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WHO’S ON 6?
More Grad Students Than Ever
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When the fourth and fifth floors of Bobst Library opened in 2010-2011 after gut renovations, graduate students and dissertation writers found a number of quiet rooms exclusively for them. Asked for their opinion, they were loud and clear: “More, please.” As a result, the newly renovated sixth floor is a haven for graduate students, with more spaces reserved for them than on any other floor: a total of 117 seats in quiet study rooms and in four group studies. In addition, a writer’s room for doctoral candidates working on dissertations has roomy desks and high shelving for privacy and convenience.

With more and more people using Bobst Library every year, one of the many goals of the renovation is to increase the number of seats throughout. The total number of sixth floor seats is now 388, up from 220. Of the additional 168, 126 are reserved for graduate students.

“Graduate and undergraduate students typically have different work styles,” says Carol A. Mandel, dean of the Division of Libraries. “Undergraduates working on assignments flock to spaces like the open area on five, where conversation is permissible and tables can be reconfigured to accommodate groups. Graduate students prefer a more contemplative environment for research and writing.”

As French department PhD candidate Wesley Fate Gunter, who favors the dissertation writers’ rooms (DWRs), puts it, “Only other grad students realize how intense and serious the work is.” Clara Hunter Latham, of the music department, uses a DWR because “I find the presence of others working quietly very focusing.” Matt Levy of IFA calls the DWRs “a godsend” as he writes his dissertation. He finds that “the greatest benefits are ample desk space and a designated quiet room apart from the undergrads.”

Referring to the mobile storage cabinets (“mobys”) provided to each DWR user, Tate LeFevre, of the Anthropology department, says, “The combination of DWR and maby is almost as good as having an office.”

While dissertation writing is a solitary pursuit, many graduate students work collaboratively. Their response to the reservable collaborative studies on floors four and five was so favorable that four more have been added to the sixth floor. Each reservable room has table and chairs for 8 to 10, plus whiteboards and a high-definition display.

Another new feature of the sixth floor—two Mac-equipped classrooms for hands-on learning—reflects the broad and constantly growing variety of instructional sessions presented by librarians every semester. Classes are offered in advanced use of BobCat, NYU’s multifaceted online catalog, and in the three most popular tools for managing and organizing research online. There are also classes in eight different types of statistical software, mapping and global information systems, major online data collections, and in survey software, qualitative analysis, quantitative analysis, and more. Last year, nearly 18,000 students, a 14 percent annual increase, attended more than a thousand instructional sessions. More seats and more instructional space are two factors in Bobst Library’s steady climbing occupancy rates. Between 2007 and 2012, annual undergraduate entries rose by 53% to 118 million; graduate student entries rose by 29% to 561,000.

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Angela Carreño Honored for E-collections Leadership

Angela Carreño, head of collection development, has been awarded the prestigious Coutts Award for Innovation in Electronic Resources Management. The award recognizes significant and innovative contributions to electronic collections management and development practice. It is presented by the Association for Library Collections & Technical Services (ALCTS), Collection Management Section.

“As libraries work with publishers to devise access to electronic books, Angela has been a groundbreaking leader in the profession and at NYU,” says Carol A. Mandel, Dean of Libraries. “She puts the reader first and a resourceful and persistent in developing agreements and methods that make the transition from paper to electronic a satisfying, responsive experience for the user and a win for the libraries. It is fitting and gratifying that her professional colleagues have recognized the results of a decade of her leadership with the Coutts award.”

NYU Libraries began actively collecting e-books in 2003. Over the next several years, Carreño began working with scholarly publishers, NYU’s book vendor, and its e-book platform to develop a smooth workflow for acquiring and making the largest number of e-books visible in one place.

Carreño (who joined the Libraries in 1985) went on to negotiate an e-book model license agreement with the Oxford University Press and the Marthanan Research Library Initiative (MaRLI) that not only allowed shared access to e-books, but also provided shared paper copies. (The three MaRLI members are the New York Public Library, NYU Libraries, and Columbia University Libraries.) “Studies show that scholars in the humanities still value access to printed mono-

Carreño worked with a major Argentine book vendor to develop a pilot for licensing content through an e-book vendor, facilitating the transition of Southern Cone publishers to the electronic format and their easy integration into the acquisition programs of U.S. research libraries. As the librarian for Spanish, Portuguese, and Latin American & Caribbean Studies, Carreño is especially attuned to the needs of scholars in these areas.

What else is Carreño thinking about? “We have very rich, authoritative reference works in electronic formats now,” she says. “Where can we aggregate them so they are highly visible to users?”

Textbooks are also on her mind. “In print, textbooks are out of scope for us,” Carreño says. “But when nearly all titles are e-books, should we anticipate pressure?”

Thinking ahead, anticipating challenges, and bringing the right players to the table to work out solutions is why Carreño will be at the American Library Association Annual Conference in Chicago on June 30, a guest of honor at the ALCTS Awards Ceremony.

Sylvester Manor Archive Yields Its First Scholarly Productions

In 2008, NYU Libraries was given the archive of Sylvester Manor, a provisioning plantation on Shelter Island, NY, established in 1651 by Nathaniel Sylvester and his partners. Eben Ostby, a Sylvester descendant, made the gift in order to keep the archive close to home (Sylvester Manor is still an operational farm) and see it made accessible to scholars. And so it has been: Over the past two years, 60 linear feet of letters, maps, wills, deeds, journals, bills of sale, court papers, and photographs were processed and opened to researchers. The processing archivist was Liza Harrell-Edge.

The Libraries hosted an April 10 celebration in the Mamdouha Bobst Gallery, where a new exhibition, Sylvester Manor: Land, Food and Power on a New York Plantation, curated by Jenny Anderson of Stony Brook University, is on public view through July 15. Authors of the first two books based on research in the archive read from their new works: Slavery Before Race: Europeans, Africans, and Indians at Long Island’s Sylvester Manor Plantation, 1651-1864 by Katherine Hayes, and The Manor: The Life & Times of a Slave Plantation on Long Island from 1651 to the Present by Mac Griswold.

“This fascinating exhibition and these two deeply researched books are just the beginning of what the Sylvester Manor Archive will yield in terms of new knowledge and scholarly value,” noted Dean Carol A. Mandel in opening remarks. “It is unique—three hundred unbroken years of primary historical source material critical for understanding Atlantic history and many aspects of American history and culture.”

Mandel thanked Griswold for calling the archive to the attention of Karen Kupperman, Silver Professor of History, an authority on the early modern Atlantic world and, Mandel said, “the key match of the archive to NYU.”

Part of the celebration of the newly opened archive was a talk in Fales Library on April 30 by author Jamaica Kincaid, “Captain Bligh’s Bounty,” which wove a story of breadfruit, Sir Joseph Banks, and the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew.

Michael Suarez Delivers Fales Lecture

“Every book is a coalescence of human intentions,” says Michael F. Suarez, SJ, professor of English and director of Rare Book School at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. Father Suarez, who delivered the 2013 Fales Lecture on April 17, is a renowned scholar of 18th century literature. A native New Yorker, he is shown at NYU with his mother, Toni Suarez, who attended the standing room only event.
Chela Scott Weber, associate head for archival collections, Tamiment Library, highlights The Joseph North and Helen Oken North Papers

The North Papers span the 1910s through the 1960s, most of them from 1930 to 1960. Joseph North was a journalist who covered the Spanish Civil War for The Daily Worker and New Masses; his wife Helen joined him in Spain, working in medical service. Their letters to each other form a small but historically significant portion of the collection. There is also extensive correspondence among a constellation of family and friends including Helen’s sister, Lydia, who was active in union organizing in Chicago in the 1930s and was married to an Abraham Lincoln Brigade volunteer; and between Joseph and his brother, the composer Alex North.

Many of the documents pertain to the life and work of the woman’s father, Morris Oken, a textile worker who emigrated from Russia and was active in the Workmen’s Circle and other socialist and labor organizations based in the Lower East Side at the turn of the 20th century. A gift from Joseph and Helen’s daughter Nora North, the papers are remarkable not just for the political and labor activities they document, but also for their illumination of relationships within a family in which politics and idealism were lived out, reverberating through generations.

Charlotte Priddle, librarian for printed books, Fales Library, selects The Lord of the Rings

It seems strange today, but J. R. R. Tolkien’s The Lord of the Rings did not become immediately popular when the first volume appeared in 1954. In fact, the publishers printed only 3,000 copies of The Fellowship of the Ring, 3,250 of The Two Towers, and around 7,000 of The Return of the King. Very few complete sets of the first edition, first issue have lasted with their dust jackets; we have just acquired a perfect set. The Lord of the Rings is not just a 20th century classic, but also an epic that harks back to the mythic Icelandic sagas and other national stories. Inspired by the lost languages of the Anglo-Saxon world and the histories that went with them, Tolkien created a complex universe of peoples and nations, all with pasts and myths of their own.

The dominant themes of the books—the natural world vs. the mechanized; friendship vs. ambition; love vs. hate—show the influence of Tolkien’s experiences growing up in the late 19th century in England’s industrial Midlands and fighting in WWI. Yet they have a universal appeal that continues to resonate with readers across the world and across generations.

Larry Rivers Papers Are Now Open to Scholars

Larry Rivers (1923-2002) was such a protean artist that a Libraries symposium on his work this spring easily encompassed four panels: Art/Painting, Literary and Artistic Social Circles, Poetry, and Jazz. “Crossings: Larry Rivers & His Milieu” celebrated the opening of the Larry Rivers Papers, nearly 200 linear feet of correspondence, manuscripts, photographs, moving image, and source material.

Many of the panelists knew Rivers well. “Larry’s art is unpredictable and that makes people uncomfortable,” said artist David Joel, executive director of the Larry Rivers Foundation. “He liked to play roles and push buttons.” Educator and art historian David C. Levy, former director of the Corcoran Gallery of Art, played in a jazz band with Rivers. “Larry was a formidable intellectual, restless and curious,” said Levy of his longtime friend, “but he did himself a lot of damage.” Levy cited “irreverent and unspeakably inflammatory remarks.” Nevertheless, said Levy, “He changed the course of art in a very profound way. I don’t think Pop Art could have emerged without Larry Rivers.” The painter Frank Bowling remembered Rivers as supportive and “very generous with his criticism. He never seemed to think what I was doing was in any way a threat to what he was doing.” The poet Bill Berkson said, “There was no public Larry and private Larry. Larry was continuous.” A small sampling of the Larry Rivers Papers was on view in an exhibition in the Tracey/Barry Gallery curated by Nicholas Martin, project archivist. The papers will support new scholarship in contemporary art history and the New York art world.

ARL Fellowships Come with Summer Plans

Alexsandra Mitchell and Nathasha Alvarez, students in the NYU/LIU Dual Degree Program, have been named fellows in the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) 2013 Career Enhancement Program. Both are candidates for master’s degrees in library and information science at Long Island University’s Palmer School. The ARL fellowships come with summer internships, Alvarez at Columbia University Libraries and Mitchell at the National Library of Medicine in Bethesda, MD. They will also participate in the 2014 ARL Leadership Symposium.

Mitchell and Alvarez are shown here with their NYU mentors in the Dual Degree Program: Chela Scott Weber, associate head for archival collections and acting head of Tamiment Library, who works with Alvarez, and Mitchell’s mentor, Timothy Johnson, librarian for Africana studies, anthropology, and food studies.
SAVE THE DATE!

October 1, 2013 – April 30, 2014
Mamdouha Bobst Gallery

The Bordeaux-Dublin Letters, 1757: Voice of an Irish Community Abroad

Glucksman Ireland House celebrates 20 years of Irish Studies at NYU with an exhibition in Bobst Library of personal letters and other documents taken from a captured Irish trading ship in 1757.

A Great Collection is Named for Nestle

“Marion Nestle came to my office in 2003 with a vision: NYU should build a research collection for food studies,” says Marvin J. Taylor, head of Fales Library.

Nestle, Paulette Goddard Professor in the Department of Nutrition, Food Studies, and Public Health at Steinhardt, had worked with her department to found Steinhardt’s food studies programs in 1996, the first of their kind in an American university. To address the need for library resources to support doctoral-level research, she worked with Taylor to acquire a cookbook collection of more than 7,000 volumes belonging to Greenwich Village resident Cecily Brownstone, Associated Press food editor from 1947 to 1986. Nestle and Taylor were just getting started.

“Through Marion’s contacts with collectors, we have built a collection that now numbers over 55,000 volumes, making us the largest food studies collection in the U.S. No one has done so much for the cause of food studies and libraries,” says Taylor.

At a festive event on April 18, 2013, the collection she envisioned was officially named the Marion Nestle Food Studies Collection.

“I am thrilled by this honor,” says Nestle. “The collection is an extraordinary resource for food scholars at NYU and in the greater research community. It’s been such a pleasure to see it established and watch it grow in breadth and depth. I couldn’t be prouder to have my name on it, or more grateful.”