Check out the AUM Library’s new look!

The AUM Library has a fresh new look, as several areas have undergone a makeover during the last year. On the first floor, the addition of the Starr Smith Exhibit brought in some new bookcases, photos and other interesting décor. The exhibit was a welcome addition to the new furniture and computers in the lobby area, which were purchased for the benefit of our patrons. The second floor has also had its share of remodeling during the past few months. Over the past year, the Library purchased new, more modern tables and chairs for the computers near the Reference Desk. Flat-panel monitors replaced the older monitors and now take up less space at each computer station. The computer lab also received new flat-panel monitors. There is also a new Mac computer near the Reference Desk for our faculty, staff and students to use. Moreover, the computer nook in front of the Reference Desk received a colorful paint job, and new pictures were hung above the computers. And finally, the Browsing Collection also has an updated look with new comfortable couches and chairs allowing our patrons to enjoy some quite time with the latest bestsellers and old favorites.
Media Collection is moved to a new location

Thanks to our Interlibrary Loan Librarian, Karen Williams, one of our under-utilized collections has a new, more visible home. The Media Collection, which consists of educational DVDs and VHS tapes, has been moved to an area near the Reference Desk on the second floor. The collection also has many popular film titles available; patrons may checkout items for up to seven days, for free! Nine new media-shelving units were purchased, and over two thousand items were moved from the old storage area, down the hall from the Dean’s office, to the new shelves along the main hall of the second floor. Additionally, in an effort to recycle and reuse resources, while still trying to find ways to make the library more attractive and useful to our patrons, the two index tables that were removed to make room for the Media Collection were retrofitted as laptop stations and placed on the 4th and 6th floors. The laptop stations have six sections, and each have their own power source, allowing for use by individuals or groups.

New Conference Room

The AUM Library has a new, state-of-the-art conference room available for use by our faculty, staff and students. The room is equipped with a flat-screen TV/monitor, a computer with a wireless mouse and keyboard, a sound system with amplifiers, Wi-Fi access for laptops, and a speaker phone for use in teleconferencing. The conference room was created by combining the old mailroom and the interlibrary loan copy room into a larger room. The conference room is a valuable addition to the library’s resources, and has already been utilized by several committees on campus. The room will also be used to allow library employees to attend training webinars, which are presentations broadcast over the web.
Lucy Farrow named Head of Public Services

Upon the retirement of Ms. Betty Tims, Lucy Farrow was named to serve as Head of Public Services. Ms. Farrow has held the positions of Bibliographic Instruction Librarian and Government Documents Librarian. She received her Master’s degree in History from Auburn University and her M.L.I.S. degree from the University of Alabama. Ms. Farrow received tenure and promotion in 2006. Already in her time as Public Services Librarian, Ms. Farrow has overseen many projects including the re-design of the second floor, the creation of our library blog & virtual tour, and the ongoing expansion of the Browsing Collection.

Betty Tims retires after a distinguished career

The AUM Library bid farewell to a beloved friend and mentor at the end of 2007. Betty Tims, who served as Head of Public Services from 2001-2007, retired after 21 years of dedicated service to the AUM Library. Ms. Tims began her career as the Government Documents Librarian and moved through a variety of positions within the Library before being named Head of Public Services. In her retirement, Betty has been spending time with family. We miss Betty around the library and are grateful to have had the pleasure of working with her.

Library holds first annual Dean’s Dinner

Last year, The AUM Library held its first annual Dean’s Dinner to honor individuals who have given financial support to the Library. The dinner is our way of saying thank you to our donors, and to keep them updated on the impact their generosity has had on the library and the university. As part of the evening’s festivities, librarians from various departments gave brief presentations regarding projects in their respective areas. There was also a display representing some of the many books purchased by the Friends of the AUM Library for the Special Collections department. Included in the display were several books from the Limited Editions Book Club of New York City. To learn more about the Dean’s Dinner or becoming a member of the Friends, contact Carolyn Johnson in the Dean’s office at 244-3200.
And The Winner Is...

The Friends of the AUM Library Annual Award Ceremony Luncheon took place this past July. The winners of the Betty J. Tims Award for Outstanding Service were Lucy Farrow and Tom Russell. Ms. Farrow was named Head of Public Services in 2008. Mr. Russell has worked for the AUM Library in the Circulation department for the past twenty years. Congratulations to Lucy and Tom for their commitment to service.

Librarian Profile

Welcome the newest member to the AUM Library faculty. Dr. Judy Solomon joined the AUM Library this past May as Access Services Librarian. In this position Judy coordinates the activities of the Circulation department and managing copyright permissions for materials used in Electronic Reserves. Born in Tennessee and raised in Bridgeport, AL, Judy attended Lipscomb University in Nashville earning a B.S. She went on to earn a M.L.S. and an Ed.D. from Vanderbilt, and her J.D. degree from the Jones School of Law at Faulkner University. In her free time, Judy enjoys growing roses, reading primarily non-fiction books, swimming, and watching movies. We are pleased to welcome Judy to the AUM Library.

Tenure and Promotion Update

We are pleased to announce that librarians Barbara Hightower and Jason Kneip will be awarded tenure this coming Fall. Additionally, Inter-library loan Librarian Karen Williams was promoted to Librarian III this past fall. Congratulations to Barbara, Jason and Karen for their achievements.

Did you know??

The AUM Library now has a blog and a virtual tour. Visit our blog to find out what’s happening at the library and find additions to the Browsing Collection!

Our Virtual Tour Address:
http://aumnicat.aum.edu/virtual-tour.html

Our Blog Address:
http://aumnicat.aum.edu/weblog
As we head towards the end of our regular academic year, I’d like to take a moment to review some of the accomplishments of the library this past year. First, with the assistance of the office of Information Technology Services, the library has been able to implement wireless access throughout the building. The library has worked with the ITS staff to synchronize its log-in process so that students will no longer have a different log-in protocol than what they use to access other university services.

Second, in continuing to respond to the results of the 2006 LibQual+ survey results, the library has reconfigured rooms on floors 3 thru 6 as group study rooms. This is in direct response to student comments in the survey indicating a desire for more group study rooms. With wireless access, these rooms are becoming an ever more popular place for students to work together.

Third, the library has undertaken an important project in preserving, cataloging, and making available electronic state publications. With a grant from the Network of Alabama Academic Libraries, the staff of the AUM Library is working to harvest these digital documents, catalog them, and make them available through OCLC’s WorldCat service, a national bibliographic database. To date, Colleen Valente and John Gantt have worked to harvest and catalog some fifty titles of state agency publications.

With the reduction in state funding for education, the Library has frozen two positions for the coming fiscal year. Prior to the freeze, however, the Library was able to hire Dr. Judy A. Solomon as Access Services Librarian. It is a great pleasure having Dr. Solomon working with us. The Library successfully contributed to the reaccreditation process for the University. Four criteria of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools directly related to the library: 2.9 – Access to library collections; 3.8.1 – Facilities and Learning/Information Resources; 3.8.2 – Library Instruction; and 3.8.3 – Adequate Staffing. In all of these areas, the library was found to be in compliance.

The Library is continuing to work on providing support for the University Strategic Plan. Initial information indicates that the library is providing the necessary support for specific components of the plan, but we are continuing to look at ways in which we can strengthen our support and assess our activities.

Last year, the Library held its’ first “Dean’s Dinner,” which you will read more about elsewhere in this issue. The dinner, established to recognize significant donors to the library, provided a wonderful opportunity for the donors and library staff members to talk together and to share information about the library. For the success of this event, I would be remiss if I did not thank the following individuals for their hard work and support in bringing this event to fruition: Carolyn Johnson; Paige Hines; Samantha McNeilly; Jason Kneip; Lucy Farrow; Colleen Valente. Thank you all.

I continually count myself as the luckiest library dean or director in the state of Alabama. Why, because I enjoy working with a most talented group of individuals. Each of them strives to assist the students and the faculty, as well as members of the community. In 2008, the AUM Library was awarded the Readers Choice Award for being the Best Library in the City of Montgomery. This is the third time in the last five years that we have won the award. Libraries, however, are nothing without the talented people who make them run. And at AUM, we have the best. In fact, everyone on campus contributes to the success and improvement of the library and its services.

Dr. Lee Farrow, Associate Dean of the School of Liberal Arts, provided us with a suggestion to help promote reading. She suggested posting flyers on specific books with brief reviews to attract interest. We did this and it has proven so successful that a number of people have missed the elevator stops where they were supposed to get off because they were busy reading the flyers that Samantha McNeill and others have prepared and posted.

As always, we look forward to serving you. If you have any ideas to suggest or anything you would like to discuss, please call me at (334) 244-3200 or e-mail me at rbest@aum.edu. I look forward to hearing from you.

Rickey D. Best
Dean
You’re Invited!

Becoming a Friend of the AUM Library is a great way to help support the mission of the Library. And if you need to renew your friendship, we’d like to welcome you back. Your tax deductible contribution is essential to the Library and is deeply appreciated. The Friends look forward to your fellowship and active partnership in library growth.

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