2017 ANNUAL REPORT

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
& LIBRARY GALLERY

Albin O. Kuhn Library & Gallery
University of Maryland, Baltimore County
1000 Hilltop Circle
Baltimore, MD 21250
This annual report is meant to serve as a snapshot of our new collections and the work that is done by the Special Collections and Gallery staff. While 2017 found us in a time of transition following the retirement of our long-serving Chief Curator Tom Beck in June, our staff took the opportunity to evolve in many ways while maintaining the high quality service that is expected by our students, colleagues, researchers, and donors.

Much of this work is done in collaboration with our colleagues on campus and throughout the Library. We are thankful for these partnerships and for the expertise and kindness of our colleagues. We are grateful for the foundation that Tom built and for the continued guidance, support, and motivation provided by Robin Moskal and Patrick Dawson.

Lindsey Loeper
Acting Director and Curator
COLLECTION USAGE AT-A-GLANCE

Total items pulled 3,749  
Items pulled for ILL 228  
Items for class use 1,693  
Researcher visits 379  
Class visits 84  
Class attendance 1,020

EXAMPLES OF SCHOLARLY USAGE

Jule Eisenbud collection:  
Ted Serios: Serien by Romeo Grunfelder (Textem Verlag, 2016)

Jule Eisenbud collection:  
Thoughtographs and Stanhope Lenses, Optics & Photonics News (October 2017)

Joseph L. Arnold papers:  
Baltimore: A Political History by Matthew Crenson (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2017)

Lewis Hine photographs:  

University Archives:  

Hughes Co. Photographs:  
COLLECTION ACQUISITION HIGHLIGHTS

ROBERT FICHTER COLLECTION
The anticipated final donation from Robert Fichter, a photographer and painter known for his use of symbolism, characters, and humor in abstract and still life imagery. The 2017 addition to the collection included Fichter’s personal notebooks along with prints, paintings, props, and equipment. A retrospective exhibit is planned for the Library Gallery in Fall 2019.

LAWRENCE WATT-EVENS PAPERS
The personal and literary papers of Lawrence Watt Evans (b. 1954), a fantasy, science fiction, and non-fiction author. He publishes primarily as Lawrence Watt-Evans and was awarded the Hugo Award for Best Short Story in 1988; his other pen names include Nathan Archer and Walter Vance Awsten.

PEGGY FOX PHOTOGRAPHS
Additional prints and negatives were added to this collection by Peggy Fox, a Maryland-based photographer and artist. Fox’s photographs capture the communities of Maryland, with an emphasis on the Patapsco River Valley.

ELAINE EFF PAPERS
Part of the Maryland Traditions Archives, Eff’s papers document her impressive career as a folklorist in Baltimore and the state of Maryland. This donation included photographs of Christmas and holiday displays, and other photographs and recordings of the traditions of Central and Western MD.

BARBARA YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHS
This donation from Barbara Young, a nationally recognized photographer, may be the largest collection of Young photographs in one institution. Her photographs are also a part of the permanent collections of The Baltimore Museum of Art, The George Eastman House, International Museum of Photography and Film, Museum of Modern Art, and Yale University.

STEVE SZABO PHOTOGRAPHS
Best known for his oversized platinum prints of the Eastern Shore of Maryland, made from 8x10 inch negatives, photographer and professor Steve Szabo (1940-2000) left his papers, negatives, and prints to his longtime partner Kathleen Ewing. Szabo’s prints are also a part of the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art, the George Eastman House, the National Museum of American Art, and the Library of Congress.

JENNY O’GRADY ARTIST BOOK
A particularly fun example of a faculty/staff publication is this artist book made by Jenny O’Grady, the editor of the UMBC Magazine. The book, a reflection on the iconic Cracker Jack treat, is published by Container.
In addition to donations of collection materials, we also accept monetary donations. These funds are used to purchase items and to support the processing, preservation, and digitization of our collections. Examples of items purchased using endowment funds in 2017 include:

**MARTIN AND RITA SEPLOWITZ SALTZ ENDOWMENT**
American science fiction and the Cold War: literature and film by David Seed
Letters of the Alien Publisher by Charles C. Ryan and John Betancourt, eds. Signed, 1st ed.
Herland by Charlotte Perkins Gilman; 1st ed.
Parable of Talents, Parable of the Sower, and Patternmaster by Octavia Butler, 1st ed.
Arkham House Books by Leon Nielsen
Vietnam by Rock Zackly
Kepler’s Somnium by Johannes Kepler and Edward Rosen, 1st ed.

**BUNTING FAMILY LIBRARY FUND**
The Mangrove Coast: The Story of the West Coast of Florida by Karl Bickel and Walker Evans; 1st ed.; signed by Evans.

**JOSEPH LARKIN ARNOLD ENDOWMENT**
Baltimore: A Political History by Matthew Crenson
Baltimore Memories: A Pictorial History of the mid 1800’s through the 1930’s by the Baltimore Sun Media Group
Ola Belle Reed and Southern Mountain Music on the Mason-Dixon Line by Clifford Murphy and Henry Glassie

Learn more and view all of the Library endowments at [https://library.umbc.edu/speccoll/donate.php](https://library.umbc.edu/speccoll/donate.php). Gifts are tax-deductible.
Faculty at UMBC and other regional schools work with Special Collections staff to offer a number of different types of instruction sessions. The faculty member may request a book reserve cart, or may wish to provide their own lecture with photos or other collection items as hands-on examples. Frequently they want their students to learn archival and/or visual literacy skills or a general introduction to working with primary source materials; these instruction sessions are taught by the librarians in Special Collections. The Reference and Instruction Librarians may also request to co-teach a session. Regardless of the format, a total of 84 classes were taught in Special Collections in 2017.

**Increasing the Interactivity of Special Collections instruction**

One goal that we have had for our instruction is to make the sessions more hands-on and interactive. Having the students come to the Reading Room and see the collection materials is helpful, but to allow them time to touch and work directly with the items will hopefully make this type of research seem more accessible. There are several variations of hands-on exercises that we use depending on the goals of the session and the experience of the students. One example that has been quite successful is having small groups of students cycle through stations, with either a print photograph, digital photograph, or interpretive text at each station. The students answer several questions about each object and reflect on how their research experience changes depending on the format, metadata, or context.

**DEPARTMENTS**

- American Studies
- English
- First Year Seminar
- Gender and Women’s Studies
- German / MLLI
- History
- Humanities Scholars
- Media and Communication Studies
- Visual Arts

**EXTERNAL VISITS**

- George Washington University
- Howard University Library
- CCBC—Catonsville
- Baltimore City P-14 visit
We celebrated American Archives Month this year with COSMO, the Library’s Committee on Social Media and Outreach, to produce staff selected highlights that were posted to Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook.

**Archives Month**

Graduate Assistant Dave Cunningham and Special Collections Librarian Susan Graham prepared an exhibit for the Catonsville branch of the Baltimore County Public Library. They shared highlights from the university archives, science fiction, alternative press, and historical collections.

**Mary Jane Arnold**

Mary Jane is a long-time volunteer in Special Collections and a dedicated supporter of the Library. This year Mary Jane began a new project working on reviewing the department’s backlog of historic and rare books.

**Jordan Ritchie**

Jordan is a current graduate student in the History department. She began working with us in Summer 2017 on her internship and thesis research, using the Jack Engeman collection, Collection 118. Jordan’s interest in the history of photography and previous experience working in a university Special Collections department in New York state made for an ideal partnership with our department.

**David Russell**

David is a recent graduate of Drexel University where he earned his MLIS. He volunteered with us during the Winter and Spring semesters, working primarily with the Jason Pate collection, Collection 123, part of the Maryland Traditions Archives.

**Leah Michaels**

Intermedia and Digital Arts graduate student Leah Michaels curated an exhibit for her semester project. “The Hermit at the Disco” was on display in the Reading Room from Dec 2016 to April 2017.

**BCPL exhibit**

Graduate Assistant Dave Cunningham and Special Collections Librarian Susan Graham prepared an exhibit for the Catonsville branch of the Baltimore County Public Library. They shared highlights from the university archives, science fiction, alternative press, and historical collections.
Altered State: Painting Myanmar in a Time of Transition

January 30—March 26, 2017

*Altered State: Painting Myanmar in a Time of Transition* presents paintings by 36 contemporary artists from Myanmar, the Southeast Asian nation formerly known as Burma. Created following the transition period of 2011, when a military-backed civilian government replaced oppressive rule by military junta and the country once famous for its seclusion re-entered the world stage, the paintings illustrate current artistic practice in Myanmar and present a series of creative viewpoints on a rapidly changing society.

The Korshak Collection: Illustrations of Imaginative Literature

April 10—May 16, 2017

Featuring work by both American and European artists and spanning more than a century, these vivid illustrations bring to life adventures, beings, and worlds conjured in novels such as Don Quixote, Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland and Tarzan, and pulp magazines including Amazing Stories, Weird Tales, Fantastic Adventures, and Wonder Stories. The exhibition will also include books, pulp magazines, and other items drawn from UMBC’s Rosenfeld Collection.

**Artist’s Talk: Donato Giancola, Thursday, May 4, 5 p.m.**

Award-winning illustrator Donato Giancola, best known for his endlessly creative and exquisitely rendered science fiction and fantasy illustrations, will discuss his broad range of illustrative work.

**GALLERY USAGE AT-A-GLANCE**

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<tr>
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<th>FY17</th>
<th>FY18 (Dec)</th>
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<td>Exhibition tours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outside groups</td>
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Man, Idea, Image: Photographs of Men from the Mark Rice Collection

August 30—December 21, 2017

*Man, Image, Idea: Photographs of Men from the Mark Rice Collection* is an exhibition of 62 photographs from The Mark Rice Collection, donated to the Special Collections at the Albin O. Kuhn Library and Gallery at UMBC in 1998. The exhibition considers various aesthetic, social, and historical aspects of the photographic representation of the male body since 1969 and the history of gay male photography. This exhibition sets out to display and entice contemplation of the male body and engage the complicated dynamics of looking at the male form.

The exhibition is curated James Smalls, Professor of Visual Arts at UMBC. His research and publications focus on the intersections of race, gender, and queer sexuality in modern and contemporary visual culture. He is the author of *Homosexuality in Art* (2003) and *The Homoerotic Photography of Carl Van Vechten* (2006).

**Exhibit Talk: The Mark Rice Collection and the Homoerotics of Photography after Stonewall.**
Lecture by Dr. James Smalls, Professor, Visual Arts, December 7.


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**ADDITIONAL GALLERY FUNDING**

Maryland State Arts Council: FY17 $7,877, FY18 $8,139

Earned Income: FY17 $800

UMBC departmental support FY17/18: Institutional Advancement, Asian Studies program, Dresher Center for the Humanities, Center for Innovation, Research, and Creativity in the Arts (CIRCA), Gender and Women’s Studies program.

In-kind donation by Stephen Korshak
The Special Collections and Library Gallery are both located on the 1st floor of the Albin O. Kuhn Library & Gallery at UMBC, 1000 Hilltop Circle, Baltimore, MD 21250.

**Special Collections**
- Monday–Friday 1–4pm, Thursday 1–8pm, or by appointment

**Library Gallery**
- Monday–Friday 10am–4:30pm, Thursday 10am–8pm, Saturday–Sunday 12-5pm
- Intercession, Winter, and Summer terms by appointment only

**MISSION**

The Special Collections Department serves to collect, house, preserve, and make accessible scholarly collections of materials that are original, rare, unique, fragile, historical, and archival. Topical collecting areas are particularly emphasized within the fields of photography, the history of the biological sciences, the Baltimore Sun newspaper, science fiction literature and popular culture, alternative presses, UMBC history and records, and Maryland manuscript, photograph, and newspaper collections.

The Library Gallery’s mission is to provide exhibitions and educational and public programming across a range of subjects, media, and aesthetic purposes in ways which support the UMBC mission. In the context of UMBC, a research university, the Gallery serves as a crucible for the discovery of and encounter with ideas greater than any single book, object, image, or concept. Exposing students and visitors to a broad range of exhibitions in a primary goal of the Gallery.

**CONNECT**

Stay up to date by following us at:
- Library.UMBC.edu
- Facebook: @aoklibrary
- Facebook: @UMBCLibraryGallery
- Facebook: @UMBCUniversityArchives
- Facebook: @ArtsAtUMBC
- Twitter: @umbclibrary
- Instagram: @umbclibrary

**LOCATION AND HOURS**

The Special Collections and Library Gallery are both located on the 1st floor of the Albin O. Kuhn Library & Gallery at UMBC, 1000 Hilltop Circle, Baltimore, MD 21250.

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Intercession, Winter, and Summer terms by appointment only
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