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Director's Report:
Renovations Project Winds Down

The importance of the Library’s infrastructure has never been more apparent than during the remodeling of the Lamar Soutter Library. The primary goals of our project were to improve the appearance of the building while improving functionality and access to information technology resources.

As we come to the final stages of our renovation project, I am pleased to say that we have met our goals. Staff, users, and former students are very impressed with the improvement that new carpeting, paint, and furniture can achieve.

The Library now houses more than 80 public access computers. In addition to the state-of-the-art teaching room that doubles as an open lab when not reserved for Library instruction, network connections are prevalent throughout the Library. New study tables with network connections and built-in lamps highlight the first floor atrium area. The wireless network was upgraded and there are 25 laptops available for checkout. The tall panels have been removed in the computer area on the first floor, allowing for natural light. The Library has a feeling of a more open and welcoming environment.

Comfortable seating is located along the windows on the first floor, outside the Rare Books Room, in the unbound journal area, and on the third floor mezzanines. Soundproof panels have been installed on the “bridges,” in order to muffle conversations and keyboard clacking. New custom-built Reference and Circulation Desks refresh and define the former public service areas.

Interview with Jane Fama, Head of Access Services

SR: Congratulations on your appointment, Jane, and welcome to the Lamar Soutter Library. Can you tell us what the responsibilities are for the Head of Access Services?

JF: Thanks. As Head of Access Services, I manage the Circulation, Interlibrary Borrowing, and Document Delivery areas of the Library. This department’s responsibility is to make sure that the Library’s resources are available for our many users. We provide frontline service to a wide range of patrons. If the Lamar Soutter Library doesn’t have the material that you need, we try to obtain it from other sources.

SR: Ditto. What have been some of the biggest challenges in your tenure?

JF: The biggest challenge has been the remodeling of the Library. We have had to find a way to serve our patrons while the Library was undergoing construction. It has been difficult, but we have managed to keep the Library open and accessible.

SR: How has the Library changed since you arrived?

JF: The Library has changed dramatically since I arrived. We have added new services, such as the Reference Desk and the Interlibrary Borrowing service. We have also expanded our collection and improved our online resources.

SR: What are your plans for the future?

JF: Our plans for the future include expanding our online resources, improving our facilities, and increasing our collection. We are also looking into new ways to serve our patrons, such as offering more online resources and improving our reference services.

SR: Thanks, Jane. We look forward to seeing the continued progress of the Library.

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Library Receives Lundy Donation

At a time when unpaved New England roads still bore grooves cut by the wheels of buggies driven by so-called “horse doctors,” a young physician from Lawrence, Massachusetts named Joseph A. Lundy began his medical practice. He established himself in Oxford, the hometown of another renowned health professional, Clara Barton. Today, some 70 years later, comes the announcement of a sizable monetary bequest to the Lamar Soutter Library from the Lundy estate.

Trained at Tufts University Medical School during the Great Depression, Dr. Lundy was recognized for many years as an accomplished physician in central Massachusetts. He established his practice here in 1934, but was interrupted by World War II, during which he served in the medical corps in North Africa and France. Lundy’s wife, Maude, served alongside her husband as a devoted community nurse.

After the War, Dr. Lundy functioned as chief of medicine at Worcester City Hospital and senior physician at St. Vincent and Hahnemann Hospitals. For more than 30 years, he served as a trustee of the Worcester Medical Library. Ever the scholar and bibliophile, while a trustee for the Boston Medical Library, Dr. Lundy participated in discussions that resulted in the combining of its collection with that of Harvard Medical Library, to form the Countway Library. Moreover, from 1952-1955, he presided as editor of the journal *Worcester Medicine*.

During the late 1950s and early 1960s, his was one of a growing chorus of voices that championed the building of a state medical school in Worcester. Then, once the University of Massachusetts Medical Center became a reality in 1965, Dr. Lundy was an articulate advocate for the Lamar Soutter Library,
LSL Milestones

Retired   Karen Cangello, a twenty-seven year employee of the Lamar Soutter Library, recently accepted the early retirement package offered to Massachusetts state workers. She worked in the Interlibrary Borrowing Department for over twenty years.

Moved on   John Marengo, a Circulation Assistant for five years, has resigned to begin his new career as a dental hygienist. John recently passed his Dental Hygienist Board certification and received his Associate’s degree from Quinsigamond Community College.

Astrid Bergner, a morning Circulation Assistant for two years, has moved back to her native country Germany. Her husband Albrecht has accepted a medical position there. Astrid plans to pursue a postgraduate degree in Library Science.

Started   Jane Fama, newly appointed Associate Director for Access Services, began her employment at the Library on June 24. She manages the Circulation, Interlibrary Borrowing, and Document

New Public Copiers at LSL

The Library recently outsourced its public copier operation to Copico, Inc., a leading vendor of automated copy equipment throughout the Northeast. The fee for a copy from any of these six machines remains at ten cents.

This equipment accepts both coins and photocopy cards. These reusable cards cost $1.00 apiece, and are purchasable from either of two dispensers on the Library’s first floor. For UMMS departmental use, copy cards bearing larger values are orderable directly from Copico. One of the copiers, located on the first floor, is ADA-compliant.

Library patrons have from June-December to exhaust the value that may remain on any copy cards issued by the Library’s previous system. (The word “Danyl” appears on these older cards.) JL

Lamar Soutter Library Welcomes Humanities Collection

The Lamar Soutter Library was recently awarded a grant from the Worcester Medical Library (an affiliate of the Worcester District Medical Society). The Library is collaborating with that group in the development of a special Humanities in Medicine Collection. This project will be directed by a newly formed committee that includes UMMS faculty, students, and Library staff, as well as community physicians from the Worcester District Medical Society.

It will be co-chaired by H. Brownell Wheeler, M.D. (the Harry M. Haidak Distinguished Professor of Surgery, Emeritus and Chair of the Worcester Medical Library Board) and by Dr. John Cooke (Professor of Cell Biology and Chair of the UMMS Library Committee). The committee wants to ensure that the medical school will train doctors who are not only knowledgeable in the science of medicine, but also sensitive to the art of medical practice and the human issues involved.

With the goal of broadening the perspective of all health practitioners, the committee will choose works of both fiction and nonfiction to be included in the new collection. A bookplate recognizing the donation from the Worcester Medical Library will identify every selection.

Works first suggested include classics, such as the Bible and Shakespeare, as well as contemporary books, such as Kubler-Ross’ On Death and Dying and Rafael Campos’ The Poetry of Healing. A number of appropriate works, such as Mitch Albom’s Tuesdays with Morrie and Oliver Sacks’ Awakenings, are already in our general collection.

Together with the new purchases, these will be moved to separate shelves in the Library near the Rare Books Room.

Comfortable furniture will invite readers to browse and sample books from the new Humanities in Medicine collection. Further donations are welcome, if approved by the committee. HF

Lundy Donation (cont. from previous page)

Mrs. Lundy for her foresight in providing this additional gift to assist in the education of our students. She recognized that the Library is an incredibly valuable resource and is ensuring continued and broadened access to the latest information that will enable our students to become better physicians for their patients.*

As the revenue generated by this Fund and bequest continues, allowing the Library’s acquisition of cutting-edge learning materials, both patrons and staff of the Library will continue to be indebted to Dr. Lundy and his wife for years to come. The legacy of a 1930s country doctor from Oxford, which had already stretched across many decades, now promises to lengthen well into the new millennium.

JL (with contributions by HF and Public Affairs’ Kelly Bishop)

JL
Renovations Project (cont. from front page)

Despite all of the changes, the purpose of the Library remains the same—a place to bring faculty, staff and students together to investigate new knowledge, exchange ideas, socialize, or rest. Although the colors and structure of the walls and carpet may change, the Library will remain an important physical presence.

There are always challenges with re-designing existing space. Some days the noise levels were deafening. Services and staff moved in and out of temporary locations—sometimes more than once. The “go with the flow” response from our users was greatly appreciated by everyone on the staff throughout the renovation.

We look forward to serving you in our newly renovated surroundings. Watch for information on our Open House this spring when we will highlight our new look and enhanced services. EM

LSL Milestones (cont. from previous page)

Delivery departments.

Deanna Lucia was appointed by Director Elaine Martin to be the new Associate Director for Administrative Services. She began her employment on July 22. She was also married this summer. PJ

Dose of Reading: Alcoholism

The following are accounts by individuals who have been afflicted with this disease, either themselves or as children of alcoholic parents or guardians. All titles are held in the collection of the Lamar Soutter Library, or are available through Interlibrary Borrowing or the Virtual Catalog system.

Anderson, Louie. Dear Dad: Letters from an Adult Child (1989). The standup comic reveals a serious side, as he shares letters that (for his own sense of closure) he wrote to his alcoholic, abusive father after his father’s death.


Green, Melissa. Color Is the Suffering of Light: A Memoir (1995). The author, a poet from Western Massachusetts, describes how she survived a childhood of poverty, in which self-cutting behavior became her way of coping with life with an alcoholic father.

Hamill, Pete. The Drinking Life (1999). Born during the Depression in Brooklyn, this newspaper journalist evokes the gritty lifestyle he led for many years—a lifestyle that was dependent upon barlife and regular drinking.

Hartley, Mariette. Breaking the Silence (1988). A television actress, Hartley recounts her years raised by two alcoholic parents—her father later committed suicide—as well as her life with an abusive husband and her own addiction to alcohol.

Hemingway, Lorian. Walk on Water: A Memoir (1998). The granddaughter of Ernest Hemingway here recreates her early life, which was plagued by an abusive stepfather and her descent into alcohol dependence, which she finally stopped by joining a detoxification program.

Judge, Mark. Wasted: Tales of a Gen-X Drunk (1997). Now a journalist, Judge uses dark humor and candor in tracing his adolescence years’ plunge into alcoholism and his saving himself through Alcoholics Anonymous and Milan Recovery.

Karr, Mary. The Liar’s Club: A Memoir (1995). A baby-boomer raised by alcoholic parents in the desolate refinery country of East Texas, Karr has produced a memoir that remained for many months atop best-seller lists. JL