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UMaine Welcomes New Provost

Edna Mora Szymanski is the University of Maine’s new Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost. An administrator with a diverse and impressive background, she received her bachelor’s degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, her master’s degree from the University of Scranton, and her Ph.D. degree from the University of Texas at Austin.

Prior to coming to Maine in August 2006, Dr. Szymanski served for 7 years as the Dean of the College of Education at the University of Maryland, College Park. Before Maryland, she served for 10 years at the University of Wisconsin – Madison in various capacities including Professor, Chair of the Department of Rehabilitation Psychology and Special Education, Associate Dean of the School of Education, and Director of the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Career Development and Advancement.

Before pursuing doctoral education, Provost Szymanski served for 5 years as a rehabilitation counselor and 6 years as a counseling unit supervisor in upstate New York. The counseling unit specialized in school to work transition for students with disabilities.

Provost Szymanski’s major areas of scholarship have focused on disability and career development, rehabilitation counselor education, and research instruction. She has authored or co-authored numerous refereed articles and book chapters and received several national awards for her research, including three from the American Counseling Association, three from the American Rehabilitation Counseling Association, one from the American Association of Counselor Education and Supervision, and one from the National Council on Rehabilitation Education.

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Workers at Lubec Sardine Company, ca. 1895. Story on p. 3.

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Message from Dean Joyce Rumery

Our Spring semester has begun with the first major snow storm of the winter. Those of us who welcome the Maine winter weather are happy to finally have snow for skiing and other activities. I am also pleased that as we move into this new semester, we have the services and resources our users need for their classes and research.

The projects that we began a few months ago have been highly successful. The Information Commons has exceeded our expectations with a significant increase in the number of questions answered at that desk. The staff expertise brought together at one desk has resulted in much better service to our users. We will continue to develop the commons as we respond to the users’ needs. The exhibit from the William S. Cohen Papers titled, "Cohen, Congress and Controversy: Rediscovering Civics in the Archives," is now at Bangor Public Library, the fourth stop on the tour across the State. The exhibit uses facsimiles of photographs, handwritten notes, speeches, and campaign memorabilia from the former congressman’s political papers to bring the legislative branch into focus. This display showcasing the wealth of information in the Cohen Papers archive has been very well received in the host communities and we expect it will continue to generate interest in that collection.

New projects include iPod tours and scanning. Library staff are working to create library tours, both audio and visual, that are downloadable to an iPod. To take advantage of this new technology, staff are creating scripts and asking library departments to participate in the filming of the tours. The tours will be descriptions of the departments and the resources and services to be found there. The iPod tours will be available from the Fogler Library web page. The library is also using new equipment to scan collections and make them available through the online catalog. This is an exciting new venture for the library and will eventually make many of our unique collections available to users anywhere in the world.

We also have new resources available. These include news@nature.com and Journal Citation Reports. News@nature.com is an online current-awareness resource from the Nature Publishing Group. It includes breaking news from Nature journals, as well as compilations of articles and news channels by topic. Journal Citation Reports allows the user to evaluate and compare the impact of journals. Journals can be displayed by subject area and organized by impact factor, total citations to the journal, immediacy index, total number of articles, and cited-half life. JCR indexes over 5,900 journals from the sciences and over 1,700 journals from the social sciences.

Also this semester we will be asking some of our users to answer a survey about the library. We will use the Association of Research Libraries LibQual survey. This survey will collect data to identify best practices, analyze deficits, and effectively allocate resources. We will use the results to help us identify and develop services that better meet our users’ expectations.

As you can see the staff are busy ensuring that Fogler is the best library for our users and we will continue to expand our collections and services to meet their needs. Please call, write, or stop in to see what we have been doing and take a tour of the Library. I hope you are pleased with what we are doing and will continue to support us in the future.

The Friends Remember Frances Hartgen

Frances Caroline Lubanda Hartgen, 93, longtime Orono resident and wife of the late professor and artist Vincent Hartgen, died Saturday, November 11, 2006, at Dirigo Pines Retirement Center. Frances was born October 4, 1913, in Reading, Pa., the only daughter of Frank and Caroline “Carrie” (Kelchner) Lubanda. She was named for them both. In April of this year, at age 92, she published a memoir of her years in Orono and at the University of Maine, where she served as the Fogler Library’s first director of special collections and later as director of public services. After graduation from Reading High School in 1932, she worked her way through Syracuse University, graduating in 1937 with a degree in English and education. She and Vincent were married July 6, 1940 and she then taught school in Washingtonville, N.Y., while Vincent finished graduate studies at the University of Pennsylvania. During World War II, they lived in Baltimore, Md., where Frances worked in a bookshop, which further expanded her love of literature and language. Their twin sons, David and Stephen, were born there in 1944. The couple moved to Orono in 1946, after completion of Vincent’s military service. Frances was a junior high English teacher in Old Town and Orono schools from 1952 to 1967. In 1967, she returned to coursework at the University, completing graduate work in library science and education. This earned her a position at the Fogler Library of the University of Maine. She remained at Fogler until her retirement in 1982.
Preserving the History of Maine’s Sea Fisheries: Part I

by Richard Hollinger, Head, Special Collections

Although fisheries have long been an integral part of the Maine’s economy and culture, their history is not nearly as well-documented in archival collections as those of other industries, such as farming, logging, papermaking, and textile manufacturing. For this reason, Special Collections has begun to actively collect materials relating to fisheries, such as records of catches, landings, and fish sales and purchases; records of fish canneries; records of businesses that sold supplies and services to fishermen and fishing vessels, logs of fishing vessels; and the personal papers of fishermen and their families.

Since this initiative began last year Special Collections has acquired a number of materials relating to Maine fisheries, including:

- The logbooks of nine cod fishing vessels, dating from 1858-1860, which operated out of Cutler, Jonesport, Machias and Deer Isle.

- The records of a Boston fish dealer who purchased fish from Maine, dating from 1887-1901.

- The daybook for a business in Orland that supplied fishing vessels, dating from 1864-1868;

- The ledger of a fish dealer in Vinalhaven, dating from 1879-1882; which recording purchases of lobster and mackerel.

- The records of a supplier to fishing vessels in Frenchboro, Long Island, 1828-1843, in which many bills were paid in fish.

- The sales records of a lobsterman from Addison in the 1930s.

- The papers of an aquaculture consultant, who closely studied and reported on sea fisheries in Maine for a client in the 1980s.

Special Collections has also reached an agreement for, but has not yet received, the records of a sardine cannery in Lubec, dating from approximately 1900-1910. If you have or know of business records or personal papers that provide documentation of Maine’s fisheries and/or fishing communities, please contact Richard Hollinger at (207)-581-1688 or richard.hollinger@umit.maine.edu.

In part 2, we will discuss our efforts to locate and digitize records of fisheries held by local historical societies in Maine.
It’s About Quality
LibQual Survey comes to Maine

LibQUAL+ is a suite of services that libraries use to solicit, track, understand, and act upon users’ opinions of service quality. These services are offered to the library community by the Association of Research Libraries (ARL). The program’s centerpiece is a rigorously tested Web-based survey bundled with training that helps libraries assess and improve library services, change organizational culture, and market the library. The goals of LibQUAL+ are to foster a culture of excellence in providing library service, help libraries better understand user perceptions of library service quality, collect and interpret library user feedback systematically over time, provide libraries with comparable assessment information from peer institutions, identify best practices in library service, and enhance library staff members’ analytical skills for interpreting and acting on data.

More than 500 libraries have participated in LibQUAL+, including colleges and universities, community colleges, health sciences libraries, law libraries, and public libraries, some through various consortia, others as independent participants. LibQUAL+ has expanded internationally, with participating institutions in Canada, the U.K., and Europe. The growing LibQUAL+ community of participants and its extensive dataset are rich resources for improving library services.

LibQUAL+ will give users a chance to tell us where services need improvement so we can respond to and better manage their expectations. We can develop services that better meet our users’ expectations by comparing our library’s data with that of peer institutions and examining the practices of those libraries that are evaluated highly by their users.

For more information about LibQUAL, visit:
http://www.libqual.org/

For more information about the survey project here at Fogler, contact Gretchen Gfeller at 207.581.1696 or email: gretchen.gfeller@umit.maine.edu

Podcasts Coming to Fogler

This spring, Fogler Library will be introducing its first video tour and Podcast. Staff members have been filming tours of several areas of the library, including Reference, Special Collections, Government Documents, Circulation, the Media Resource Center, the Science Center, Interlibrary Loan, and the Learning Materials Center. Librarians will guide you through each of these areas of the library, detailing services and collections available for your use. Patrons who are new to the library, or who would like updates on library services should find these tours helpful. They will be available by viewing the library webpage from any computer, and can be downloaded to an iPod. The library web page will have more information when the tours become available. Look for them this spring.

For more information about our Podcast plans, contact Chris Tuthill at 207.581.1674 or email: chris.tuthill@umit.maine.edu
The Information Commons

A collaboration between Fogler Library and Information Technologies, the University of Maine’s Information Commons is a state of the art education and technology facility. Located on the first floor of the Library, this new facility offers a single information and service access point for students and researchers. Users can get help using both print and electronic resources to do research, they can get advice on how to write a paper or report, and they can get assistance using the technology they need to produce a report, presentation, or web site.

All of this is provided in a large open space, where students can interact and work together in groups or individually. There is a central information/help desk staffed by both reference librarians from Fogler and technology experts from Information Technologies. There are also new area studies sections for easier access to print resources. The areas include: Fine Arts, Business and Economics, Atlases, MiddleEast/Asia, and Southern Hemisphere.

The creation of an information commons represents an emerging trend at colleges and universities, as technological advances begin to influence the ways in which libraries house and facilitate access to information. UMaine’s Information Commons is part of this new tradition.

Small Books, Big Ideas:

*Librarian Mel Johnson talks about the Library’s first blog*

Small Books, Big Ideas is a website created in support of a display on the first floor of Fogler Library. It is an attempt to expand the display beyond the physical confines of the display space and point toward other resources, both print and electronic, relevant to the topics raised in the display.

The website is actually a blog, short for web log. It qualifies as such on two counts. First, it takes a particular form, with sequential entries, the most recent at the top of the presenting page. Second, it utilizes a blog service/software that creates a page with this format, allows comments, and enables a header and sidebar of persistent information, even as adding new material causes the main page to scroll down.

An important aspect of presenting material this way is the interaction permitted by viewers. Readers are free to comment, point out errors(!), or ask questions.

The display itself ran for the month of October, 2006. Now that the display is over, the blog continues, and continues to be usable, both for its own content and as a gateway to other resources. I can add more “posts” at any time, and the blog may be employed again in the future in support of a display. Or will it be the reverse?

You can visit the Small Books, Big Ideas blog at: http://smallbooksbigideas.blogspot.com/
Historian Nicholas Smith Visits Fogler Library

Nicholas Smith, distinguished historian of Native American life and culture visited the Fogler Library on Thursday, 12 October. Smith was a founding member of the Maine Archaeological Society and the Ethnomusicology Society. His field work among the Maliseet and other Wabanaki groups has continued for over 50 years. Smith’s presentation, *In the Right Place at the Right Time*, was held in the Special Collections department.

Smith is a graduate of the University of Maine and worked in Fogler Library as an undergraduate before being encouraged to go on to Columbia University where he earned a degree in Library Science. Smith became particularly interested in documents and manuscripts pertaining to the Wabanaki, and when a bundle of more than 100 related manuscripts was found at the Museum of the American Indian, Huntington Free Library, Smith was asked to assess their research value, organize them, and lead the effort to preserve them. Smith’s field work has included opportunities to view and record the Penobscot and Passamaquoddy Chief-Making Ceremonies and interview some of the last people who were married in the traditional fashion in Maliseet villages.

Smith has produced and published an impressive array of scholarship on Wabanaki history and culture, both within peer-reviewed journals and in other venues. The majority of his publications appear in the *Papers of the Algonquian Conference* which is an annual publication on Native peoples of the greater Northeast region. He has also collaborated with leading ethnohistorians in the field, including Dr. Alice Nash. Some of his recent publications begin to fill the void in twentieth-century Wabanaki history in Maine. Throughout his lifetime work, Mr. Smith has acquired a truly incredible collection photographs, interviews, and material culture from his field work in many Wabanaki communities and among the James Bay Cree in northern Quebec, of which only a small portion he has used in his own publications.

In addition to his numerous publications, Nicholas Smith has compiled the largest and most comprehensive computerized annotated bibliography on Wabanaki peoples, entitled *WABIB*. The geographic coverage of this remarkable resource encompasses present-day northern New England, the Maritime Provinces, and Quebec, a region that includes the traditional homelands of the Penobscots, Passamaquodds, Maliseets, Mi’kmaq, and Abenakis. Well over 1,000 pages with almost 5,000 entries, *WABIB* continues to grow in length. The entries include academic monographs, journal articles, old and current newspaper articles, rare books and original manuscript collections at various archives and other depositories, photograph collections, interviews with Native peoples, and individual field notes.

Nicholas Smith values the professional collaboration process with the Native communities and he is a leader in Native American civil rights in Maine. While current ethical standards in Native American Studies call for cross-cultural collaboration between Indian communities and scholars, Mr. Smith has worked with Native communities for over the past fifty years. He worked with the late Maliseet scholar Dr. Peter Paul (1902-1989) from the Woodstock Reserve, in western New Brunswick, Penobscot elder and dance leader Sylvester Neptune from Indian Island, and Passamaquoddy hunter and respected leader Sebattis Tomah from Indian Township, Maine. His initial contacts persist today and he actively collaborates with tribal historians including James E. Francis (Penobscot) and Donald G. Sootomah (Passamaquoddy). Mr. Smith’s professional and personal ties to Wabanaki communities are especially strong in Maine. Well ahead of his time, Mr. Smith currently serves on a committee that advances Native American civil rights in Maine. He is extremely generous with his time, helping academic colleagues and Wabanaki peoples alike.

Selected documents and photographs from Smith’s collection were displayed during the event.
Gathering Celebrates Literary Magazine

Several individuals who were there at the beginnings of Maine’s foremost literary journal, the *Puckerbrush Review*, gathered to tell its story and to celebrate its achievements in publishing Maine authors and in bringing international authors to Maine readers over the better part of three decades. The event, *A Proliferation of Puckerbrush: Celebrating 28 Years of the Puckerbrush Review*, took place in the Special Collections department of Fogler Library at the University of Maine, Tuesday, October 17 at 3:00 p.m.

Several presentations told the story of what the *Puckerbrush Review* and its founder Constance Hunting did for literature in Maine and how the *Review* connected Maine to the wider literary world, the world of such luminaries as Bloomsbury writer and painter Angelica Garnett, poet Phillip Booth, author Mary McCarthy, and the legendary May Sarton.

The story was told by several of the journal’s contributors, including writer Sandy Phippen and poet/critic Burt Hatlen, and by some of the authors who *Puckerbrush Review* launched and published: Tony Brinkley and Sandra Hutchison. Local poet Kathleen Ellis and her students presented a word collage highlighting various aspects of the *Review’s* many-faceted achievement. Sam Hunting, son of the late Constance Hunting, spoke about the future of the *Review*. A memorial issue, dedicated to Constance Hunting, who began the journal in 1978, was presented at the meeting.

Persian Delight

Fogler Friends had a very special opportunity when the Library hosted *Persian Delight on a Very Special Night*, a reception for visiting Iranian graphic novelist, Marjane Satrapi. Held in the University Club on October 19th, the reception was co-sponsored with the Women in the Curriculum and Women’s Studies Program and featured a selection of Persian food prepared by Lily Alavi and Elham Khavari.

Satrapi participated in an afternoon session, *A Conversation with Marjane Satrapi*, hosted by reporter Alicia Anstead of the *Bangor Daily News*. Her evening talk, held in the Donald P. Corbett Business building, was titled *Iran in the Revolution and After: Graphic Novelist Marjane Satrapi Reflects on Her Life and Work*.

Satrapi was born in 1969 and lived in Tehran until she was sent to Switzerland at the age of 14. Her most famous work is *Persepolis*, an autobiographical account of a childhood and adolescence shaped by the Iranian Revolution. The work was published in four volumes in France, where it was compared to Art Spiegelman’s *Maus* and won numerous prestigious comic book awards. Other books by Satrapi include *Embroideries* and *Chicken and Plums*, as well as several children’s books.

Satrapi now lives in Paris, where her illustrations appear regularly in magazines and newspapers. She also writes an occasional piece for the *New York Times*. 
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