Library Open House

Festooned with balloons and floral arrangements, The Lamar Soutter Library hosted a lively “Springtime Renaissance” open house on April fourteenth. Upon approach of the Library on that day, visitors first encountered a spring-time display (decorated by staff Gael Evans and Judy Nordberg). Then, passing between a pair of forsythia that flanked the entrance, guests entered the gaily transformed Library to the festive strains of medieval music. Visitors were hospitably met by library staff who offered handouts and demonstrations of various Library equipment and services, guided tours, and food catered by Worcester’s Struck Café.

Some of the demonstrations that were ongoing from 11 am-5 pm involved such Library materials, technologies, crafts, and information systems as those involving government documents, the use of bookmarks in Internet searches, general medical literature searches, Medline, Infotrac, and methods of repairing damaged and worn books and journals. Preservations specialist Cindy Noe entertained questions in this last area, while fellow Technical Services staff members Pauline McCormick and Pat Joyce responded to inquiries about their display on the acquisition of books and journals. David Pietrantoni spoke to customers about the wide diversity of subject matter contained in the Library’s government documents collection. Meanwhile, other guests listened to medical journal literature conveyed to them through headphones from items belonging to the Library’s audiotape collection.

Throughout the day, people were encouraged to deposit the tickets (earned for attending demonstrations and tours) into the raffle box at the Circulation Desk. Guests were also offered a complimentary mug as they exited the Library. The staff hopes that those who visited the Library for the first time on this occasion will return often to utilize our services and collections.

Smile! It’s USMLE

Our Reserves Collection has new additions of “Boards” review books covering these subject areas: General Overview, Anatomy, Behavioral Sciences, Biochemistry, Cell Biology, Gastrointestinal/Renal/Reproductive/Endocrine Physiology, Genetics, Microbiology, Pharmacology, and Physiology.
Librarians Collaborate on Website Development

Librarians Jim Comes and Peg Spinner and medical school faculty member Roger Luckmann M.D. (of the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health) have obtained an Innovations in Medical Education Grant (IMEG). They are collaborating to develop a website for the teaching of evidence-based medicine at the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

EBM is the acronym for evidence-based medicine, a technique for linking the best clinical research to the practice of medicine in order to improve patient care. Students at UMMS learn about evidence-based medicine during each year of their undergraduate medical education. This knowledge becomes especially valuable when they participate in the third-year clerkship program.

As part of this program, students work with community physicians in an office setting. They need to know how to quickly identify quality clinical information that can answer real patient-oriented questions about diagnosis, etiology, prognosis, and therapy.

In their discussions about making EBM-related information conveniently available for both students and physicians, the grant recipients agreed that Internet-connected computers would be the perfect vehicle by which to accomplish this goal. With a simple Internet connection to the World Wide Web, a student or physician would be able to access tutorials and databases that focus on evidence-based medicine.

As a result of the combined efforts of the initial grant recipients, as well as Robert Vander Hart (manager of the Library’s website) and Shawn Kledjmont (web-consultant), the first version of a UMMS website on evidence-based medicine has recently been released. It includes a tutorial on how to locate quality prognosis information as well as links to EBM-related databases. Second-year students are currently using the site and will be asked for comments and suggestions. The site can be viewed from the Library’s website at http://library.ummed.edu. Simply click “Evidence-Based Medicine.” Plans are underway to revise the first tutorial in response to student feedback, and, with new tutorials, to expand the topics that are covered.

New Staff

Mary Piorun began working as our Systems Librarian March 1. She comes to the Lamar Soutter Library from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), where she held a similar position, and was responsible there for implementing an integrated library system. Mary’s experience includes employment at the Pentagon’s and Smithsonian Institution’s libraries, as well as at several private industry libraries. Her knowledge and skills will be greatly appreciated as we begin to install our new Endeavor Integrated Library System.

Our other new Mary, Mary Ann Slocomb, has been with us since February 22. She brings a wealth of experience in medical librarianship from Rhode Island and Connecticut. Most recently, she supervised the Interlibrary Loan and Reference operations of the Lifespan/Miriam Hospital in Providence. Mary Ann will be managing the Circulation/Reserve, Interlibrary Borrowing, Document Delivery, and Photocopy Services divisions in our library.

Other Changes

Formerly employed by our Technical Services division, Pat Carney transferred to Reference Services in November in a half-time position. Before coming to our school, she worked as a Reference Librarian and Information Specialist at the Meharry Medical College Cancer Control Research Unit, and she also previously served as manager of the Baptist Hospital Medical Library in Nashville, Tennessee.

Marianne Brophy has also recently made a job move within the Library Department, after having worked for nine years as our night supervisor for Circulation/Reserve. During the past several years, she provided support for the library’s server, listservs, user accounts, and loading updates to the medical databases. In March of this year, Marianne came to Technical Services, and is responsible for recording the 1,600 active subscriptions received by the library. She has made the transition from nights to days with no problems.

Our former Circulation supervisor, Linda Hayes, has recently transferred to the position of Coordinator of Special Projects. Specifically, she will be working with Library managers to implement new technologies and service offerings as “ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Facilitator” and the Library’s “Copyright Officer.” Linda will continue to manage print-formatted course reserves materials, and will work with the Access Services Librarian and Library Systems staff, to initiate electronic reserves at UMass workstations. She will participate in committees that address issues related to planning, priorities setting, and workflow monitoring within the Library. Moreover, Linda will work on such ancillary projects as improving access to both the Rare Books Room and to the Library’s microfilm collection.
Library Wins HIV/AIDS Information Funding

Even before her first day at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, Elaine Martin, recently appointed as Director of the Lamar Soutter Library, applied for and won a National Library of Medicine HIV/AIDS Outreach Subcontract.

Our library will use the grant’s $39,997 in funding to provide electronic access to HIV/AIDS information to community-based organizations and clinics in the greater Worcester area, whose clients are HIV/AIDS patients and their caregivers. Participating agencies in the newly established Worcester Area HIV/AIDS Information Network (WAHAIN) include AIDS Project Worcester, Family Health Center, Great Brook Valley Health Center, Health Awareness Services, HIV Consortium of Central Massachusetts, Life House, Planned Parenthood, and the Visiting Nurse Association. Two additional agencies, the Greater Lawrence Family Health Center and the Lowell Community Health Center, have joined the original WAHAIN Network agencies and represent one more collaboration between the Lamar Soutter Library and ongoing HIV/AIDS research efforts here at the University of Massachusetts Worcester.

Each participating community organization will receive a personal computer, including modem and printer, as well as one year of free access to the Internet. Library staff will install the workstations and provide on-site training classes on Internet basics, health resources available on it, as well as how to access and learn about Internet Grateful Med, PubMed, and Web page design. Photocopies of articles retrieved from citations gleaned from the NLM’s MEDLINE and AIDS databases will be provided by library staff for free, when requested through Loansome Doc, if the material is available in the library.

The Lamar Soutter Library Outreach Coordinators, Kelly Cronin and Peg Spinner, will develop a project website to encourage the sharing of information, and to further enhance the sense of community that exists among these organizations. These Coordinators are currently visiting WAHAIN sites and their respective representatives, while perfecting their own computer installation skills. Kelly and Peggy report that working on this project has expanded their computer knowledge, their outreach skills, and their whole idea of what they can do as librarians.

They have found that the increased visibility that comes from an NLM-funded outreach project such as this can lead to unexpected opportunities within a library’s home institution, also. The Greater Lawrence Family Health Center and the Lowell Community Health Center agencies were not part of the original funding group; however, the two sites were added when the director of the University of Massachusetts Medical School’s Pediatrics HIV/AIDS Research Institute heard about the library’s project and requested their inclusion.

Anyone who would like more information is invited to contact either Kelly Cronin (kelly.cronin@umassmed.edu) at (508) 856-1267 or Peg Spinner (peg.spinner@umassmed.edu) at (508) 856-2458.

New OVID Client Server

Are you looking for information on vitamin C and the common cold, the best means of treating asthma, or the latest strategies for providing home health care to the elderly? Try OVID! The Lamar Soutter Library has purchased a new client server, allowing access to more than 20 databases offered by OVID and available through the library’s web page. The new client server provides access to more than eight thousand journals comprising more than ten million citations. Subjects covered are medicine, psychology, nursing, and hospital administration; literature from the social and life sciences is offered as well.

OVID offers access to sixty full-text journals in the biomedical sciences and twenty journals in nursing. A full-text title can be searched individually, or search results can be limited to articles available in full text and saved to a disk or printed at one’s local printer. In addition to the collection of full-text journals, the nursing database (CINAHL) offers many full-text public documents published by non-profit organizations and state government agencies. Recent titles added to OVID’s database collection include:

- Best Evidence: A database of articles from the ACP (American College of Physicians) Journal Club and from Evidence-Based Medicine, identifying studies that are both methodologically sound and clinically relevant to the practicing physician.
- Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews: A database of completed full-text systematic reviews and protocols for review currently being prepared.
- BIOSIS Previews: The world’s most comprehensive reference database in the life sciences. Nearly 7,000 journals are monitored. Some of the disciplines covered are microbiology, biochemistry, biophysics, animal science, bioengineering, and pharmacology.
- HAPI (Health and Psychosocial Instruments) provides information on questionnaires, interview schedules, vignettes/scenarios, and tests, which may be used for surveys or serve as evaluation instruments.

For information on training classes and on accessing the OVID databases, please call the reference desk at 856-6857.
A student’s life is a busy one, especially at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. Students of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, the Nursing School, or the Medical School must endure a rigorous program in order to graduate. Exams, presentations, class time, rotations, and research are among the many components of this strenuous process. Thus, it is all the more amazing when a UMassMed student finds time to research, write, and submit an article to an academic journal.

Some have found writing opportunities while doing a clinical rotation; other students, building upon previously accrued research, have found opportunities to compose articles during school breaks.

A case in point is Brian Moore, poised to graduate from UMMS this June, before starting his internship and subsequent residency at the University of Maryland. This prospective intern can boast of already having had his work accepted by a medical journal, having taken on this very challenge put to him by an attending physician at the beginning of Brian’s rotation in Psychopharmacology. The paper, “Treatment of Antidepressant-induced Sexual Dysfunction,” appears in the January 15 issue of the journal Hospital Practice.

Brian says, “This is an area which has been researched from a psychiatric point of view, but not from the primary care physician’s angle. The ubiquity of these drugs means that anti-depressant induced sexual dysfunction is an often encountered condition in the primary care setting. My article is aimed at those primary care physicians.” With many physicians having already requested copies of Brian’s article, he is well on his way to a promising career in academic medicine.

David FitzGerald, a third year medical student here, has authored two articles that have appeared in major medical publications. During the transitional year of his life in which he applied to enter medical school, David was inspired by a New York Times piece concerning a Massachusetts General Hospital research project on functional brain imaging. Stemming from data he gathered at that hospital as a volunteer in the NMR (Nuclear Magnetic Resonance) Center, he collaborated on a paper and—at midnight on his first day of medical school—submitted it to AJNR: American Journal of Neuroradiology. As a result, David became a published second year student, as the first author of “Location of Language in the Cortex: A Comparison Between Functional MR Imaging and Electrocortical Stimulation,” which graced the pages of AJNR’s September, 1997 issue.

During the summer before his second year of medical school, he returned to the lab to continue research for his second article, titled “Language Dominance Determined by Whole Brain Functional MRI in Patients with Brain Lesions.” In respect to this work, David gratefully acknowledges the funding assistance given him by UMassMed Drs. Michael Godkin and John Weaver. The resulting paper, of which David is the second author, was published in the March 10 issue of the prestigious journal Neurology. Currently, David is somehow finding time to work on his third paper with his co-authors.

As published authors, Brian and David have contributed to the body of clinical medical knowledge. Other medical students from our institution’s distinguished past have published important articles in esteemed medical journals. Some have continued to publish as alumni. In the next issue, you will meet some graduate students in the UMassMed School of Biomedical Sciences whose published articles have become cornerstones of their dissertations.