



Reference Desk Hours Spring 2009:

Monday

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday—Friday

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sunday

BY APPOINTMENT

IM Diane At her Screenname, Caly-
amity, or Friend her on Facebook.

For all library hours, visit:
<http://myrin.ursinus.edu/about/hours.htm>

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The Myrin Library News

Special Collections Special Issue

The Ursinusiana Room

By Carolyn Weigel

Do you know where to find the date that Ursinus College was founded, who the first president was, or when Bomberger Hall was built? Do you know who the first woman student was and what years she attended? Do you know what the dress code or the dormitory rules were for women in the 1950s? If not, then you need to visit the Ursinusiana Room (#227) on the second floor of Myrin Library.

The purpose of the Ursinusiana Collection is to collect, maintain, and promote materials about Ursinus College. The following materials regardless of medium are included:

- Official publications of the College and its Officers and Departments.
- Official student publications.
- Publications by and about faculty, administration, students, alumni.

- Bound copies of the Honors, Scholars and Summer Fellows Papers
- Certain museum pieces reflecting the history of the College.

Specific items found in the Ursinusiana Collection include: Ursinus College catalogs from 1869 to the present; Alumni Magazines from 1937 to the present; *The Lantern* from its first issue in 1933 to the current issue; The RUBY from 1897 to the present; *The Ursinus Weekly* from 1902 to 1978 when it became *The Grizzly*; *The Grizzly* from 1978 to the current issue; photos; memoirs from several alumni members; and the Richard P. Richter Papers. And there's more, too. Alumni find this collection particularly useful.

Many students and faculty members are

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Working in the Ursinusiana Room: A Personal Story

By Don Zucker

Happiness is working on projects in the Myrin Library Archives up in the Ursinusiana Room on the second floor, under the direction of the Archivist, Carolyn Weigel, the nicest boss I ever had.

My Thursday afternoon volunteer sessions from one to four pass all too quickly in her company.

Then I have to wait a whole week before I'm back in the library. I have been Assistant to the Archivist since 2006.

All our projects have been engrossing: preparing folders for storing the fascinating Summer Fellows Student Research Papers; providing information for folks making inquiries, including a writer preparing an article about Ursinus vs. Rutgers football games way back when (Rutgers is my Alma Mater), identifying alumni

in photos for the 1963 yearbook. This last project was particularly entertaining for me, seeing the faces of so many former students and acquaintances and recalling many pleasant encounters and incidents from my tenure from 1958 to 1987 in the Political Science Department.

I had a stroke in May of last year but I'm happy to report that although I lost the use of my left hand and arm, my right arm and hand were not greatly affected, so I can continue my duties in the Archives as before under the lash of Carolyn's supervision. My

time in the Archives with her is wonderful therapy, although I don't believe she thinks of herself as a therapist. What incredible luck that we linked up a few years ago and established our professional and personal relationship. Thank you Myrin Library and your dear Archivist for all you have enabled me to do both for the College and myself.



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fascinated when they see copies of the RUBY or the newspapers from the early years. Through the Ursinusiana collection, visitors see the changes in everything from student attitudes and clothing to study habits and dating habits to the buildings on campus.

Recently several CIE classes gained new insight into life on campus today when they used the Ursinusiana collection to investigate student life fifty years ago. They found that the students were much like themselves, but that society had a set of stricter rules, regulations, and customs. They also learned how to use primary sources for their research.

The Ursinusiana Room is open by appointment or whenever the archivist is available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 3:45 pm. Contact Carolyn Weigel at phone extension 2877 or e-mail at cweigel@ursinus.edu.



A Broadside from the PA Folklife Society Collection, located in the Berman Museum

Myrin Library's Special Collections are an important part of the library that aren't often in the limelight. Aside from the three main Special Collections highlighted in these pages, Myrin's Rare Books Room also contains a wealth of rare books, including old editions of classic works and a small collection of book artist's Enid Marks' works. As the articles in this issue show, all of these Special Collections are vital to the college for preserving history and providing access to primary source material for students and faculty.



Letters from the PA Folklife Society Collection, located in Myrin Library

The Grundy Collection: A Rich Resource for African Studies

By Dr. Walter Greason, Department of History

Miriam Makeba, South African singer and civil rights activist, called out to humanity throughout her life. Her message to embrace Africa, to understand our common origins, challenges us to nurture our roots so that humanity might grow to its fullest potential, and resonates more powerfully now since she passed away. We spend too little time reflecting on the importance of the African continent to our history and heritage.

Myrin Library has graciously extended an invitation to meet Makeba's challenge by accepting a generous donation of archival materials from Kenneth Grundy (UC '58). Professor Grundy is an African historian whose career covered the continent before his choice to witness the global confrontation with South African apartheid from 1965 to 1994. The Grundy Collection of scholarly articles, personal letters, rare newsletters, annotated manuscripts, and military records reveals the debates, deceptions, and documentation of a world grappling with white supremacy as it breathed its dying institutional gasps. This collection brings Africa to life in suburban Philadelphia, allowing students, faculty, and the local community to immerse themselves in the experiences of African and world history.

The Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society has worked for the last two years under the leadership of Stephen Buss and Dane DiFebo to carefully examine and re-organize the copious folders and documents into an extraordinary archive. Carolyn Weigel instructed groups of students about the techniques for creating a clear indexing system each semester since Fall 2007. As a result, the students in African Journeys in the Modern World (Spring 2007) and Colonial South Africa (Fall 2008) were able to use the documents to craft original research on South African history. Stu-

Myrin's New Catalog!

At long last, Myrin's new catalog is up and running this semester. The new catalog provides a cleaner interface, more flexible searching and a wealth of new ways to sort through results. You can still login to your account to renew books, and you can also place holds on materials that are checked out and create a list of materials to e-mail to yourself by "keeping" them as you search. To login for the first time, use the number on your I.D. card, including the letters. The initial password for everyone is set to "changeme."

The migration from the old system to the new one is ongoing. Please contact David Mill at dmill if you run into any problems, or Diane Skorina at dskorina if you have questions about the catalog's functionality. Enjoy!

dents presented these papers at history conferences and received outstanding reviews over the last two years. Stephen Buss' paper on the comparative history of segregated education in the United States and South Africa earned Distinguished Honors in conjunction with his recognition as Valedictorian in 2008.

The African American and Africana Studies Program has also embraced the opportunities presented by the Grundy collection as faculty members from the Departments of English, French, History, and International Relations have all acknowledged the importance of these documents for future research at the College. Ursinus student Carolyn Martin, summed up the utility of the archives nicely: "I think the Grundy sources are helpful. They show how [the region] developed over time. It is important to see these comparisons."

As Ursinus College continues to expand its Study Abroad programs and our community becomes more internationally diverse, student and faculty understanding of African history and Africa's role in world affairs becomes more important. The Grundy Collection of South African materials is a rare gift that allows people to explore a part of human history that often receives little attention. As local high schools, state organizations, national representatives, and international non-governmental organizations become familiar with this important resource, Ursinus College's image as a leading institution of higher education will grow.

Student achievement, faculty scholarship, and civic engagement are only the first fruits from Miriam Makeba's legacy. The more we study Africa, the richer we become.

The Pennsylvania Folklife Society Collection

By Diane Skorina



A Bible, in the library, from the PA Folklife Society Collection

The origins of the Pennsylvania Folklife Society Collection lay in the work of Alfred L. Shoemaker, J. William Frey, and Don Yoder, three scholars who in 1949 established the Pennsylvania Dutch Folklore Center at Franklin & Marshall College to study and preserve the folk culture of the Pennsylvania Dutch. Later, the name of the center was changed to the Pennsylvania Folklife Society to underscore the group's interests in all aspects of folk culture (not just folklore), including cooking, folksong, religion, furniture, and language. The society collected stories, letters, folk art, fraktur, furniture, broadsides (from the collection of Walter E. Boyer) and descriptions of folk customs, photographed buildings and farm practices, and recorded oral histories and folk music for preservation. The society also founded the Pennsylvania Dutch Folk Festival at Kutztown in Berks County, the first of its kind in the nation and a model for many others, and established the *Pennsylvania Folklife* magazine which was published through the mid-1990s.

The society went bankrupt in the 1960s, at which point Ursinus College acquired the *Pennsylvania Folklife* magazine and the management of the folk festival, along with the society's eclectic collection of folklife materials; however, while the publication continued and the

folk festival went on, no materials arrived in the library until about 1970, when the Ursinus College Library moved from its former home into the Myrin building, where it is today. According to Judith Fryer, retired reference & instruction librarian, the materials were left on the floor of the shipping and receiving department in the basement while the furniture was put in the attic of Bomberger Hall.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, Dr. William Parsons, an American History Professor at Ursinus, served as head of the Folklife Society Collection. He managed the collection and expanded it by adding audiotapes of his interviews with people in the area. After his death, Dr. Tom Gallagher in the Anthropology/Sociology department, served as the faculty overseer of the *Pennsylvania Folklife* magazine, until publication ceased in the 1990s. At that point, Judith Fryer took over as archivist and created an index to the *Pennsylvania Folklife* magazine during her tenure at Ursinus.

In the 2000s, under the care of Lisa Minardi, then a student at Ursinus College, artifacts from the collection, including the decorated fraktur, the broadsides, and the furniture, were moved to the Berman Museum of Art for conservation and preservation. These materials can be viewed (by appointment only) at the Berman. The rest of the materials remain housed in Myrin Library. These include:

- ◆ Almanacs and Imprints
- ◆ Bibles, hymnbooks and written music
- ◆ Folktales and Manuscripts
- ◆ Account books
- ◆ Photographs
- ◆ The Alfred Shoemaker Collection, 1938-1962 (160,000 items)
 - This is a unique index to folklife customs of the Pennsylvania Dutch, gathered mostly through oral histories and personal anecdotes.
- ◆ *Pennsylvania Folklife* magazines and index

Kristin O'Brassill, formerly a student at Ursinus, created an inventory of the collection in an Excel spreadsheet that is available by contacting Diane Skorina. If you have students who would like access to the collection for primary research, please have them contact Diane at dskorina@ursinus.edu. This collection contains a wealth of primary source material, and several students have already used it for History & Summer Fellows projects.



A Fraktur, in the Berman Museum, and a letter, in the Library



Working with the Pennsylvania Folklife Society Collection

By Kristin O'Brassill (Former Ursinus Student)

My work in the Pennsylvania Folklife Society Collection this past Fall semester was primarily an extension of the inventorying work that had begun in the Spring. I looked at hundreds of newspapers and almanacs and various official documents, such as land deeds and surveyors drafts, related to Pennsylvania Germans. I examined boxes filled with hundreds of photographs of the people, architecture, and artifacts of the area.

Of particular interest was a box of documents labeled "1937 German Army documents," which contains hundreds of official and unofficial documents (including correspondence, research, notifications, and statements) related to the Nazi German Secret Police. The majority of the items appear to be related to an organization called the "Ahnenerbe" which served as a research institution for the Nazis before and during World War II. Most of the correspondence found within the box was primarily between researchers, professors, and SS officials such as Wolfram Sievers, Otto Huth, Bruno Schweizer, and others. While the relation of these documents to the Pennsylvania Folklife Society Collection is not entirely clear, their general significance, particularly to the History Department, is being investigated.

In addition to the inventory, we applied for a Pennsylvania History and Museum Commission grant to have a researcher examine the materials to help determine their significance to Ursinus College students and the public. In addition, I presented with Diane on the exceptional content of the Pennsylvania Folklife Society Collection at the Federation of Genealogical Societies conference in Philadelphia, PA in September.

Preservation and accessibility are key to the future progress of work on the Pennsylvania Folklife Society Collection. A positive step in the right direction would be to finalize the documentation begun with the inventory, and digitize the other various materials within the collection. Of utmost importance is storage of the fragile items currently housed in the Myrin library, which involves proper protection from sunlight and other environmental issues of the collection's current location. Furthermore, additional space, or improved utilization of the space already in use, would allow for better storage of the items, so that they might remain in excellent and useful condition for further appreciation and research.

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Visit us on the web at:

<http://myrin.ursinus.edu>

The Myrin Library News

is a publication of the
Myrin Library at Ursinus College
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Upcoming Events: First Fridays, Screenings, & Exhibits

NOW ON VIEW: A selection of seminal and contemporary multi-disciplinary arts projects on video and film.

7-9 p.m. February 4, March 4, and April 1.

On the first Wednesdays of every month, Myrin will be hosting screenings of artists' films, many of which are a part of our collection,



in Jazzman's Café. Grab a coffee and a snack, sit back and enjoy the show!

Exhibits:



Myrin celebrates Martin Luther King Jr. during "The Substance of Our Soul"

Program January 19—February 1st, and Black History Month in February, with an exhibit highlighting materials related to the Civil Rights movement & black Americans. Also, materials from the Pennsylvania Folklife Collection will be on display through February.



The 5th Annual EDIBLE BOOKS FESTIVAL will be held in late March or early April. Start thinking now of how to represent your favorite literature as food. Come on — Lord of the Pies? Don Chipotle & Nacho Panza? YES!

Staff Recommendations

When a recommendation is available in the library, the call number is noted after the title.

Diane Skorina recommends **Nelson Algren's *The Man with the Golden Arm***, one of the few books she's read that left her with the feeling that there's nothing else quite like it out there. You might also try **Kenneth Patchen's *The Journal of Albion Moonlight***, which she's revisiting after many years. For some more contemporary reading, Diane very much appreciated the honesty of Ayaan Hirsi Ali's autobiography, ***Infidel***. As for watching, she recommends anything starring Paul Newman, especially ***Slapshot***.

ILL student assistant **Devon Allison** recommends ***Dewey: The Small Town Library Cat Who Touched the World*** by **Vicki Myron**. It's cute, sweet and motivational!

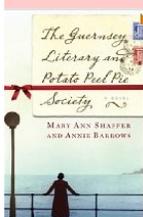
Carolyn Weigel recommends ***Pieces of My Heart: a Life*** by **Robert J. Wagner**. For anyone who likes autobiographies, this is a good one. Wagner tells about all of the Hollywood greats that he met along his road to stardom.

Dominique de St. Etienne recommends ***Les Annees*** by **Annie Ernaux**, a vivid look at French society after the Second World War. It is a poignant social history of a woman and the society she lived in, a woman who has looked death in the eye. In ***Les deferlantes*** by **Claudie Gallay**, a man returns to the place of wreckage forty years after a storm while the narrator, intrigued by this man, tries to uncover the mystery and secrets of the storm. For movies, Dominique suggests ***Frozen River***, ***Young at Heart***, ***Chansons d'Amour***, and ***Happy Go Lucky***.

Charlie Jamison recommends the first season of T.V. series ***Mad Men*** [DVD 1625, at the Circulation Desk].

Kerry Gibson recommends ***The Zookeepers Wife*** by **Diane Ackerman** [940.531835 AC57].

FROM THE STACKS by Lindsay Sakmann ('09)



Greetings fellow Bibliophiles! I hope everyone had a fantastic break. Today I am going to review ***The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*** by **Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows**, an overlooked gem from 2008. The story is written all in letters to and from the main characters. We first meet Julie Ashton after WWII. Julie, who became famous for writing about WWII under the nom du plum Izzy Bickerstaff, lives in London and is trying to cope with the aftermath of the war. One day she receives a letter from a man named Dawsey Adams. Dawsey writes because he buys a book that once belong to Julie and he wants to know if she knows of other books this particular author has written. Dawsey begins to tell her about The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, a book club that was attended by the residents of Guernsey during the German occupation. The residents were forced to form the society after Dawesey and his crew, caught by soldiers out after curfew, said they were walking home from their book club where they were discussing a German author they very much enjoyed. Along the way you meet an adorable girl named Kit and learn about Kit's mother, who was responsible for the GLPPPS. I cannot convey in this single review how incredible this book was. I laughed and cried, and at the end of the book wished fervently that it had been longer. Enjoy getting to know the residents of Guernsey — you will not be disappointed!! As always if there is a book you think I should review or you just want to chat with me about books you can reach me at Lisakmann@ursinus.edu. Until I write again. HAPPY READING!