the BPP members who stood trial as one of the Panther 21, and like Shakur eventually left the BPP to join the BLA. Joseph continued his career as a poet, playwright, and author. He is now a professor of film at Columbia University and has written, directed, and produced numerous films and television projects.

What might we learn through these archives about how the community connected and thought about their experiences on either side of the prison system? What can these materials teach us about the ways communities support each other through the disruptions of incarceration? What can we learn about the relationship among suffering, resistance, and artistic expression by studying the poetry and art produced by individuals like Assata Shakur and Jamal Joseph?

A second line of inquiry has to do with the internal dynamics of social movements. Sometimes we have access to narratives regarding the overall trajectory of a movement, and even some theories as to why it met (or did not meet) with various successes or failures. An inside look into the relationships between key figures in those movements is often more elusive. The Ziths Collection offers a bit of both. It contains news clippings and other publications produced by organizations outside the movement describing various events and individuals. It also contains the personal correspondence between Ziths and numerous other Panther

Popular stories are never innocent, and archives help close the gap between the 'official' narratives and those that belong to the people.

members and other Black activists, as well as many issues of Black-produced news covering the same periods and events as the mainstream clippings. Some of the letters between Ziths and other activists were about technical aspects of taking and developing photos, while others illustrate the day-to-day workings of the office. Letters detail arguments about how to conduct BPP business, the responsibility for the Gestetner 360 Mimeograph (which is part of the collection), and the accuracy of narratives circulating about Panther-related court cases. One notable clipping is a circa 1972 interview with Huey Newton, co-founder of the BPP, published in *Playboy Magazine*. The interview goes into depth regarding the history of the party, its early rhetoric and tactics, the change in emphasis from rhetoric to building up community “survival programs,” and various conflicts and schisms within the party.

It seems only fair that a movement and its key figures and groups should be studied (and assessed) in a manner that takes seriously the perspective of those seeking relief from oppression. For generations, Black people in America have been at the mercy of violent state-sanctioned repression and social control, from slavery and convict leasing, to segregation and redlining, to white flight and mass incarceration. Justice is learning to see the struggle for freedom through Black eyes and hear it from Black voices. What might we learn from an in-depth analysis of the tone, contents, and etiquette in the interactions and exchanges among these activists? What new insights might emerge from the juxtaposition of the mainstream news media and Black news sources of the 1970s?

The third line of inquiry is about revolutionary movements and the potential of the archive for painting fuller and more lifelike portraits of their features. Often political movements are reduced to analyses of their supposed ideologies and where their ideas fall along a given spectrum of political thought. The materials in the Ziths Collection allow the

possibilities of examining the relationship of public rhetoric and ideology with private correspondence and interpersonal communication. They contain information about the practical everyday activities of the BPP, BLA, and NCDPP that illustrate some of the ways rhetoric and ideology were enacted. Among the most striking ways the collection does this is through the extensive records of campaigns related to political prisoners and various types of courtroom activism, and in the vast number of published pamphlets and other materials produced for distributing information and political education. Article after article details the philosophy behind urban guerrilla warfare, providing practical instructions for the preparation of homemade munitions, diagrams illustrating proper gun cleaning and care, the documentation of various actions, and the state response. Many of the materials reflect a heavy Marxist influence, in terms of the political analyses presented about the condition of Black life in the United States (and beyond) as well as in symbolic forms.

What could we learn from these materials about Black efforts toward grassroots political education in the 1960s through the 1980s? What points of convergence

and divergence might be found between the sort of Black Marxism mobilized in the materials and other Marxist movements, contemporary or otherwise?

In the era of Black Lives Matter, a resurgence of white nationalist politics, and constant threats of economic, political, and social instability, there is still a pressing need to confront ongoing injustices that previous generations fought to overcome. Part of that struggle involves a refusal to accept simplistic narratives that suggest that the protesters themselves are the problem; these same narratives that tell us that elected representatives and agencies of the state—courts,



Above: Wanted poster of Assata Shakur (as Joanne Chesimard), altered by unknown hand.

Right: Mimeograph machine used to produce Black Panther and other movement literature.

Opposite: Bullhorn with Black Liberation stickers. According to Jamal Joseph, bullhorns were used by Panthers to gain the attention of crowds in the street with loud blasts. Once they had the crowd's attention, Panther speakers would begin their impromptu speeches.



schools, police, or even public water and power departments—only act in the best interests of the common good.

With Black voices silenced for so long, the public access facilitated by the Robert S. Cox Special Collections and University Archives Research Center at UMass Amherst to collections like Ziths's represents a resource of incalculable value. It holds the possibilities for the emergence of many more narratives of justice about the promises, pitfalls, and perils faced by protagonists in the Black freedom struggle, especially during the 1960s and 1970s.

Aaron Yates '22G is a doctoral candidate in sociology at UMass Amherst. His research interests center on science, religion, and the role of knowledge in the advancement of civilization. His work considers the connections between social scientific theories of progress and movements for social change that disrupt or reproduce entrenched systems of racial, Colonial, and gendered domination. He draws inspiration from W. E. B. Du Bois's conviction that knowledge is necessary for emancipation, and seeks to explore the conditions under which scientific knowledge production is a means of liberation rather than oppression. During his time as a graduate fellow at the Du Bois Center, Aaron served for a year as coordinator of the Center's weekly Breakfasts with Du Bois.



LEARNING with a GRAIN of PSALT



Bill Lenville loved books. So much so that he amassed a collection of thousands, many of them rare. Thanks to the generosity of Bill and his wife, Francesca, his collection came to the Libraries when he passed. Having taken such pleasure from consulting and reading his books, Bill wanted them to be used and in the hands of students. In a graduate course on medieval manuscripts,

art history professor Sonja Drimmer and students work with a 15th century psalter, a book of Psalms, from the Lenville Library Collection in the Robert S. Cox Special Collections and University Archives Research Center. The students will be doing research on the manuscript as part of their semester-long studies. We can't wait to find out what they uncover.



From top: Professor Sonja Drimmer and students consult a psalter from the Lenville Library Collection; close-up of the psalter. Right: Bill and Francesca Lenville



UNDER THE INFLUENCE

Imbued with the generous spirit of Lester Grinspoon, family and friends help the Libraries' drug policy fund hit a high note

Lester Grinspoon brought people together. On June 24, 2022, the day the late Harvard-trained psychiatrist, who became an advocate for reforming marijuana prohibition laws, would have turned 94, more than 100 people gathered at UMass Amherst for a daylong symposium celebrating his legacy as a drug policy pioneer.

Housing the Lester Grinspoon Papers alongside the records of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) and the Marijuana Policy Project, among others, the Robert S. Cox Special Collections and University Archives Research Center is becoming known as the repository of choice for drug policy-related materials.

To support these efforts, in 2021 the Libraries launched the Lester Grinspoon Fund for Drug Policy Collections to pay for processing and digitization of Grinspoon's papers, which is part of ongoing preservation and promotion of scholarship in the history of a wide range of drug policy-related work and activism. During the symposium, family members, friends, and admirers paid tribute to the man who fought for recognizing cannabis's potential benefits, both medicinal and recreational.

During the past two years, Grinspoon's friends and family have also paid tribute by donating to the fund. Nearing its goal of \$50,000, Lester's fund will underwrite digitization and related projects.

The daylong symposium was a gift to those working on drug policy. A program of discussions focused on the past, present, and future of drug policy and activism, culminating in a keynote speech by renowned psychologist,

neuroscientist, and author Carl Hart. Author of the award-winning *High Price: A Neuroscientist's Journey of Self-Discovery that Challenges Everything You Know About Drugs and Society* and the acclaimed *Drug Use for Grown-Ups: Chasing Liberty in the Land of Fear*, Hart shared his experiences with drugs and drug policy as researcher, user, and citizen, calling for regulation of drug use by adults that promotes liberty and is grounded in scientific data.

Hart's message proved timely. In October, President Joe Biden granted a pardon to all people convicted of simple marijuana possession under federal law—the most extensive White House action taken to date on U.S. drug policy. The president urged governors to take similar action for state offenses and called on the secretary of health and human services and the attorney general to review how marijuana is scheduled under federal law.

Currently, 37 states and the District of Columbia have legalized medical marijuana, and 21 states have legalized adult-use marijuana, with Missouri and Maryland voters recently passing laws during the midterms in November.

The symposium and the presidential pardon would have been inconceivable to Lester Grinspoon when he embarked on his anti-prohibition journey more than 50 years ago.



L to R: Betsy Grinspoon, Lester's wife; Harold Grinspoon, Lester's brother

L to R: Peter Grinspoon; Allen St. Pierre '89; Joy Wexler; Genevieve Wilson-King

NEW DU BOIS



A collage of photos from the collection, l to r: Yolande Du Bois; Nina Gomer Du Bois, Alice Genewine, Addie Lee, at Wilberforce University, Ohio, ca. 1896; Yolande Du Bois at five and a half months; studio portrait of Nina Gomer Du Bois, Wilberforce, Ohio, ca. 1896; studio portrait of Leah Farris, Gertrude Evans, Eva McCullum, Nina Gomer Du Bois; Yolande Du Bois at one-and-a-half; Arthur McFarlane II

Du Bois Williams, the only grandchild of W. E. B. Du Bois, spent much of her early life at her grandfather's side. In her own life, as a teacher and mentor, she continued the family tradition of scholarship combined with advocacy for social justice. She also helped to preserve the legacy of her illustrious grandfather through interviews, lectures, and oral histories.

Du Bois Williams dedicated her life to the study of psychology, helping to pioneer the field of community psychology. She worked for social justice within the healthcare system, especially for people of color. This work both followed in her grandfather's footsteps and anticipated the disproportionate effects we have seen in our own time of the COVID-19 pandemic on underserved communities.

Williams kept photographs, letters, and other documents related to her parents and grandparents. Thanks to her son, Arthur Edward McFarlane II, many of those materials and Williams's own papers have recently joined the Du Bois collection in the Robert S. Cox Special Collections and University Archives Research Center. This collection is the

largest new set of Du Bois materials made public in decades. These additions to the most-used special collection held by the Libraries shed new light on Du Bois's family life, including on the overlooked figure of Nina, his wife of over 50 years until her death in 1950. Du Bois wrote that he wasn't always "what one would call an ideal husband"; he left behind



Du Bois Williams with W. E. B. Du Bois

few personal recollections of their married life. The Du Bois Williams materials include photographs of Nina as a student when she met her future spouse. As Du Bois's wife, Nina endured the same prejudice, fear, and grief as her husband, but without his accolades and celebrity. Scholars now have a chance to more fully understand

her, and the Du Bois maternal line contained in the new materials through Nina's daughter, Yolande Du Bois, and granddaughter, Du Bois Williams.

"Like her grandfather, Du Bois Williams was a collector of artifacts and, it seems, documented her life with intentionality," says Phillip Luke Sinitiere, Du Bois Scholar in Residence, who was able to get an early look at the new materials this past summer. "While her collecting parallels her grandfather's, what she saved illustrates how she forged her own path in relation to the family legacy." This collection not only enhances the W. E. B. Du Bois Papers, "it also establishes the archival legacy of Du Bois Williams in her own right. She lived a remarkable life and, like her grandfather, was a constant advocate for social justice, and a devoted teacher."

The Du Bois Williams collection fills important gaps in the story of W. E. B. Du Bois while also providing a testimony to a remarkable life of leadership, teaching, and advocacy on behalf of causes that are of enormous relevance today.

—Adam Holmes, Assistant Director, W. E. B. Du Bois Center



Election Reflections

Just in time for the midterm elections, The Honorable Stephen Driscoll '73, '75MEd stopped by a special exhibit on display in the Old Chapel during Homecoming this fall. Materials were selected from the newly-acquired Stephen Driscoll Collection of Political Ephemera, now part of the Robert S. Cox Special Collections and University Archives Research Center. Driscoll helped curate the exhibit, and he was eager to include material from the 1968 and 1972 campaigns, which UMass's 50th reunion class, the Class of 1972, experienced while they were students.



In addition to a distinctive career in the performing arts and wrestling, Driscoll has long been politically engaged as a founder of the National Stonewall Democrats, delegate to national conventions, and member of the Executive Committee of the Massachusetts Democratic Party. Assembled over many decades, and reflecting his keen eye and broad interests, Driscoll's collection of political ephemera comprises paper items and artifacts—including buttons, posters, signs, flyers, pennants, and a remarkable array of memorabilia in the form of figurines, T-shirts, ashtrays, china plates, lighters, and more—offering tantalizing windows into American history, society, and material culture. Driscoll has made a generous estate gift to the Libraries to catalog, maintain, and display the collection.



Supporting the Dean's Vision

Jeffrey Rothenberg joins the Libraries as Executive Director of Development

Q: What drew you to this position?

A: Libraries have historically been the institutions most associated with the preservation of accumulated human knowledge. Modern libraries have taken this critical mission a step further by promoting and enabling broad access to that knowledge. I believe in public education. When I saw an opportunity to lend a hand at UMass, the flagship public university of the Commonwealth, and more specifically, to support the UMass Amherst Libraries as the largest public research library system in New England, I was immediately interested. I feel truly honored to have been invited to join team UMass and to be working with such impressive colleagues here at the Libraries.



Q: What are you most looking forward to?

A: Our new Dean of Libraries Dr. Nandita Mani has articulated a compelling vision to support student success and engagement, advance the research enterprise, be attentive to justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion, and to further activate our collections, with a focus on technology, maker spaces, open education, and a view to our role in the broader global landscape. I look forward to showcasing the Libraries' team members and patrons in a way that I trust will inspire even greater attention from our treasured supporters.

Q: Tell us why the Seed Library resonates with you.

A: The Seed Library, located within the Science and Engineering Library, embodies so much of what I want people to know about the Libraries today. Conservation, gardening, and environmental stewardship books are available along with an actual bank of fruit, vegetable, and flower seeds that patrons can use in their home and community gardens, and that they are asked to replenish when able. The seed library is an example of open education and resources, a tangible representation of sustainability-in-action, and a vibrant demonstration of the Libraries' renewable OPEN "give and take" ecosystem.

Q: What have you been most impressed by?

A: The Libraries are entrusted with nearly 10 million individual items, including nearly six million volumes, and an assortment of online resources, databases, journals,

In September, we welcomed Jeffrey Rothenberg to the Libraries team as executive director of development. Jeff grew up in Amherst and now lives in Great Barrington, Mass.

and exciting historical artifacts. The Du Bois Library is the tallest academic research library in the world. Peregrine falcons nest on our roof! In my first month, I was able to hold documents, newly acquired for the Robert S.

Cox Special Collections and University Archives Research Center, signed by George Washington and John Hancock. I was invited to ride a virtual reality roller coaster in our Digital Media Lab, to see state-of-the-art hologram technology, to witness large-scale 3D printing in action, and to hear patrons utilizing sound recording services in the Du Bois Library Lower Level.

Q: How can people learn how to support the Libraries?

A: Please contact me if you would like to support the UMass Amherst Libraries. We are delighted to connect with supporters and prospective supporters, and there are never any hard sells or expectations when we have an informational contact. You may have considered funding a collection, or a position, or perhaps you may have already made arrangements for UMass through your estate but haven't yet told us about it. We would love to get to know you, to celebrate you and your generosity, and to find new and exciting ways to partner with you to meet your philanthropic interests. Drop me an email at jeff.rothenberg@umass.edu if you would like to get in touch!

Support every UMass Amherst student with a gift to the Libraries.

To make a gift online visit:
library.umass.edu/giving

or

Mail a check to:
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Amherst, MA 01003-9270

How Did We Invest Your Generosity?

Thanks to Falcon donors there is a new nest box for resident falcons atop the Du Bois Library



Donors to the Sustainability Fund supported the Falcon Curriculum Project for students Pre K-12, which is free and open to educators who want to use the resources for teaching.

Gifts to Support the Libraries make resources, collections, technology, research help, and instruction available to students, faculty, staff, and the general public.



Gifts to the W. E. B. Du Bois Center connect students, educators, scholars, and the public through lectures, symposia, scholarships, and collaborations, to share the vast intellectual resources associated with the sociologist, historian, civil rights activist, and author W. E. B. Du Bois.

Thank you to all our Donors!

We couldn't do all this without YOU

Carbon Literacy Project

Donors to the Sustainability Fund supported hiring a graduate student as Carbon Literacy Project Coordinator to train other students in a peer-to-peer curriculum to increase awareness of carbon costs and climate change impacts of everyday activities.



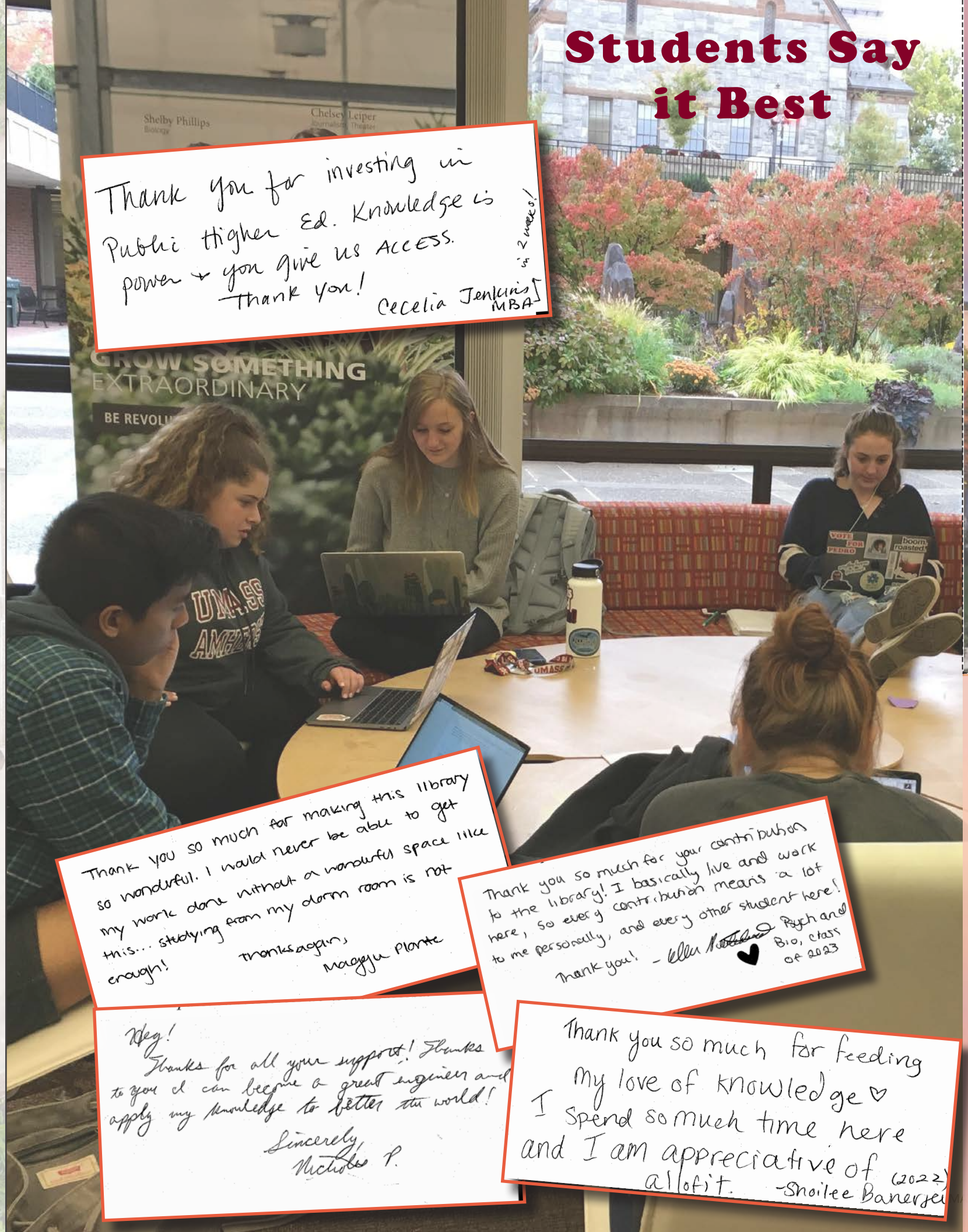
Who Gives? YOU Give!

<p>1,135 GIFTS MADE TO THE LIBRARIES</p>	<p>1,040,658 WEBSITE HITS 25.7% INCREASE FROM FY21</p>
<p>1,204 DONORS WHO MADE GIFTS 66.8% ARE ALUMNI 22 DONORS HAVE GIVEN FOR 30+ YEARS</p>	<p>3,309,738 SCHOLARWORKS FULL-TEXT DOWNLOADS USERS IN 232 COUNTRIES 8.6+ MILLION ITEMS</p>
<p>155 FIRST TIME DONORS</p>	<p>32,004 FALCON CAM VISITS</p>
<p>8M PRINT AND DIGITAL MEDIA ITEMS MUCH OF IT AVAILABLE ONLINE TO THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY AND THE WIDER WORLD AROUND THE CLOCK, FROM VIRTUALLY ANYWHERE</p>	<p>\$50,000 AWARDED IN DU BOIS FELLOWSHIPS FUNDING FIVE POST-DOC AND FIVE GRAD FELLOWS</p>
<p>2,970 HOURS BOOKED IN THE DIGITAL MEDIA LAB MOST POPULAR HOUR: TUESDAY 5PM BUSIEST MONTH: APRIL</p>	<p>99.6 PERCENTAGE INCREASE OF STUDENTS ATTENDING OUTREACH EVENTS</p>
<p>2,030,674 DOWNLOADS FULL-TEXT ARTICLES</p>	<p>167 NUMBER OF STUDENT EMPLOYEES (142 UNDERGRAD, 25 GRAD STUDENTS) 26.4 FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT</p>

All numbers are from Fiscal Year 2022

Muchas gracias! Your help makes a difference ❤️
Beatriz, PhD student from Spain.

Students Say it Best



Thank you for investing in Public Higher Ed. Knowledge is power & you give us Access. Thank you! Cecelia Jenkins MBA

Thank you so much for making this library so wonderful. I would never be able to get my work done without a wonderful space like this... studying from my dorm room is not enough!
thanks again,
Maggy Plante

Thank you so much for your contribution to the library! I basically live and work here, so every contribution means a lot to me personally, and every other student here!
Thank you! - Ellen [Name] Bio, class of 2023

Hey!
Thanks for all your support! Thanks to you I can become a great engineer and apply my knowledge to better the world!
Sincerely,
Nicholas P.

Thank you so much for feeding my love of knowledge ❤️ I spend so much time here and I am appreciative of (2022) a lot of it. -Shoitee Banerjee

LIBRARY

Healing place of the soul



Bookmark above: Photo by Luke Priestly '22: Old Chapel, the first library at UMass Amherst.

The earliest authenticated library, that of Pharaoh Ramses II, bore an inscription over its portals, 'psyches iatreion' or 'healing place of the soul.' The phrase was reported by Hecataeus of Abdera, a historian of the early third century B.C., to be an inscription on the sacred library of the tomb complex of Osymandyas (Ramses II), at Thebes.

LIBRARY

*Healing
place of
the soul*



Bookmark above:
Photo by Luke Priestly '23:
Old Chapel, the first library
at UMass Amherst.

*No one ever
graduated
from a library...*

*No one ever
graduated
without one!*

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Save the Date

28th Annual Du Bois Birthday Lecture

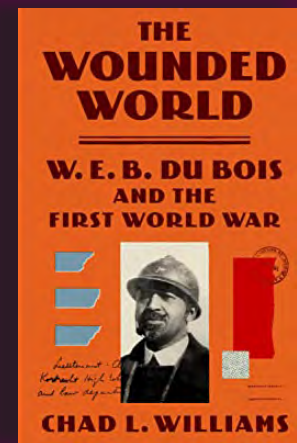
Thursday, Feb. 23, 6:00 p.m.

Free and open to all online



Chad L. Williams is the Samuel J. and Augusta Spector Professor of History and African and African American Studies at Brandeis University. He is the author of the award-winning book *Torchbearers of Democracy: African American Soldiers in the World War I Era*. His writings and op-eds have appeared in *The Atlantic*, *The Washington*

Post, *Time*, and *The Conversation*. Williams's forthcoming book, *The Wounded World: W. E. B. Du Bois and the First World War* will be released in April 2023 by MacMillan. He lives in Needham, Mass.



Undergraduate Excellence Awards

Late April 2023

W. E. B. Du Bois Library, UMass Amherst
& Wadsworth Library, UMass Amherst at Mount Ida

Celebrate undergraduate research, projects,
and academic achievements!