Friends of Mann Library Update

- This past fall we were saddened to learn of the passing of College of Agriculture and Life Sciences alumnus Sheldon Severinghaus ’62, Phd ’77. Mr. Severinghaus was an enthusiastic fan of rich library collections, and in tribute to his lasting legacy, Mrs. Lucia Severinghaus ’72, Phd ’83 has made a generous new gift to the Sheldon and Lucia Severinghaus Endowment for Mann Library. This fund supports Mann’s collection of rare historical works in natural history, botany, ornithology, fashion, and home economics, promoting their ongoing enrichment and widening accessibility through digitization and collaboration with institutions such as the online Biodiversity Heritage Library.

- Professor Emerita Mary A. Morrison made a generous new gift to the Mary A. Morrison Public Education Fund, which helps make possible a lively roster of public programs at Mann each year, including many of the “Thinking Creatively about Climate Change” exhibits, lectures and guest appearances we hosted at the Library during 2015/16.

- The John and Ruth Sherbon Endowment for Food Science received a generous new gift from Ruth P. Sherbon. This fund helps Mann maintain a world-class research collection—print as well as digital— in all fields related to the study of food science.

We also gratefully acknowledge the additional giving to Mann Library by friends and alumni in 2015/16:

- Carol Sue Hui ’63 (Campaign for Mann Library Collections)
- Susan A. Henry and Peter Henry (Mann Library Excellence Fund)
- Robert W. Harding ’61 and Lorna L. Harding ’62 (Mann Library Excellence Fund)
- Lloyd J. Herman ’76 and Julie Um (Dean David L. Calfo Fund for Mann Library Acquisitions)
- Sven W. Issacs ’73 and Dave Issacs ’GR (Mann Library Excellence Fund)
- Dr. Orli H. Johnson, Jr. (Gift to the Endowment for the John Samuel Stone Computing Center) in memory of Giraud Mushkin
- Lorraine Johnson ’66 & Stephen F. Johnson (Thomas A. Lynn and Duncan L. Holmes Acquisition Fund)
- Nancy Monnely Kelly ’53 (Mann Library Excellence Fund)
- J. Gregory King ’73 (Bente Starcke King Fund for Mann Library Acquisitions)
- Cornelia Knauss (Mann Library Excellence Fund)
- Mildred Knauss (Gift in memory of Frank Brown)
- Janet A. McCoo (Mann with Books Fund, Ans van Tienhoven Memorial Fund for Mann Library, Mary A. Morrison Public Education Fund for Mann Library)
- Mary A. Morrison (Mary A. Morrison Public Education Fund for Mann Library)
- Mary McCall & ’79 (Mann Library Excellence Fund, Manu Rana with Books)
- Ed A. Orrey and Mary Anne Orrey (Mann Library Excellence Fund)
- National Security (Ans van Tienhoven Memorial Fund)
- Abigail S. Priedeman ’51 and Daniel R. Priedeman ’60 (Mann Library Excellence Fund)
- Christopher A. Rakov ’96 and Christine L. Rakov ’96 (Mann Library Excellence Fund)
- Ed A. Orrey and Mary Anne Orrey (Mann Library Excellence Fund)
- Albert M. Pongiac (Ans van Tienhoven Memorial Fund)
- Ms. Sylvia H. Perrey ’78 (Mann Library Excellence Fund)
- Abigail S. Priedeman ’51 and Daniel R. Priedeman ’60 (Mann Library Excellence Fund)
- Christopher A. Rakov ’96 and Christine L. Rakov ’96 (Mann Library Excellence Fund)
- Ellen S. Raiser ’67 (Mann Library Excellence Fund, Mary A. Morrison Public Education Fund)
- John L. Raves & anns, Emilie Sams (Augusto W. Sartor Library Endowment for Genetics)
- Mary L. Raves & Ann (Ans van Tienhoven Memorial Fund)
- Ruth P. Sherbon (John and Ruth Sherbon Endowment for Food Science)
- Mr. Robert S. Slocum ’77 (Mann Library Excellence Fund)
- Mary S. Sondak (Ans van Tienhoven Memorial Fund)
- J. Gregory King ’73 (Bente Starcke King Fund for Mann Library Acquisitions)
- Dr. John J. S.Burton, ’GR (Mann Library Excellence Fund)
- Matthew S. Davis ’09 (Mann Library Excellence Fund)
- David Bates ’59 (Mann Library Excellence Fund)
- David L. Branon and Mary Ochs (Mann Library Excellence Fund, and Joan S. Ochs ’79 (Mann Library Excellence Fund)
- Matthias S. Davis ’09 (Mann Library Excellence Fund)
- Sneha S. Desai ’70 (Mann Library Excellence Fund)
- Sneha S. Desai ’70 (Mann Library Excellence Fund)
- Sneha S. Desai ’70 (Mann Library Excellence Fund)

We were begun with “Observations and Innovations: Climate Science Around the World” featuring work by award-winning photojournalist Gary Braasch, creator of the worldviewglobalwarming.org project and widely acclaimed photographer, whose powerful images document the impacts of climate change and the field work being done by scientists and citizens around the world to understand and address the problem. Presented in October 2015 in collaboration with the Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future, Cornell Plantations, the Community and Regional Development Institute (CaRD) and the Department of Development Sociology, the program included several lectures by Braasch on the Cornell campus and an exhibit of some of Braasch’s photographs, with several of a photos remaining on permanent display at Mann and the Cornell Plantations. This past spring, we were saddened to learn of Gary’s untimely death while documenting climate change impacts on the coral reefs of Australia.

November saw the opening of “Historic Ice: Alaska and Greenland’s Glaciers Through the Lens of the Cornell Expeditions (1896-1911) and Now,” an exhibit of stunning, large format photographs from Cornell professor R.S. Tarn’s early 20th century expeditions to Alaska and Greenland, juxtaposed with modern-day...
Climate Change Year, continued

Images of the same glaciers. The historic images were from some 2000 expedition images being digitized at CUL to be added to the 10,000 historic glacier photographs at the National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC) in Boulder, Colorado.

From the Arctic, our exhibit spotlight turned to the African continent with “Farming for Change: Agroecology, Gender, and Climate Change Adaptation in Malawi and Tanzania.” This beautiful exhibit featured photographs taken over the course of fifteen years of research and fieldwork by Development Sociology professor Rachel Bezner Kerr, chronicling the struggles and achievements of smallholder farming families in Eastern Africa as climate change has exacerbated drought-prone farming conditions and increased the urgency of producing high-nutrition crops from existing land resources.

“Climate Smart Farming: New York State Farmers in Their Own Words,” was the finale of our thematic exhibits line-up for the year, featuring a multi-media showcase of Cornell’s new climatesmartfarming.org initiative and the collaboration between the Cornell Institute for Climate Change and Agriculture (CICCA) and the Center for Agricultural and Land Use Research (CALUR), two New York State agencies, to increase resiliency, reduce risk, and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions from the agricultural sector. For two popular receptions in May and early June, CICCA Director Allison Chotrany was joined by several people featured in the exhibit—Dale Stein (Stein Farms in Batavia, NY), Poul King (Six Mile Creek Vineyards, Ithaca), Glen Evans (Cornell Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva), Thor Oechsner (Oechsner Farms, Newfield, NY), and Mark Doyle (Fishkill Farms, Hudson Valley). These events presented a valuable opportunity for the Cornell community and alumni to meet directly with some of the people who—with livelihoods directly impacted by a changing climate—have taken the lead in finding ways to manage and reduce its effects.

In conjunction with our climate change focus, in the spring semester we hosted “Climate Change, Food Security and Nutrition Networking Series,” a series of monthly gatherings of Cornell faculty and researchers led by professors Toby Ault (Earth & Atmospheric Sciences) and David Wolfe (School of Integrative Plant Sciences). From February through May the series drew participants from a variety of departments who came to explore opportunities for research collaborations aimed at developing the tools needed to feed a projected global population of nearly 10 billion people in this century’s changing climate.

NY Climate Science Clearinghouse Launched

This past March, Cornell researchers and librarians, working in collaboration with several New York State agencies, launched nyclimatechange.org, a new NY Climate Science Clearinghouse website that provides policy makers and the general public access to the most up-to-date and credible New York-specific climate information available. The website is the end result of a collaborative project led by Art Degaetano, professor of Earth and Atmospheric Science and head of the Cornell-based Northeast Regional Climate Center. Cornell Library information technologists based at Mann provided the technical expertise to retool the code from VIVO, the Cornell-developed system for finding various sources of climate change data products and documents. From there, an ongoing project curator also based at Mann is assembling current research, reports, data, and maps, as well as interactive content developed by the project to upload to the new site.

The project is sponsored by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). Other project members include Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM); the State University of New York Environmental Sciences and Forestry’s Department of Forest and Natural Resource Management; and the Eastern Regional Climate Services Director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Between the contributions from Cornell and the input provided from this array of data powerhouses, the clearinghouse promises to be one of the best tools out there for NYS decision-makers needing the best guidance available to fashion successful policies. Ultimately, as envisioned by its developers, nyclimatechange.org is likely also to be very useful to New York State citizens—everyone from farmers to homeowners—who will find on the website a wealth of well-vetted and clearly organized information and guidance to optimize chances for success as we all adapt to the reality of a changing climate.

Hot Topic: Mann’s Climate Lectures

“Hot with a Chance of Megadrought: Anticipating the Extremes of a Changing Climate” Speaking to a standing-room only crowd of Cornell alumni and other visitors during Reunion 2016, Dr. Toby Ault from the Earth & Atmospheric Sciences dept. presented props, images, and data highlighting the physics of our global climate system, and the evidence for a global warming trend. Dr. Ault shared insights from his own work which, amongst other things, suggests significant risk of mega-drought, i.e. severe drought conditions lasting 10 to 30 years or even longer, in the American Southwest during this century. Watch at tinyurl.com/ChanceOfMegadrought

“Glacier Change in Greenland and Alaska Since the Tarr Expeditions (1896-1911)” Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Professor Matthew Pritchard opened the “Historic Ice” exhibit with a well-attended talk that described Cornell professor Ralph Stockman Tarr’s early 20th century research in the Arctic and suggested insights gleaned from comparing photos from then and now. Though the patterns are complex, if overall trends continue, the impact of shrinking Arctic glaciers could well ultimately equal if not exceed the combined impact of all melting Antarctic and Greenland ice on rising global sea levels. Watch at tinyurl.com/HistoricIce

Mann hosted two popular lectures in conjunction with our climate change programming this year. Missed one? Both are now viewable by a world-wide public at mannlib.cornell.edu/podcasts or on Mann library’s Youtube channel.

From “Observations and Innovations: Climate Science Around the World”

From “Historic Ice: Alaska and Greenland’s Glaciers Through the lens of the Cornell Expeditions (1896-1911) and Now”

From “Farming for Change: NY State Farmers in Their Own Words”

We are already looking forward to next year’s Special Program when we’ll focus on celebrating the rewards—and challenges—of scientific expeditions and fieldwork. We hope you will join us!
Communication for the 21st Century

Students asked for it, and Mann Library has delivered.

Our new Interview Room off the Follett Information Commons on the library’s basement level allows users to do Skype interviews or web-conferencing with privacy using a 40” LCD screen.

On Mann’s 2nd floor, the Robert Gloor Study Room now also hosts Mann’s One Button Studio, a simplified video recording setup allowing users to create high-quality video projects even with no video production experience. Users only need to bring a flash drive and push a single button! This space is ideal for practicing presentations, creating studio components for a video project, or creating e-portfolio introductions and content.

Whether to connect with potential employers, with collaborators and other audiences far afield, these new Mann facilities help open to Cornell students a whole new world of communication possibilities.

Library Infographic Makes NIH Compliance Simpler

Since 2008, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has had a public access policy in place, requiring all research agencies receiving NIH funding to make the data produced by their project publicly available. While this mandate seems simple enough, its details can get complicated. In a further effort to help researchers and support staff navigate the sometimes muddy waters of policy compliance, Mann Library staff developed an infographic, freely available to download, print, paste and reuse.

Specifically addressing the key elements of the NIH Public Access policy for publications resulting from NIH grants, the infographic provides guidance to help funding recipients prepare for the process, navigate tasks and roles, ensure successful completion, and avoid common pitfalls and delays in funding due to non-compliance.

The infographic is being widely shared. We’ve received great feedback from a number of agencies who appreciate the succinct, effective and visually appealing summary of a complex set of principles. The full graphic may be viewed and downloaded at tinyurl/NIHCompliance.
Dilmun Hill Student Farm Speaker Series @ Mann

College farms are important centers for learning and community on campuses throughout the country. To explore and help celebrate this feature of U.S. higher education, Cornell’s Dilmun Hill Student Farm organized the College Farms of America Speaker series, inviting the Cornell community and Ithaca area public to gather at Mann Library on the first Wednesday of every month from February through April. For each session, speakers representing some of the nation’s most well-regarded college farms shared their innovative and important work, including the benefits to students and surrounding communities that their farms provide. Speakers included Bob Horner from Beaves College in Kentucky, Todd McLane, Farm Director for Tompkins Cortland Community College in New York, and Beth Hooker, Ph.D. Sustainability Initiative Director and Nancy Hanson, CSA Program Manager from Hampshire College in Massachusetts. Mann Library joined Cornell Dining and the Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station in co-sponsoring the series.

Biodiversity Heritage Library Update

Since early 2012 Mann Library has been spearheading the partnership between Cornell University Library and the Biodiversity Heritage Library (biodiversitylibrary.org) a rich online collection of historical life sciences works. We were happy to celebrate several important achievements and milestones with the BHL over the past year:

Spotlight on Jakob Hübner

BHL also celebrated its 10 year anniversary through a commemorative showcasing of favorite titles, each nominated by BHL partners for their qualities as rare, monumental or groundbreaking publications in the study of biodiversity research over the centuries. For this illustrious lineup Mann Library nominated Hübner’s Pa-pilla, a late 18th century bound volume of exquisitely drawn, often charismatically colored specimens from a couple of moth families of the order Lepidoptera. For details on this extraordinary work and the pioneering entomologist who created it, visit our blog at tinyurl.com/JacobHubner

Purposeful Gaming: Wanna Play?

In June 2015 two games produced by the Biodiversity Heritage Library’s (BHL) “Purposeful Gaming” project were launched. The project aims to attract a world-wide public to improve the accuracy of digitized historical materials offered through the BHL, and Mann Library has been involved since 2013.

Try playing the games at beansstalkgame.org and smorballgame.org and you’ll simultaneously be helping to achieve correct transcription of historical materials in the collection. It’s all in good fun and—to boot—good news for a high-value public collection of the world’s biodiversity heritage literature!

New “Chats in the Stacks” Book Talk and Lecture Videos

In June 2015 two games produced by the Biodiversity Heritage Library’s (BHL) “Purposeful Gaming” project were launched. The project aims to attract a world-wide public to improve the accuracy of digitized historical materials offered through the BHL, and Mann Library has been involved since 2013.

Try playing the games at beansstalkgame.org and smorballgame.org and you’ll simultaneously be helping to achieve correct transcription of historical materials in the collection. It’s all in good fun and—to boot—good news for a high-value public collection of the world’s biodiversity heritage literature!

New Look at Old Books in “From the Vaults of Mann”

We are excited about our new “From the Vaults of Mann” series! Each month we are delving into Mann’s rare books vault to give visitors to our new Tumblr page a closer look at some of the over 15,000 works that comprise Mann Library’s Special Collections.

Our spotlights so far have included fine hand-colored illustrations of singing insects by British entomologist and illustrator John Curtis, the progressive roots of the early Home Economics movement, fossil illustrations and the history of fossil knowledge in the US and England, exquisite art deco French fashion publications, and the thrilling works of naturalist explorers such as Alexander von Humboldt and Thomas Nuttall.

Care to join in on the fun? Follow us on Tumblr or just remember to check in each month on mannlibrary.tumblr.com to see more beautiful illustrations, engravings, photographs and lithographs, and learn about the rare, interesting, and sometimes quirky works preserved in Mann’s Special Collections.

Art Deco Fashion en Vogue at Mann

In 1912 Lucien Vogel started a new magazine presenting the fashions of prominent Parisian design houses in luxurious illustration in La Gazette du Bon Ton. Over the next decade, prior to his move to become Art Director of Condé Nast’s VOGUE Paris, his stable of brilliant young artists filled La Gazette’s pages with stylish and influential pochoir prints which have become iconic in the fashion world.

Our spring/summer exhibit in the Mann Lobby and Top Shelf Galleries “Vintage Vision” spotlights La Gazette with lovely images from Mann’s Special Collections, while also featuring vintage clothing loaned by CHES Cornell Costume and Textile Collection, as well as work by current draping students in Professor Susan Ashdown’s Fiber Science and Apparel Design class FSAD 2640 who have transformed some of La Gazette’s fashions into exquisite half-size models. Prendre plaisir!

In line with our land-grant mission, Mann strives to leverage our location in today’s information landscape—both physical and virtual—as a public center for discovery and a crossroads for the lively exchange of ideas.