The D’Amour Library is pleased to announce the opening of a new exhibition, “Alexander Hamilton: The Man Who Made Modern America,” on Wednesday, March 4, 2009. The library is one of only 40 libraries in the United States selected to host this acclaimed traveling exhibit. All events associated with Alexander Hamilton are open to the Western New England College community as well as to the general public. The exhibit will begin on March 4 and end on Friday, April 17.

“Alexander Hamilton: The Man Who Made Modern America” tells the remarkable story of the founding father most Americans don’t really know. Hamilton’s astonishing rise in five short years from an orphaned, 15-year-old West Indies immigrant to George Washington’s war time aide, and later, at age 32, to become the nation’s first Secretary of the Treasury, has been overshadowed by the sensational details of his death in a duel with Aaron Burr.

Hamilton was a complex, brilliant, and controversial figure—a Revolutionary War patriot and soldier, financial and legal genius, ardent opponent of slavery, and planner and co-author of the Federalist Papers which helped convince Americans to ratify the new Constitution.

Hamilton was the chief architect of many of the financial and legal institutions and policies which have helped the United States to become a global leader in the two centuries after his death. Hamilton founded the Bank of the United States and refined the concept of judicial review.

“Alexander Hamilton: The Man Who Made Modern America” is a national traveling exhibition organized by the New-York Historical Society, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, and the American Library Association. The traveling exhibition has been made possible in (“Hamilton” continued on page 3)
At 25 years of age we feel quite alive. We feel that the best part of our lives is ahead of us, that we have grown and matured, and that we are ready for whatever challenges and opportunities await us. And D’Amour Library is no exception at 25!

On September 27, 1983, a newly completed D’Amour Library was dedicated and took its place on our beautiful campus. In the 25 years since that day the Library has changed dramatically both in terms of its contents and its physical space.

Gone are the multiple card catalogs from the main level, replaced by the online catalog WILDPAC. Gone as well are the long shelves of indexes and abstracts which students, faculty, and staff now search via the web from any place they can access the Internet.

And while the original ground level has been repurposed for Student Administrative Services and the Educational Technology Center, a new addition has brought a beautiful reading room, a fabulous computer classroom, and a state-of-the-art television studio.

The changes are numerous; but many things have remained the same. Our mission to create lifelong learners and to provide excellent services to all users is still the prime objective of every library staff member. How this mission is accomplished has changed over time; for example, anyone can use a web chat application to contact a librarian, and information literacy instruction is now part of the General College Requirements rather than a piecemeal effort. But the caring and commitment of individual staff members still makes face-to-face assistance the preference of most students whether at the circulation desk, reference desk, or with information literacy instruction.

As you will read elsewhere in our newsletter, D’Amour Library welcomed three new staff members over the last six months of 2008. We are thrilled to have these new colleagues, but welcoming them meant we said farewell to others whose contributions were highly valued and who will be dearly missed. Completion of their graduate work took Tracey Kry and Erin Nau to new opportunities in Orlando, Florida and New York City. Tracey served as our circulation associate for just one year, but in her time with us Tracey brought tremendous organization and energy to our circulation services.

Known for her bright smile and special kindness to our younger guests, Erin handled evening circulation supervisory duties for almost two years in an exemplary manner. We wish both of them well as they bring their considerable talents to their new careers.

And, wanting to take advantage of Vicky Ludwig’s considerable reference skills as well as those of each librarian, a team approach to reference service was adopted with Vicky serving as reference coordinator. I greatly appreciate each staff member’s willingness to take on new duties as we continue to enhance the services we provide to our users.

All of the changes that have occurred over the past 25 years have put the Library in a tremendous position to move forward as the nature of information dissemination advances with new technologies and formats. During spring semester, D’Amour Library will implement Research Pro (see next page). Following close behind Research Pro will be Encore which is a new searching interface for WILDPAC. Encore will add Web 2.0 features to the online catalog and increase its usefulness to the research process.

So, in November, 2008 we had much to celebrate as we cut the 25th anniversary cake during our annual faculty authors’ tea. But we are not content to rest on the laurels of times past; instead we are anxious to move forward into new information, service, and technological frontiers. And we are most happy for your company on the journey!

- Priscilla Perkins
Database News

This spring the D’Amour Library will be installing Research Pro. Research Pro is a software platform that will allow users to conduct federated searches over a broader selection of materials than ever before. A typical online search has involved looking through individual databases one at a time. A separate search was necessary if library users wanted to locate materials in the WILDPAC online catalog. With Research Pro, users will be able to conduct one search that will encompass several of the online resources in the library.

“Research Pro will help simplify the process of obtaining information,” librarian Joshua Becker notes. The D’Amour library staff believes that use of both print and online materials will increase with Research Pro, a product of Innovative Interfaces which currently provides services to more than 4,500 libraries around the world. The Law Library will also share in this technology.

D’Amour Library Turns 25!

On November 20, 2008, members of the Western New England College community gathered in D’Amour Library’s Clarke Reading Room to honor the 25th anniversary of the library’s founding. The celebration was part of the Library’s Sixth Annual Faculty Authors’ Tea which honored faculty who had published books, journal articles, conference proceedings, and other scholarly works over the past year.

D’Amour Library maintains a cumulative directory of faculty publications on its web site. Find a link under “For Faculty” in the left-side menu of the web site.

Hamilton visits D’Amour continued from page 1

part through a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, dedicated to expanding American understanding of human experience and cultural heritage.

The exhibit consists of six colorful, freestanding, 18-foot-long photo panels. Each panel will examine a different period in Hamilton’s life, from his birth through his experience in the American Revolution and his career in politics, to the infamous duel with Aaron Burr that fatally wounded him, and the legacy he left in many arenas of government.

Please join us at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, March 4, at the D’Amour Library. Dr. William Mandel will speak on, “Alexander Hamilton’s Role in the Constitution.” An opening reception will take place immediately following the discussion.

On March 24, Dr. Meeropol and Dr. Casimir will discuss, “Hamilton’s Economic Role.” The final lecture on Alexander Hamilton will take place on April 1. Professor Willard Sterne Randall of Champlain College will discuss, “Alexander Hamilton: a very public private life.”

We hope you can join us as we introduce this informative exhibition to our community.

D’Amour Going Green continued from page 1

D’Amour staff member Lindsay Roberts wanted patrons to see the results of their printing choices firsthand. She devised the installation one day when she was examining the unused documents that were left on the tables or placed in the trash. “So much paper can be saved if we are just mindful of the external costs of printing. Too often we just press the print button without thinking about the consequences,” Roberts notes.

Since the installation was put in place, the amount of printing done by users has declined. The D’Amour staff believes users have embraced the message and are exercising more restraint when using the printers.

Not every unused printout is automatically recycled. The library staff used some of the leftover documents to create holiday decorations (pictured at left) to adorn the library. At the end of the holidays these paper chains were placed in the recycle bin.

Notable New Books

In D’Amour Library

Outliers: The Story of Success by Malcolm Gladwell.

A provocative look at the patterns behind everyday phenomena.

2666: A Novel by Roberto Bolano and Natasha Wimmer.

An ambitious, Latin American masterpiece of fiction.

The Oxford Companion to Global Change by David Cuff and Andrew Goudi.

An essential work encompassing all aspects of environmental change.

Investing in a Sustainable World: Why Green is the New Color of Money on Wall Street by Matthew J. Kiernan.

A timely look at socially responsible investing.

The Enemy Within: 2,000 Years of Witch-Hunting In The Western World by John Demos.

A sweeping examination of witchcraft through the ages.

Pictures at a Revolution: Five Movies and the Birth of the New Hollywood by Mark Harris.

Sure to become a classic on film, Harris examines significant 1960’s movies in a time of a rising cultural tide.


A bold book about the rise of a new movement and generation.

Letter to my Daughter by Maya Angelou.

A famous author offers absorbing stories and wisdom.
D’Amour Library Calendar of Events

Athenaeum Arts Series

February 12 — Improv on the Rocks
12:45 p.m. @ D’Amour Library, Clarke Reading Room

March 6 — Guest Artist Concert
7:00 p.m. @ D’Amour Library, room 319

Athenaeum Series

March 4 — Hamilton’s Role in the Constitution
4:00 p.m. @ D’Amour Library, room 319

March 24 — Alexander Hamilton’s Economic Role
4:00 p.m. @ D’Amour Library, room 319

D’Amour Welcomes New Staff Members

Joshua Becker, Instruction/Reference Librarian

D’Amour Library is pleased to welcome and introduce Joshua Becker as Information Literacy Librarian. Joshua hails from Wisconsin and is a recent MLIS graduate from the University of Illinois. He also comes to us with an M.A.T. in English Education from Boston University and teaching experience in the classroom at the higher and secondary education levels. Primarily, Joshua will focus on instruction of information literacy objectives in the classroom. You may also find him at the reference desk or leading a Techno-Smarts workshop. Please feel free to contact Joshua to discuss library instruction and information literacy objectives for your courses or programs. jbecker@wnec.edu or 782-1537.

Deborah Beagle, Evening Circulation Supervisor

D’Amour Library extends a warm welcome to Deborah Beagle as Evening Circulation Supervisor. Deb comes to us with extensive experience working with students in the College’s Writing Center as well as coordinating emergency communications for Somersworth, New Hampshire. Deb very ably handles circulation issues, course reserves, and student assistants during the evenings on Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday. If you need help with circulation or reserve issues during those evenings, please contact Deb at dbeagle@wnec.edu or 782-1510.

Terrilyn Calloway, Evening Circulation Supervisor

D’Amour Library is pleased to warmly welcome and introduce Terrilyn Calloway as Evening Circulation Supervisor. With a BS degree in Business/Administration Marketing from Westfield State College, Terrilyn comes to us with experience as budget administrative assistant and events coordinator from Smith College and as an entrepreneur in the catering industry. Terrilyn very ably handles circulation issues, course reserves, and student assistants during the evenings on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday. If you need help with circulation or reserve issues during those evenings, please contact Terrilyn at tc096400@wnec.edu or 782-1510.