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Traveling Exhibit Highlights Cohen in Congress

With the mid-term elections only months away, critics of Congress seem to be everywhere. But how well do they (or we) understand how Congress really works?

A new exhibit from the William S. Cohen Papers at the Raymond H. Fogler Library seeks to shed light on how Congress is designed to work and what politicians actually do on a day to day basis in Washington.

Titled Cohen, Congress and Controversy: Rediscovering civics in the archives, the six-panel 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. Topics include Bill Cohen’s successful 1972 bid for Maine’s second congressional district seat; the powers of Congress granted by the Constitution; the busy life of a senator, using Cohen’s book about his first year there; and the oversight role of Congress, illustrated with documents from the Watergate and Iran-Contra investigations. The freestanding exhibit also includes interactive panels designed to appeal to young children.

“The Cohen Papers are open for research, says Fogler Library Dean Joyce Rumery. “This traveling exhibit invites people all across Maine to glimpse the richness of the collection.”

Secretary Cohen donated his political papers, 1,500 boxes of documents and photographs, to Fogler Library at the University of Maine in 1996. He added a selection of Department of Defense material on 16 compact disks in 2001. The University of Maine is also home to the William S. Cohen Center for International Policy and Commerce.

The exhibit will travel to venues along the route of Cohen’s 1972 campaign walk from the New Hampshire border to Fort Kent. To celebrate the start of the tour, the Bethel Historical Society hosted an evening reception followed with a lecture by Bowdoin College professor and former Cohen campaign manager, Chris Potholm. The exhibit moved to the Wilton Free Public Library in early September and the Lewiston Public Library in late October.

More information about the exhibit and its schedule can be obtained by calling Paige Lilly at (207) 581-2665, or emailing to paige.lilly@umit.maine.edu. Exhibit information is on the web at: http://library.umaine.edu/cohen/exhibit/exhibit.htm
Message from Dean Joyce Rumery

I am very pleased to be writing to you as a new fall semester is upon us and we welcome the Class of 2010 to the University of Maine. Fall has always been my favorite season with the warm days and the cooling nights and as I write this I am reminded of all the new beginnings that fall brings. We began this year with the Maine Hello on September 1st and on Labor Day we welcomed the new and returning students with tours of the library. As usual, this year will be very busy at Fogler with interesting new projects, new services, new collections, and, of course, our users, both new and continuing.

The library staff were tremendously busy this summer preparing the building and the services we offer and two major activities have led to the most visible changes our users will see. One is the Information Commons which was created by a collaboration between Fogler Library and Information Technologies. Together we created a space on the first floor of the library that combines the services of the Reference Department with the services of the IT consultants. This one service point will help all users who have research or technology needs. We are very pleased with this new service and as the year progresses we will be monitoring the use of the area and evaluating the need for changes. As with many projects we consider this as an initial phase and will respond to our users requests for different organization of computers or services.

We also added shelving to accommodate our growing collection. This major task was undertaken by the Circulation Department. They moved approximately nine miles of books during the summer to make room for new volumes and to make the bookstacks easier to use for our patrons.

The Library staff has also worked to make more connections with our patrons and to reach out to where the students gather. So, this summer we made a number of links to students through a variety of venues. We have created a space for the Library in Facebook, the online social community, we have added hours to our virtual reference service, we have connected with the Academic Support services for the student athletes to arrange library introductions for the first year and transfer athletes, and we are working with the coordinator for the commuter students. We also created a portal for access to our website for our Alumni through the Alumni Association home page.

This year will also see the development of more digital resources as Fogler Library, in partnership with the Maine State Library, works to produce digital collections of materials for our users. This is an exciting venture that we hope will make our resources more widely available to all users.

Once again we have a number of events and activities and I know there is something of interest to everyone. These programs are open not only to the Friends, but are free to all interested in attending. We would love to see you here. If you are able to visit us I would be honored to give you a tour of the library so you can meet the staff and see the resources and services I have described. I hope you are pleased with what we are doing and you will continue to support us into the future. I thank you for your support.

Alumni Services on the Web

Alumni and Friends now have a direct link to Fogler Library’s resources and services thanks to the new Alumni Services web page. The page offers links to information about how to obtain a library card and tips for research projects. The extensive how do I ?section covers everything from library hours to becoming a library benefactor. You can email us a question, chat with a librarian online, or make an appointment.

The page can be accessed from the Alumni Association web site at:
http://www.mainealumni.org/
or from the Library web at:
http://www.library.umaine.edu/about/alum_services/alumni.htm

Correction

In our last issue we gave credit for the design of the Orono Bicentenial Cookbook cover to Patrick Tarpin. This should be Patrick Harpin.
Restored Psalter

Unique In-Kind Gift for UMaine Development Office

For the UMaine Development Office, almost no gift to the university is too large, small or unusual.

With that in mind, Hannah Whalen, development officer, recently helped arrange a unique in-kind gift to UMaine. She matched the bookbinding skills of her father with the needs of Fogler Library’s Special Collections for repairs to some of its old books.

Whalen’s father, Jonathan Robbins, is a retired high school English teacher from Whitefield whose avocation is collecting, repairing and rebinding rare old books. Special Collections has many volumes of books that date back to the 16th and 17th centuries. Some are damaged and have broken bindings or torn pages. Robbins recently repaired a three-centuries-old French Psalter, a book of psalms with oversized musical notes and Latin lyrics used by church choirs.

“This has really been a godsend for us because we just don’t have the money for book restoration,” says Richard Hollinger, head of Special Collections.

Robbins, a UMaine alum who earned a master’s degree in liberal studies at UMaine in 1993, says the repaired Psalter is good for another century, and now can be used for historical research or even in performance by one of the university’s choral ensembles.

“The goal is to make it a useable book,” Robbins says. Donating skills to UMaine is one form of in-kind giving, Whalen says, but bookbinding, in this case, “is a very unique in-kind gift, because nothing like this has ever been done before.”

More common are gifts in the form of labor and materials, such as those donated for the restoration of the Fogler Library steps and terrace. The UMaine Development Office receives and coordinates gifts and donations for any number of immediate needs on campus, including capital improvement projects.

According to Whalen and Patricia Cummings, senior development officer, there are many talented people in Maine who may not realize their skills could be valuable to the university.

“We like people to be involved and share their talents,” Cummings says. “There are as many ways to donate as there are talents. The book restoration was using a very specific talent to help the university.”

Whalen says all gifts are welcome. The development office also has a list of naming opportunities for a variety of campus projects, she adds.

“These naming opportunities are designed to match an array of donor interests,” she says. “In whatever capacity a donor chooses to give to the university, the Development Office is ready to help coordinate and facilitate the entire giving and recognition process.”

Library League of Old Town Records in Special Collections

The Special Collections Department recently received a gift of the records of the Old Town Library League. Formed in October 1934 by a small group of young women of Old Town, its goal was to raise funds for the public library, noted as “in dire need of money to purchase new children’s books and more recent books of outstanding authors and playwrights.” Starting with 11 charter members in a year in which the town could only spend $14.00 to buy books, the League has held teas, benefit dances, card parties and trash and treasure sales to bring needed funds to the library. At its 50th anniversary in 1983, it was noted that the League had only one objective, service to the library, which in the words of a long-time member, enabled it “to do everything legal and decent” to achieve its goal. In addition to purchasing many books, the League has raised money to buy furniture and lights for the children’s room, participated in a book delivery service to home-bound users, and paid to microfilm the local town newspaper.

The League records include handwritten minutes of meetings starting with the first on October 11, 1934, as well as scrapbooks and photographs of its members and activities. This collection joins records of other women’s social and civic clubs in the Special Collections department to provide a look at an important segment of life in Maine in the 20th century.
The Maine history collections at Fogler Library continue to grow and add more important information about the state and its history. One of the recent additions to our archives is the Edwin R. Starbird Papers. This collection contains photographs taken by Edwin R. Starbird, a professional photographer in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, specializing in views of the Maine woods. Included are 62 photographs taken by Starbird, including 20 identified as part of his Woods of Maine series. It also contains a folder of Starbird family papers which includes marriage certificates for Amos Starbird and Mary J. Gilkey, 1852; and for Edwin Starbird and Mattie A. Thompson, 1882; as well as a lease for a hall in Farmington, 1882, and other miscellaneous material. This fascinating collection is a gift from Muriel Sanford, former head of Special Collections.

The collection of photographs are arranged in the following categories: Woods of Maine series; Rangeley Lake views; Tim Pond and the Seven Ponds views; hunting photographs; photographs of Bath, Brunswick, Freeport, Topsham, etc.; other Maine photographs; and Florida photographs.

Edwin Roland Starbird, son of Amos and Mary Jane Gilkey Starbird, was born on September 15, 1853, in Freeman, Maine. He started his working life as a teacher in towns near Freeman, but in the early 1880’s he began studying photography with Francis E. Stanley in Lewiston, Maine. After his training he returned to Farmington, Maine and opened a studio, which did both portrait and landscape photography. He soon began to take stereo views and photographs of the area around Rangeley Lake, including the wildlife and sporting camps in the region. Around 1883 he began a series of photographs known as the Woods of Maine series which came to include nearly 600 views of the Rangeley area as well as Moosehead Lake, the West Branch of the Penobscot River and other wilderness places. This photo project, which lasted until around 1903, required Starbird to spend months living in the woods and traveling to remote areas by canoe or on foot. In 1892 he left Farmington and opened a business in Brunswick, Maine, where he continued to work until 1911. While there he photographed many buildings at Bowdoin College as well as other scenes in the nearby towns of Bath and Topsham. After closing his studio in Brunswick, he moved to Apopka, Florida, where he died on July 23, 1921.

A finding aid for the collection is available in Special Collections Department and on the Special Collections web site. For more information, contact Richard Hollinger, head of Special Collections, at 581-1688 or via email at richard.hollinger@umit.maine.edu.
Carnegie Hall, 1906-2006

Carnegie Hall is 100 years old this year. One of the original Carnegie Library buildings in New England, this impressive structure shares an important history, both with the other Carnegie Libraries and with the University.

Carnegie Hall was constructed at a time when the campus desperately needed a new building dedicated as a library. The University’s library began in 1868 with a request for donations, and by 1870, the library owned 125 volumes and had subscriptions to 8 papers. The collection was housed in Fernald Hall, and the reading room was in White Hall. By 1888, the collection had grown to 4,000 volumes, then to 8,370 volumes and 2,000 pamphlets by 1894. In 1897, The University of Maine was designated as a national repository for federal government documents, which caused the collection to grow even faster. The collection was moved to several rooms in Coburn Hall, and additional storage was set up in the basement of Alumni Hall.

Around 1900, the collection was at well over 10,000 volumes and there was no room in which to store any new material. President Fernald was corresponding secretly with Andrew Carnegie, trying to receive funding for a new library. The only other people who knew about the plan were the librarian Ralph Kneeland Jones and the President’s secretary. Negotiations went on for five years, because Carnegie was hesitant about donating money for a library to a university, but on February 7, 1905, the $50,000 gift was finally announced. Carnegie also gave $5,000 for furnishings. In addition to Carnegie’s gift, Hallowell’s Granite Works contributed the granite used at cost, while A.D. Houghton (’87) built the stacks himself. Carnegie Hall was dedicated on November 2, 1906. The books were moved from Alumni and Coburn Halls one row at a time by 25 students over 3 days of the Thanksgiving break. Carnegie later commented that the University of Maine was one of the few places where his projects had not run over-budget.

Carnegie Hall housed the University library for over 40 years. However, after the end of World War II, the huge increase in students attending the University and using the library, as well as the need to house a collection large enough to meet those students’ needs, required that the University complete a new library. So, in 1947, the Raymond H. Fogler Library was dedicated, and Carnegie was given to the music and art departments for use as a fine arts center.

Wingate Bell

After 55 years in the cupola atop Fogler Library, the century-old bronze bell from Wingate Hall and the subject of a six-year search, was removed and lowered by crane to the ground on Maine Day, May 3rd.

Facilities Management hired a professional rigging crew to construct an elaborate winch and trolley system on the library roof to get the 700-800-pound bronze bell out of the cupola. Crews moved the bell on a special heavy-equipment cart across and down two levels of roofing to the edge of the library parapet. Roof Systems of Maine in Bangor lowered the bell to the ground on the west side of the library, while administrators from the College of Engineering, UMaine President Robert Kennedy and others observed the event.

Once on the ground, the bell was wheeled to the Advanced Manufacturing Center, where students were set to continue cleaning the bell, according to Chet Rock, associate dean of the College of Engineering, who has spent the better part of six years trying to discover where the forgotten bell was. The bell hung from the time Wingate Hall opened in 1894 until a fire in 1943 at Wingate, the former home of the College of Technology, now the College of Engineering. The bell had been a signature icon at the University of Maine, the subject of a campus song and object of an unknown number of student pranks.

After fire destroyed the Wingate bell tower, the bell was displayed in front of Oak Hall for a time, but was moved at some point - a point no one remembered until Rock took his detective work to Fogler Library’s Special Collections looking for evidence. He found in the 1953 edition of The Prism yearbook a photo of the bell being hoisted atop the library in June of 1951.

The bell is now on display at the entrance to the Buchanan Alumni House.
Events Update

Earth Day Dinner:
In Celebration of the Life and Legacy of Dr. Edith Marion Patch

The Fogler Library Friends joined with the Friends of Edith Patch for a very special Earth Day event. On Sunday, April 23rd a buffet dinner was held in the University Club to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Edith Marion Patch. Mary Bird, a member of the Patch Friends group and expert on Patch’s work, gave a brief presentation about the fascinating legacy of this entomologist and writer.

Patch attended the University of Minnesota where she studied English and won prizes for her sonnets. After graduating from college in 1901, she worked for two years as an English teacher but began looking for jobs in entomology (the study of insects). She was told repeatedly that entomology was no field for a woman until she was, finally, hired by Charles D. Woods at the University of Maine. He offered her no salary for a year until she could prove herself capable. Patch accepted the offer. She quickly showed herself a very capable entomologist and Woods awarded her a salary and a teaching position. In 1904, despite protests from sexist colleagues, he made her the head of the department. She remained in that position for the remainder of her professional life.

While working at the university, Patch earned a master’s degree from Maine in 1910. Subsequently, she earned a Ph.D. degree from Columbia University in New York as a student of J.H. Comstock, who regarded her very highly. He used part of her thesis for his Introduction to Entomology. The presentation was followed by a buffet dinner featuring recipes from the Friends of Dr. Edith Marion Patch Cookbook. The selections included: Artichoke Turnovers, Onion Soufflé, Chicken Mushroom Bake, Vegetable Pie, Zucchini Soup, Wild Rice Pilaf, Crunchy Romaine Toss, Winter Salad, Stephen King’s Basic Bread and a scrumptious selection of Brownie Schrumpf’s Best Dessert Recipes. Copies of the cookbook were on sale at the dinner.

Wes McNair Visits Fogler

Lovers of words, language, and good stories enjoyed a very special afternoon with award winning poet Wesley McNair on April 20th. McNair delighted the audience, not only with readings from his many poems, but also with the many stories that served as inspiration to his work.

McNair has received fellowships from the Fulbright and Guggenheim foundations, an NEH Fellowship in literature, and two NEA fellowships. Other honors include the Jane Kenyon Award, the Robert Frost Award, the Theodore Roethke Prize, the Eunice Tietjens Prize from Poetry magazine, the Sarah Josepha Hale Medal, an Emmy Award, and two honorary degrees for literary distinction. He has twice served on the jury for the Pulitzer Prize in poetry, and has received two Rockefeller Fellowships for creative work at the Bellagio Center on Lake Como in Italy. Featured on Garrison Keillor’s Writer’s Almanac several times and on NPR’s Weekend Edition (Saturday and Sunday programs), his work has appeared in the Pushcart Prize annual, two editions of The Best American Poetry, over fifty anthologies, and fourteen books, including volumes of poetry and essays and three anthologies.
Black Bangor:
African Americans in a Maine Community

Maureen Elgersman Lee visited Fogler Library on March 23rd. Lee is the author of *Black Bangor: African Americans in a Maine Community, 1880-1950*. Lee’s presentation was co-sponsored by Multicultural Programs, Women in the Curriculum and the Women’s Studies Program.

In its review of the book, the *Bangor Daily News* said, “An important addition to our understanding of minorities in Maine and how they fared. Blacks...have been nearly invisible in recounts of the state’s past...Lee has brought this small group to the fore in one city, showing how its members participated in economic life while preserving a sense of their own community.”

The book focuses on the African American community in Bangor from 1880–1950, the period that saw an unprecedented migration of Blacks to that city. Blacks migrated to Bangor not just from other New England states, but from the Caribbean and Canadian Maritime Provinces as well, creating a heterogeneous community with roots in two hemispheres. Still very much a minority, (Blacks numbered around 300 during this period), this diverse community came together to establish an impressive range of institutions, including local chapters of the NAACP and Odd Fellows, as well as of Mothers and Junior Mothers Clubs. Concentrated in an area known as the Parker Street neighborhood, Black women in Bangor became domestics and cooks, caterers and beauticians, clerks and stenographers. Men worked as loggers, teamsters, porters, chefs, and barbers; a few owned businesses. Lee’s presentation was accompanied by a slide show of photographs from the book.

Atypical Bodies:
an exploration of disability writing and culture

Tony Brinkley, Liz Depoy, and Stephen Gilson joined Friends coordinator Gretchen Gfeller for an afternoon of readings and discussion around the theme of atypical bodies. The event, held in Special Collections on February 22nd, was part of the *Works in Progress* series, organized by Kathleen Ellis, Gretchen Gfeller, and Tina Passman and was cosponsored by the Fogler Library Friends, the Interdisciplinary Disability Studies Academic Committee and the Center for Community Inclusion.

Tony Brinkley teaches poetry and poetics in the English Department at the University of Maine. He is the author of two books of poetry, *Stalin’s Eyes* (2002, Puckerbrush Press) and *Gomorrah* (forthcoming, Puckerbrush Press). He is also Faculty Associate in the Franco-American Centre and a Board Member for the Maine Center for Economic Policy.

Liz Depoy is professor and Coordinator for Interdisciplinary Disability Education at the Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies and teaches research and evaluation methods and disability as diversity. Her scholarly interests include theory development focusing on disability as human diversity, universal access as social justice and the atypical body.

Stephen Gilson is Professor of Interdisciplinary Disability Studies and Social Work where he teaches disability as diversity, policy, and human behavior from a legitimacy perspective. His research interests and publications have focused on disability theory, disability as diversity, universal access, social justice, and the atypical body.
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Public Safety 581-4040
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