Ray English Receives National Award

Ray English, Director of Libraries at Oberlin, has been named the Academic Research Librarian of the Year by the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL). The award, which is ACRL’s highest honor, recognizes “an outstanding member of the library profession who has made a significant national or international contribution to academic or research librarianship and library development.”

The award acknowledges English’s efforts to promote positive change in the system of scholarly communication in addition to other career accomplishments, including his promotion of information literacy in collaboration with faculty and recruitment of undergraduates from diverse backgrounds into the library profession.

English was a primary leader in creating ACRL’s scholarly communications program, which has focused on making librarians and faculty aware of scholarly communications issues and developing advocacy coalitions with other library and higher education organizations. ACRL has worked closely with SPARC (the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition), the Association of Research Libraries, and other major library organizations to promote open

Mudd Statue Makeovers

Over the past few months two of the Library’s most visible symbols, the marble statues The Reading Girl and La Penserosa (The Thinking Girl), have undergone intensive cleaning and partial restoration.

Nick Fairplay of Fairplay Stonecarvers (http://www.fairplaystonecarvers.com) completed the cleaning of both statues. There were three phases in the cleaning process. First a water-soluble paste was applied to remove surface dirt and grime. Then the statues were covered in a thick layer of clay, which pulled moisture and dissolved contaminants from below the surface of the marble as it dried, cracked, and fell off in hundreds of small chunks. As a final step in the process a protective coat of wax was applied. Some of the statues’ fingers and toes were also replaced in the process.

Carved in Florence, Italy by American sculptor John Adams Jackson (1825-1879), The Reading Girl was purchased by Aaron Healey in 1869. Mr. Healy donated the statue to Oberlin in honor of his uncle who was a professor at the College. In 1885 she was installed in the center of the reading room of the new Spear Library on Tappan Square. In 1908 she was moved to the
Recent Gifts

The Library gratefully acknowledges the following major gifts that were received in recent months.

Major monetary gifts have been received from:

- **Mimi Halpern ’60** to support the Library’s highest priority needs;
- **Robert I. Rotberg ’55** for the Robert and Fiona Rotberg Endowed Book Fund;
- **Mrs. Mary Lou D. Sprague ’38** for the Wallace and Mary Lou Sprague Endowed Fund;
- **William G. Roe ’64** for the Friends of the Library;
- **Emily Nord McClintock ’76** for the Library’s general endowment;
- **Michael Shinagel ’57** for the Michael Shinagel Endowed Book Fund;
- **Theresa Brown ’78 and Bruce Regal ’78** for the Friends of the Library;
- **Clyde Owen ’79** for the Library Special Book Fund;
- **Mary Picken ’56 and John Picken ’56** to establish a permanent membership in the Friends of the Library for the Director of the Oberlin Public Library.

Significant gifts in kind have been received from:

- **Annabel ’49 and William Perlik ’48** who have donated books related to music history and art history, and American history.

The family of **Sakura Handa** which has donated in her memory her

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Friends of the Oberlin College Library
Spring 2006 Programs

Exhibitions:

- “A Covenant of Seasons, Monotypes by Joellyn Duesberry, Poems by Pattiaan Rogers.” Landscape monotypes by Duesberry and parallel poems by Rogers that explore the four seasons.
- “Treasures From the Library’s Special Collections,” Saturday, May 27, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m., Goodrich Room, Fourth Level, Mudd Center

Lectures and Other Events:

- **Monday, February 20, noon – 1:00 p.m., Moffett Auditorium, Mudd Center**
  “Revitalization and Recovery: Islam and Contemporary Cambodia.” Faculty talk by Anna Gade, Assistant Professor of Religion.
- **Monday, March 13, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., Room 443, Mudd Center**
  “Are We Safer in the Dark? A National Dialogue on Open Government and Secrecy.” Satellite broadcast with national experts, followed by local discussion. Co-sponsored by Oberlin Public Library, Oberlin Area League of Women Voters, North Central Ohio Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union.
- **Tuesday, March 14, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m., Art Library, Allen Art Building**
- **Thursday, April 13, 4:30 p.m., King 106**
- **Thursday, April 20, 4:30 p.m., Room 050, Mudd Center**
  “Buried Indians: Digging Up the Past in a Midwestern Town.” Faculty talk by Laurie Hovell McMillin, Associate Professor of Rhetoric and Composition.
- **Saturday, May 27, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m., Goodrich Room, Fourth Level, Mudd Center**
  Commencement / reunion reception for Friends of the Library, former library student assistants, alumni librarians, and anyone else who loves libraries and fine books. Accompanied by exhibition: “Treasures from the Library’s Special Collections.”

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Are We Safer in the Dark?

On March 13, 2006 the Library will host “Are We Safer in the Dark? A National Dialogue on Open Government and Secrecy.” This program, which is being broadcast by satellite to locations around the country, will feature a panel of experts who will explore issues related to open government and secrecy.

The broadcast, scheduled from 1:00 p.m.– 2:30 p.m. in Mudd 443, will be followed by local audience discussion focusing on what individuals can do to promote open government.

“A Are We Safer in the Dark?” is sponsored by a broad national coalition of library, journalism, and public interest organizations. Oberlin’s presentation of the program is co-sponsored by the

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A Covenant of Seasons

An exhibition entitled “A Covenant of Seasons, Monotypes by Joellyn Duesberry, Poems by Pattiaan Rogers” will be on view in the Main Library this spring. This exhibition, which features landscape monotypes by Duesberry and parallel poems by Rogers, explores the four seasons, a theme that has engaged artists from many cultures over the centuries.

The exhibition has recently completed an extensive tour through the west and southeast U.S. It concluded a northeast run last spring at the Tremaine Gallery at the Hotchkiss School in Lakeville, CT. J. Bradley Faus, Co-Director of the Tremaine Gallery, notes that “both painter Joellyn Duesberry and poet Pattiaan Rogers are deeply concerned with landscape: their monotypes and poems are complementary explorations of the natural world as witnessed through observant and poetic eyes.”

The exhibition will be on view on the main level of Mudd Center from April 3 through May 31.

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Officers:
Scott Bennett '60, President
Daniel Goulding, Vice President
Nathan (Mike) Haverstock, Secretary

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Ardie Bausenbach '72
David Boe
William Bradford '76
Scott Fehlan '88
Gary Kornblith
Lucy Marks '73
William Roe '64
Anne Trubek '88
Wendy Wasman '85
Janice Zinser

Ex-Officio and Appointed Members:
Steve Wojtal, Chair, General Faculty Library Committee
Eric Carpenter, Collection Development Librarian
Jessica Grim, Reference Librarian
Ray English, Director of Libraries
Ed Vermue, Special Collections Librarian
Teresa Collins, Student Friends Representative

Friends Honorary and Life Memberships

Scott Bennett, President, Annette Kaufman, Ray English

The Friends of the Library awarded one honorary and one life membership at their annual dinner on Saturday, November 5, 2005. Richard Hudson, Oberlin Class of 1949 and Emeritus Professor of Music at UCLA, was awarded an honorary membership and Dr. Annette Kaufman of Los Angeles, California received a life membership.

Professor Hudson recently established the Howland-Hutton Endowed Fund for the Conservatory Library. This generous endowment was given in memory of Inda Howland, who taught eurythmics at Oberlin when Professor Hudson was a student here, and J. Warren Hutton, a classmate of Professor Hudson who was a master organ teacher for over 40 years at the University of Alabama. The purpose of the endowment is “to enrich the resources continued on page 7

Student Research Awards

The winners of the fifth annual Friends of the Library Excellence in Research Awards were Yi Hong Sim and Katherine Au. Ms. Sim’s paper, “How to Swing a Mouse: Intersections of Female and Feline in Medieval Europe,” was written for Assistant Professor of English Jennifer Bryan’s course entitled Medieval Women Writers. Ms. Au’s paper, “Avian Chimeras for Studying Craniofacial Development,” was written for Professor of Biology Yolanda Cruz’s Developmental Biology course.

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Students are flocking to the Library to sign up for research appointments in order to get in-depth assistance with their research projects. While the Library has offered this service for many years, the program has jumped in popularity due to increased publicity and the implementation of revised sign-up procedures, including scheduling appointments online using the Library’s web site.

Students sign up by completing a form that asks brief questions about the kind of research help they need. They then confer with a librarian during a half-hour session devoted to discovering new sources, learning research strategies, and practicing online searching techniques.

Students rate the service highly, as reflected in recent comments:

“This appointment saved my paper!”

“I most value the knowledge of more obscure databases and sources that I acquired.”

“Every time I have had a research appointment I have found it extremely helpful, and I believe that the appointments overall have contributed to my research skills during my time at Oberlin. Keep up the good work!”

Librarians are pleased with how the service enhances their interaction with students. Since students articulate their research topics in advance, librarians can prepare a tailored listing of recommended resources, map out a sound research strategy, or track down obscure references beforehand.

According to Cynthia Comer, Head of Reference and Instruction, "In an appointment setting we can better focus our efforts on helping students learn higher-level information literacy skills, such as analyzing search results, evaluating sources, and locating hard-to-find primary resources."

This past year, the Library offered 473 research appointments across the main and branch libraries. First-year students take advantage of the service in the greatest numbers, comprising as much as 45 percent of total appointments.

At its Fall meeting the Friends of the Library Council authorized the use of Friends funds to purchase, in full or part, a variety of library resources, including major reference works, electronic works to support classroom teaching, and rare and unusual works. The total cost of these acquisitions, described below, was approximately $30,000.

### Art Library:
- **Chen, Julie.** *Personal Paradigms; a Game of Human Experience (Artist’s Book).* Flying Fish Press, 2004. Edition of 100. This work presents an interactive experience for the reader, who engages in playing a game and recording results in a collaborative ledger book. The game focuses on the player’s own life experience and perceptions at the moment that the game is being played. Presented in a cloth-covered box, the set includes a letterpress printed game board and laser-cut game pieces.

**Cummins, Maureen.** *Ghost Diary (Artist’s Book).* 2002. Edition of 25. Constructed of panes of glass hinged together to form a concertina structure, this striking book is made up of photographic negatives of anonymous individuals and family groupings dating from the late 19th century.

### Conservatory Library:
- **Coltrane, John.** *The Works of John Coltrane: 650 Transcriptions of Coltrane Improvisations.* With the addition of 11 volumes of this important collection, the Conservatory Library now owns the full series (650 transcriptions in 14 volumes made by saxophonist, composer, and publisher Andrew White).


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*continued on page 6*
Reference Service in an Instant

The Main Library reference staff recently began providing reference service via Instant Messaging (IM), a communication tool used by many students. The reference staff expects the new service to be quite popular.

IM reference is provided during all hours the reference desk is open. This new service is being added to existing reference services (telephone, in-person, ChatRef, and e-mail) as part of a continuing effort to meet – and anticipate – student needs.


English Award continued from page 1

access to scholarship and other change strategies.

English was nominated for the ACRL award by a group of colleagues and the award selection was made by an ACRL committee that included the current president of the association. The award will be presented to English at a reception at the American Library Association annual conference in New Orleans in June.

English was also recently elected chair of the steering committee of SPARC, an alliance of over 300 academic and research libraries and organizations in the United States and Canada, with affiliates in Europe and Japan. SPARC was created in 1997 to form a constructive response to market dysfunctions in the system of scholarly communication.

Mudd Statues continued from page 1

reading room of the Carnegie Library (the current Root Room). Renovations in Carnegie led to her relocation to the first floor lobby where she suffered from vandalism. The statue was in storage in various locations on campus for approximately twenty years before former Director of Libraries William Moffett brought her to Mudd in 1980.

_La Penserosa,_ sculpted by Richard Henry Park (1832-ca. 1892), was donated to the College by Gertrude Baldwin Woods in 1916. Although smaller than life-size, the statue weighs between 1,400 and 1,800 pounds and it was housed in the basement of Baldwin Hall because it was assumed that the first floor could not support the weight. In 1982 Moffett made arrangements to bring her to the fourth floor of Mudd, just outside of the Goodrich Room. A new pedestal was created for her at the time of the transfer. She joined _The Reading Girl_ on the main level of Mudd in 1991.

Fairplay, who has extensive experience in stonemasonry and restoration, including work for Westminster Abbey, St. Paul’s Cathedral, and the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, commented on _The Reading Girl:_ “She’s an amazing example of Victorian carving. Such clear, high quality Carrara marble is very scarce.”

While the cleaning and restoration make details of _The Reading Girl_ more visible, such as the lace on her dress and the brocaded stool, the statue still boasts her trademark white sneaker on her right foot!

New Databases

Students of theater and dance now have access for the first time to an online database devoted to their field. The _International Bibliography of Theatre & Dance_ is a multicultural and interdisciplinary research tool for theater students, educators and professionals. This database includes references to more than 60,000 journal articles, books, and dissertation abstracts on all aspects of theatre and performance in 126 countries.

_Library, Information Science & Technology Abstract (LISTA)_ indexes more than 600 periodicals, books, research reports and conference proceedings as far back as the 1960s. Subject coverage includes all aspects of librarianship as well as information management.

The _IRIS Database_ lists over 8,600 federal and private funding opportunities in the sciences, social sciences, arts, and humanities. Of particular interest at Oberlin is the inclusion of fellowships and scholarships for undergraduates. (Most sources of this type

continued on page 7
The library now has a campus-wide subscription to the online version of The Chronicle of Higher Education. Oberlin users can go directly to the Chronicle’s web site from any Oberlin IP address, or connect via OBIS.

Faculty Guide Web Pages

A new library guide for faculty is now available from the Library’s web pages: http://www.oberlin.edu/library/faculty

The guide brings together information about a variety of library services, including reserve and ERs, materials selection, library instruction, document delivery, borrowing materials, and access to library resources.

The purpose of the guide is to make it easier for faculty to conduct business with the Library by assembling the most frequently needed links on one page.

Similar guides for students and visitors are in progress.

Research Awards continued from page 3

Of Ms. Sim’s paper Ms. Bryan writes “This may be the most learned paper I have ever graded... The research here is just incredible; Yi Hong has a real talent for it, and she is persistent.” Ms. Cruz notes that her nomination of Ms. Au’s paper “…is based on her creative intellectual ability to generate a fine writing project that synthesized first-hand knowledge, academic interest, and both recent and current literature.”

Each student received a $500.00 cash award and their achievements were celebrated at the annual Friends of the Library reception and dinner on November 5. Awards Committee and Friends Council member Janice Zinser presented the awards and statements were made by both professors.

Safer in the Dark continued from page 2

Oberlin Public Library, the Oberlin Area League of Women Voters, and the North Central Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union.

Jefferson Architecture Collection

Thanks to the generosity of the Friends of the Library, the Art Library has acquired another volume in its collection of books on architecture that were in the personal library of Thomas Jefferson. The new volume is the first edition of Claude Perrault’s abridged version of Vitruvius De Architectura, published in Paris in 1674. This edition of Vitruvius was purchased through funds that have been made available from the Friends of the Library to acquire special collections materials that become available on the market.

The Art Library’s collection of Jefferson’s architectural books was initiated in the 1940s by Clarence Ward, former Professor of Art History and Director of the Allen Memorial Art Museum. Ward created a room in the Art Library (which was in the museum at that time) as both a memorial to Jefferson and a study room for American architecture. The Jefferson collection was a focal point of the room.

Jefferson possessed 63 books on architecture that, in combination, were an excellent collection of early treatises on the subject. They also provide unique insights into the designs of this central figure in early American architecture. Important books in the collection include Stuart and Revett’s The Antiquities of Athens, which was instrumental in starting the Greek Revival, as well as early editions of Alberti and Palladio. Two-thirds of Jefferson’s personal library was destroyed in a fire at the Library of Congress in 1851. Oberlin’s collection of his architectural volumes is a rare assemblage of that portion of his personal library.

The Art Library now owns duplicates of all but 7 of the 63 titles listed in Thomas Jefferson: Architect, which was privately printed by the Riverside Press in 1916 and featured an essay and notes by Fiske Kimball. The Art Library has also recently purchased the 1655 Rome edition of Filippo de Rossi’s Ritratto di Roma Antica.

Friends Purchases continued from page 4

Main Library:


Russia & Eurasia Documents Annual. Gulf Breeze, FL: Academic International Press, 1994-. Published since 1992, this compilation of documents translated into English includes laws, decrees, speeches and other resources necessary for teaching and research on Russia and contiguous states since the fall of the USSR in 1991.

United States Congressional Serial Set, 1817-1980 (Electronic Resource). Chester, VT : Readex, 2003-. Online access to this invaluable collection of all reports, documents and journals of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives will serve students and faculty in many disciplines. The resource will eventually contain digital images (including maps and color plates) of all publications from the 15th through the 96th Congresses, together with American State Papers.
focus on faculty and graduate students). The database is funded by the Office of Sponsored Programs and the Library has incorporated it into its structure for accessing electronic databases in order to give it increased visibility.

**Europa World** includes political and economic information on over 250 countries and territories, from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, and comprehensive profiles of 1,650 non-governmental organizations. It provides recent statistics and directory information for government agencies, political groups, media outlets, and other institutions. Oberlin librarians have found it particularly valuable for up-to-the-minute information on recent elections and political events from across the globe.

**Database Changes**


OhioLINK has replaced *Sociological Abstracts* with [SocINDEX](http://www.oberlin.edu/library/pubs/journals/socindex.html), a database that features more than 1.6 million records with subject headings from a 15,000-term sociology-specific thesaurus. The database includes abstracts for more than 640 “core” journals dating back to 1895. SocINDEX also provides data culled from nearly 2,000 other journals.

The *American Humanities Index* has been absorbed by the more inclusive *Humanities International Index*, which covers journals, books and other important reference sources in the humanities. *Humanities International Index* provides citations and abstracts for articles, essays and reviews, as well as original creative works including poems, fiction, photographs, paintings and illustrations from more than 1,700 journals.

All of these databases are accessible through the Library’s database list. See: [http://www.ohiolink.edu/resources.cgi](http://www.ohiolink.edu/resources.cgi)

**Recent Gifts continued from page 2**

professional collection of books on Japan and Japanese history.

**Ken Benson ’76** who has donated several publications of the New York Public Library.

**Sarah Lockard** who has donated books from the collection of the late Professor of French Vinio Rossi.

**Megan Whitman ’05** who has donated a number of volumes published by the Museum of Biblical Art.

Faculty members **Nick Jones, Grover Zinn, Dennis Luck,** and **James Leo Walsh** who have all donated materials from their collections.

**Friends Highlights continued from page 3**

of current and lapsed members in order to develop new strategies for building Friends membership. The Council also gratefully acknowledged a planned membership challenge for 2006-07 from William G. Roe ’64 that should substantially increase the number of Friends members and the average contribution level.

The Council discussed a variety of ways of enhancing communication among Council members and Friends members generally, including increased use of electronic communications.

The Program Committee reported on program activities for the past year and plans for the coming year.

The Council heard a variety of reports on both College and Library strategic planning as well as the progress of the Mellon Librarian Recruitment Program, which Oberlin is coordinating in cooperation with five other liberal arts college libraries.

Finally the Council elected officers and new members for the 2006/2007 academic year and it awarded an honorary membership to Richard Hudson, Oberlin Class of 1949, and a life membership to Annette Kaufman, a 1985 Oberlin College honorary degree recipient.

Detailed minutes of the Friends Council meeting are available online at: [http://www.oberlin.edu/friends/minutes/2005-11-05.html](http://www.oberlin.edu/friends/minutes/2005-11-05.html)

**Friends Honorary and Life continued from page 3**

of the Conservatory Library for the benefit of students, faculty, and others who use it.” Income from the endowment may be used for acquisitions or for any purpose that advances the services and resources of the Conservatory Library. The Howland-Hutton fund is the Conservatory Library’s largest endowed fund.

Dr. Kaufman and her late husband, famed violinist Louis Kaufman, have made generous gifts to the Conservatory Library for over two decades. Louis Kaufman was an internationally renowned solo violinist and concertmaster during the 1930s, 40s, and 50s and he was also an extraordinarily successful violin performer in Hollywood, playing on the soundtracks of over 500 films. The Kaufmans’ gifts to the Conservatory Library have included books on a wide variety of musical topics and a rich collection of printed musical works for solo violin, string chamber groups, and piano. Many of the scores contain annotations by Louis Kaufman or inscriptions by well-known composers and editors. The Kaufmans received honorary degrees from Oberlin College in 1985.

**Friends Purchases continued from page 6**


continued on page 8
Join Us. Be A Friend.

The Friends of the Oberlin College Library provide significant support for special acquisitions and programs that help the Library fulfill its fundamental role in the academic life of the College. Members receive the Library Perspectives newsletter, invitations to Friends programs, and other privileges. Most of all, Friends have the satisfaction of supporting Oberlin’s outstanding Library.

Annual Membership Categories

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Purchases continued from page 7

Main Library Special Collections:
Series of 13 drawings of scenes from the Ramayana by Mithila folk artists. These original drawings by women artists from the Mithila region of northern India depict scenes from Hinduism’s two preeminent religious epics. With this purchase Oberlin now holds the largest collection of Mithila drawings in the United States.

Science Library:
JSTOR Biological Sciences Collection. The Friends continue their support of JSTOR with the addition of this collection, which will include at least 100 titles when it is completed by the end of 2007. These journals offer greater depth in fields such as biodiversity, conservation, paleontology, and plant science, in addition to introducing new areas for JSTOR, such as cell biology and zoology.

Science (Weekly : Electronic Resource). Washington, D.C.: American Association for the Advancement of Science. The addition of online access to current issues of this important journal greatly enhances the Library’s collection of digital resources in the sciences.

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