A LETTER from the COLLEGE LIBRARIAN

This year brought increased access to scholarly resources and continued revitalization of library spaces. These results were the work of many Library and College employees - thanks to all of them for moving these initiatives forward! Here are some highlights:

Our holdings migrated from the old catalog to what is more accurately called a discovery system, OCLC's WorldShare. Now you can search all of our book, journal, special and e-collections at once, as well as selected open access content and materials held by libraries worldwide.

We acquired content suggested by faculty - journals, full text archives, databases and writing style guides. Additions included the latest JStor collection, the Loeb Classical Library, and Early English Books Online. And we have Kanopy, a collection of 26,000+ streaming films from producers such as Criterion, New Day, PBS and more - this platform makes it simple to watch films and clips, and interacts well with Canvas.

Following the Connections curriculum's aims and skills, we integrated librarians into more first year classes. To better support this effort, we were awarded an Alden Trust grant to update the Library Classroom, where much of this instruction occurs. We also successfully applied to be a host of Native Voices: Native Peoples’ Concepts of Health and Illness, a traveling exhibit that will be in the Martin Library this winter. And we awarded the College Library’s first annual Altick Prize, to the best student research project based on archival primary materials. The prize is in honor of former professor Richard Altick ’36 and went to Emily Hawk for her work on World War I diaries kept by enlisted F&M students.

Improvements continued in both buildings: In Martin, which celebrated its 25th anniversary in the spring, we have new carpeting, wired tables and comfortable seats were added upstairs, an exhibit hanging system on the 1st floor, better climate controls to the Archives & Special Collections vaults, and IdeaPaint in more study spaces. In Shadek-Fackenthal, new soft seating arrived in the Browsing Area, spaces were repainted, new blinds added to the first floor and new College signage added throughout.

Check us out online or in person as we continue to develop!
New Library Spaces

In the summer of 2015, renovations in the Shadek-Fackenthal Library and the Martin Library of the Sciences breathed new life into both spaces, providing new areas for campus and community use.

In Shadek-Fackenthal, the balcony in the Periodicals Room was removed in order to create a more open space and natural light. New furniture (with electrical outlets), paint, and carpet were introduced to the space. The former cataloging office was re-created as the SparkSpace, a room complete with computers, BrightLink projectors, IdeaPaint, and space for campus instruction and collaboration. HVAC systems in the building were replaced, creating a more comfortable environment.

To support the needs of users, Instructional and Emerging Technology staff were re-located to Shadek-Fackenthal Library. The library’s entrance was also re-painted, and new carpet added to the lobby and adjacent nearby spaces, including the Reference Room and browsing area. The Media Services Collection, which included DVDs, Blu-Rays and audio CDs, was also moved to the Shadek-Fackenthal Library Media & Microfilm Room. This collection now circulates to the campus community.

In the Martin Library of the Sciences, new carpet was added throughout the first and third floors, and fresh paint created a brighter, more inviting space. Additional room was also created on the third floor, and the new furniture provided space for collaboration and individual study.

Connecting with users through library events

During the 2015-2016 academic year, the library hosted several recurring and new events designed to connect with the campus community.

Regularly offered programs included House Calls, the Celebrating Scholarship exhibit, and Coffee & Conversation.

The library hosted Kpets therapy dogs in both library buildings each semester. Stress busting activities such as coloring and crossword puzzles were also offered during finals week in each building.

In the spring, the 2nd Annual Edible Books Festival took place in the Periodicals Room, and a zine-making workshop was hosted in SparkSpace.

The library also hosted a number of events in honor of the 25th anniversary of the Martin Library of the Sciences. These events included Cake Vs. Pie, the Spring Student Research Fair, and finally the formal anniversary event in April 2016. In the words of benefactor Aaron Martin, “Viva la Marty!”