Adam Moss to Speak at Friends Dinner

Adam Moss ’79, editor-in-chief of New York magazine, will be the featured speaker at the Friends of the Library annual dinner on Saturday, November 4.

Moss, who became editor of New York in 2004, has completed an extensive redesign of the magazine. Under his leadership New York received two National Magazine Awards in 2005 and was named “Magazine of the Year” by the Society of Publication Designers in April 2006.

Moss was previously assistant managing editor for features at The New York Times, where he was responsible for the newspaper’s cultural portfolio, including The New York Times Magazine, the Book Review, as well as the Culture, Style, Travel, Circuits, Real Estate, and Escapes sections. The New York Times Magazine received numerous awards for journalism, photography, and design during his tenure. The magazine was twice a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and was part of the Times series “Talking About Race” that won the Pulitzer Prize for reporting in 2001.

Before joining The New York Times, Moss was founding editor of the award-winning New York weekly magazine 7 Days, managing editor of Esquire magazine, and he also worked at Rolling Stone.

Moss was named editor of the year by Advertising Age in 2001. He had earlier been named by the Columbia Journalism Review as “one of the ten best magazine editors.” He received an honorary degree from Oberlin in 2005.

New Look for Library Web Site

A new version of the Library’s Web site was brought online at the beginning of the fall semester. The new site has a more contemporary look and was designed to meet the expressed needs and preferences of Oberlin students and faculty while taking advantage of the latest Web technologies.

Features of the new site include an OBIS search box and quicklinks on any page to frequently used library services and resources; an improved site search capability, numerous images of the libraries, and more research guidance. As with Oberlin Online, there are paths for students, faculty and staff, and visitors to follow to readily identify key services and resources.

A task force (comprised of Megan Mitchell, Reference and Electronic Services Librarian; Alison Ricker, Science Librarian; Deborah Campana, Conservatory Librarian; and Megan Kinney, Mellon Librarian Recruitment Coordinator) worked for over a year and a half on the process of redesigning the site. The group sought extensive feedback from students, faculty, and staff.
Friends of the Oberlin College Library
Fall 2006 Programs

Exhibitions:

Journey Towards Hope: A Pictorial History of Oberlin, Abolition, and The Underground Railroad.
Photographs by Coriana Close ’06. September 27 through October 15.
Mudd Main Level

Lectures and Other Events:

September 13, 4:30 p.m., Moffett Auditorium, Mudd Center
Faculty talk by Chris Howell, Professor of Politics, "Trade Unions and the State: The Puzzle of British Union Decline."

Friday, September 15, 10 a.m. – noon, A Level, Mudd Center
Library Book Sale: Friends of the Library Pre-Sale
Book sale runs from noon—7 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m.—noon Saturday.

Friday, September 22, 4:30 p.m., Moffett Auditorium, Mudd Center
Talk by Dr. Stephen H. Miles on researching and writing his book: Oath Betrayed: Torture, Medical Complicity, and the War on Terror (Random House, 2006).

Wednesday, October 11, 4:30 p.m., Moffett Auditorium, Mudd Center
Faculty talk by Linda Grimm, Associate Professor of Anthropology, "From Curio Cabinet to Digital Archive: New Life for the Oberlin College Ethnographic Collection."

Saturday, November 4, Friends of the Library Annual Events
1:30 p.m. Friends Council and Membership Meeting
Goodrich Room, Mudd Center
5:45 p.m. Friends Annual Reception and Dinner
Root Room, Carnegie
8:00 p.m. Featured Speaker, Adam Moss ’79
Root Room, Carnegie

Monday, December 4, 4:30 p.m., Science Center Commons
Reception for Oberlin Authors

The Friends of the Library received a total of $46,534 in membership contributions and matching gifts during the year, including 507 regular members, 77 members who donated to other Library funds or who made gifts in kind, 43 members who were either students or recent graduates, 34 life members, and 4 honorary members.

The Friends devoted more than $30,000 toward the purchase of special materials for the Library. Major purchases included unique artists’ books, major musical sets, major reference works, a unique collection of original drawings by women artists from the Mathila region of northern India, and a variety of electronic resources.

Highlights of Friends programs included a well-received talk by Robert Kuttner, editor of The American Prospect, at the annual dinner; faculty talks by James Dobbins (Professor of Religion), Anna Gade (Assistant Professor of Religion), and Laurie McMillin (Associate Professor of Rhetoric and Composition). Other programs included talks by local freelance

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Osada Receives Multiple Scholarships

Fumiko Osada

Fumiko Osada ’06 has won one of four $5,000 library school scholarships awarded to graduates of schools participating in the Mellon Librarian Recruitment Program. The scholarship is a major component of the collaborative project, which involves Oberlin, Mount Holyoke, Occidental, Swarthmore, and Wellesley Colleges, and is funded by a

Student Book Collecting Competition

An exhibition entitled “The Journey Towards Hope: A Pictorial History of Oberlin, Abolition, and The Underground Railroad” will be on display on the main level of Mudd Center from September 27 through October 15. The exhibition, which was created by Coriana Close ’06, documents in both color and black-and-white photographs the buildings, monuments, and gravestones in Oberlin that are most closely associated with the Underground Railroad and Abolition.

The 33 photos, and the information panels that accompany them, are, says Close, “a reminder of what took place right here in the not-so-distant past. In the darkness that was slavery, Oberlin was a shining light, a candle in the distance symbolizing freedom.”

Two Win Friends of the Library Scholarship

Lizzie Ehrenhalt and Fumiko Osada have been awarded Friends of the Oberlin College Library Graduate Library School Scholarships.

Ehrenhalt graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 2005 with a double major in Classics and Gender and Women’s Studies. As a student at Oberlin she worked for two years (including two summers) as an assistant in the Library’s Special Collections Department, helping to organize, inventory, and preserve materials in the Seal Press Archive. In early 2003 the Library acquired the manuscripts and records of Seal Press, a nationally recognized independent feminist publishing house, with major financial support from the Friends (see Perspectives #28). In the statement of purpose accompanying her scholarship application, Ehrenhalt noted that “working on the Seal Press archive was a tremendously fulfilling experience for me, and inspired me to pursue women’s studies librarianship as a career. I see archivists as potentially powerful advocates for feminist goals—and for social justice and responsibility of all kinds—because of their ability to transform people’s material lives through improved information access.”

First Place - Emily Miranker ’08
“The Alice Collection”

At the heart of Ms. Miranker’s collection are Lewis Carroll’s Alice in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass, which her father (himself a book collector) gave her. Ms. Miranker wrote that these books “helped me fall in love with reading and writing and inspired my passion for the ridiculous and fantasy.” Beyond numerous editions of these books, her collection includes sheet music, a guide to Christ Church College in Oxford where the books were written, sheets of stickers reproducing the illustrations by John Tenniel, and letters and biographies of Lewis Carroll.

Second Place - Carly Hode ’10
“Graphic Novels and Sequential Art”

Journey Towards Hope

Emily Miranker and Ray English

continued on page 5

continued on page 7
Three Faculty Receive Special Collections Grants

Three members of the Oberlin College faculty have been awarded curriculum development grants funded by the Friends of the Library in order to incorporate the use of Special Collections materials into their courses.

Meredith Gadsby, Assistant Professor of African American Studies, is revising her course Heritage of Black American Literature by drawing on a variety of historical and literary materials. Her students will use the Library's rich collections and artifacts related to African American history in order to research the context out of which African American literature emerged.

Abe Socher, Associate Professor of Religion, is revising his first year seminar How Jews and Early Christians Rewrote the Bible. The course introduces students to the humanities by studying the canonization, interpretation, and translation of the Bible in late antiquity. Socher will incorporate into the course Special Collections materials related to the history of Judaism and Christianity, including a cuneiform clay tablet, a Samaritan Torah, a medieval Torah, and early printed editions of the Bible.

Andrew T. Wilburn, Assistant Professor of Classics, is creating a two-week module on papyrology and ancient writing for his upper level Greek prose class. His students will use papyrus documents from Special Collections as well as artifacts of ancient writing materials.

Scholarship continued from page 3

This fall Ms. Ehrenhalt will use her $2,500 scholarship to attend the University of Michigan's School of Information. Eventually she aspires to establish an archive devoted to little-known women musicians.

Fumiko Osada will use her $1,250 award—and two other scholarships she has received—to attend the University of Wisconsin's School of Library and Information Studies. Her accomplishments are described in a separate article in this issue.

Ehrenhalt and Osada are the sixth and seventh scholarship recipients since the award was established in 2002.

The Library plans to dismantle the Dewey Card Catalog this fall to make room for the future Academic Commons (see article on page 1 of this issue). The Dewey Catalog, so named for the classification system used for the books represented in it, originated in 1885. It provided a comprehensive listing of materials in the main, departmental, and branch libraries until it was "frozen" in 1974. That date coincided with the Main Library's move from Carnegie to Mudd Center and with the decision to switch to the Library of Congress classification system.

No new cards have been added to the Dewey Catalog in over 30 years and virtually all of the materials listed in it were converted to computerized format during a retrospective cataloging project in the 1980s. The catalog has become increasingly outdated and inaccurate and its continued presence in a public area misleads some library users, who on occasion search it rather than OBIS, the Library's current and comprehensive online catalog.

While it is no longer useful for accessing the Library's collections, the Dewey Catalog provides a fascinating and unique view of the
Osada continued from page 3

major grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation (see Perspectives #29).

Ms. Osada also was recently awarded a Friends of the Oberlin College Library Graduate Library School Scholarship (see accompanying article elsewhere in this issue of Perspectives) and a $5,000 American Library Association Spectrum Scholarship. The Spectrum Scholarship Program is part of ALA’s national diversity and recruitment effort designed to address the issue of underrepresentation of critically needed ethnic librarians within the profession; its mission is to improve service at the local level through the development of a representative workforce that reflects the communities served by libraries in the new millennium.

Osada graduated Phi Beta Kappa in May with a major in Spanish. During her years at Oberlin she worked at the Library’s circulation desk and tutored first graders in the Oberlin public schools through the America Reads program. In her sophomore year she was selected as a Mellon Undergraduate Library Intern, another component of the Mellon Librarian Recruitment Program that seeks to provide a small number of students at each campus a thorough understanding of librarianship as a profession. As part of that internship, Osada designed her own project in children’s and young adult librarianship at the Elyria Public Library.

Of her own small-town library experiences, Osada writes, “Growing up in a home where only Japanese was spoken, weekly visits to the library played a crucial role in my development of the English language. Now, with proficiency in English, Japanese, and Spanish, I will make the public library a more comfortable space for non-native English speakers like my parents and help children in their adjustment to multilingualism. Through diverse media I aim to awaken young patrons’ awareness of their own potential and of the endless possibilities of the unfamiliar and different.”

Ms. Osada plans to begin her graduate education this fall at the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Wisconsin. One day she hopes to be director of children’s services at a small rural public library.

Ray English Receives ACRL Award

Director of Libraries Ray English received the Academic Research Librarian of the Year Award from the Association of College and Research Libraries on June 26 at the Annual Conference of the American Library Association in New Orleans. The award was presented by Camilla Alire, President of ACRL, and Bob Nardini, Vice President of Yankee Book Peddler Library Services, the award sponsor. The text of English’s acceptance remarks are online at: http://www.ala.org/ala/acrilbucket/librarianoftheyear/englishspeech.htm

New Electronic Resources

Database Changes

The Library has added several new databases to its collection of electronic resources. All of the new databases are linked from the library’s Web site (“Databases A to Z”) and descriptions are available online at: http://www.ohiolink.edu/resources.cgi.

Factiva provides business news and information with a collection of more than 10,000 sources, including both The Wall Street Journal and the Financial Times. In addition to newswires and other global and local newspapers, Factiva contains a wealth of company data, including industry reports from Mergent and Standard & Poor’s and D&B company profiles.

Black Studies Center provides historical and current material for researching African Americans, Africa, and the African diaspora. The core of the database is the Schomburg Studies on the Black Experience, comprised of in-depth essays, detailed timelines, images, and film clips. The Black Studies Center also includes: the International Index to Black Periodicals, which covers scholarly journals and newsletters from the United States, Africa and the Caribbean, and provides full-text coverage of core Black Studies periodicals; the index to the Black Literature Collection, consisting of 70,000 bibliographic citations for fiction, poetry and literary reviews published in black periodicals and newspapers between 1827–1940; and the full-text backfile of the influential newspaper the Chicago Defender from 1910–1975.

The American Library Directory provides detailed profiles for more than 35,000 public, academic, special and government libraries, and library-related organizations in the United States and Canada—including addresses, phone and fax numbers, and email addresses, network participation, expenditures, holdings and special collections, key personnel, and special services.

Over the summer OhioLINK made significant changes in its array of database offerings. The following new databases are available to all students, faculty and staff at OhioLINK member institutions: Bibliography of Native North Americans; Computers & Applied Sciences major grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation (see Perspectives #29).

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Changes in the Art Library

The Art Library was closed from May 21st to July 19th for much needed renovation, including the installation of moveable compact shelving on its south side.

The project has created markedly improved capacity for collection growth and also increased the number of reader spaces. The latter need has been a pressing concern for some time. Because many art books are oversize, they require large tables where researchers can spread out and compare images from multiple volumes simultaneously.

The compact shelving will provide approximately ten years of growth space for the collections. It has also enabled some art materials to be brought to the library from Mudd Center and Carnegie storage, in addition to providing flat shelving for the older folio collection. The rearrangement has also allowed the current periodicals to be moved to the east end of the library where they are adjacent to new seating space and study tables.

Plans for the renovation began in 2004 when it was clear the Art Library was running out of space for books. More than 4,500 volumes were temporarily housed in the Science Library in the summer of 2005 and the floor underneath the south side of the library was reinforced to hold the additional weight of compact shelving. This summer 60,000 volumes were taken off the shelves and stored on 150 book trucks scattered throughout the library to allow for the compact shelving installation.

Future plans call for the former current periodicals area at the west end of the library to be converted into a group study space or seminar room, where students can meet to collaborate without disturbing other library users.

Dewey Catalog

College’s history, mirroring curricular trends, passing fads, and collecting interests of yore. It also illustrates the history of librarianship, reflecting cataloging styles and methods over the decades, from the handwritten half cards of the nineteenth century to the computer-produced cards that began appearing in the early 1970s.

In view of its historical value, portions of the Dewey catalog will be saved to create a library special collection. Special Collections Librarian Ed Vermue has surveyed the entire catalog, drawer by drawer, and selected over 450 sections—comprising approximately 120 drawers or 7 percent of the catalog—for permanent retention. Sections that will be preserved in Special Collections include Oberlin (40 linear inches), missions and missionaries, slavery, Charles Grandison Finney, temperance, evolution, William Lloyd Garrison, Mormonism, suffrage, tuberculosis, and vegetarianism. Most of the catalog cards not retained will be sent to a local company for recycling. Some will be saved for scrap paper or for special projects.

A small percentage of materials in the Dewey catalog were never added to the Library’s online catalog for a variety of reasons. The Library’s shelf list, a card file representing books owned by the Library and filed in call number order, remains available to Library staff as a record of materials classified in the Dewey system. This file is currently being used to identify and catalog small pockets of materials that were skipped over in the retrospective cataloging project during the 1980s.

The Library of Congress catalog, which was actively maintained from 1975 until it was “frozen” in the late 1980s, was removed in 1998. All of its catalog records had been duplicated in electronic format.
**Book Collecting continued from page 3**

Ms. Hode, who is an aspiring graphic novelist, “collect[s] graphic novels ... to build a library of diverse references.” She notes that she has “shelves full of inspiration.” Rather than collecting all titles in a given series, she collects selected examples from different series, styles, and national traditions. Her collection includes books from Japan, Korea, China, and England as well as the United States. In addition to graphic novels, she collects books on drawing in manga style, anatomy, and figure drawing.

**Third Place - Emily Guirl ‘06 “Gender and Sexual Identity”**

Ms. Guirl’s collection, which began with a gift from her mother, includes fiction, erotica, books of photography, personal narratives, and scholarly monographs. She notes: “These books helped me realize that women are strong and sexual and, in many ways, helped me embrace my female and feminine identity.”

The three finalists displayed selections from their collections in the Main Library at the end of the spring semester. The first place winner received a cash prize of $200; second and third place winners received gift certificates for Mindfair Books in the amounts of $100 and $75, respectively.

The Student Friends of the Library hope to continue the book collecting contest on a regular basis.

**Friends Update continued from page 2**

writer Jeff Rubin on Antarctica and by Andrew Venable, Director of the Cleveland Public Library, on challenges facing urban public libraries.

The Friends continued to provide a graduate library school scholarship to a recent Oberlin graduate and to sponsor awards for Oberlin students to encourage excellence in research.

The Friends of the Library Council will hold its regular fall meeting on Saturday, November 4 at 1:30 p.m. in the Goodrich Room in Mudd Center. All those interested in the Friends of the Library are welcome to attend.

**Library Web Pages continued from page 1**

through usability studies, focus groups, and other conversations. Design work on the site was done by student webmaster Ray Schamp ’06.

The Library’s first Web site was unveiled in 1995. While changes have been made to the site continually, this is the first major overhaul in almost five years.

**Electronic Resources continued from page 5**

**New E-books and Digital Videos at OhioLINK**

The Electronic Reference Books Collection has expanded to 489 titles. Among the latest additions are: Buddhism in World Cultures; Comparative Perspectives; Chinese Religions in Contemporary Societies; Encyclopedia of Witchcraft: The Western Tradition; Forensic Science: An Encyclopedia of History, Methods, and Technique; Imperialism and Science: Social Impact and Interaction; The Incas: New Perspectives; Southern United States: An Environmental History; and Sub-Saharan Africa: An Environmental History.

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.

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Recent Gifts continued from page 2

Perfection and If I Take the Shirt Off My Back. Lee donated the books "in gratitude for a 2004 Oberlin College Alumni Graduate Award" which allowed her to complete a Master of Fine Arts degree in interdisciplinary book and paper arts at Columbia College, Chicago.

Robert I. Rotberg ’55 has begun donating to the Library materials from his extensive collection related to Africa and African history.

Clayton Koppes, Professor of History, has donated over 600 volumes from his personal library.

Margery W. Dodds of Springfield, Illinois has donated over 400 scores to the Conservatory Library.

Library Perspectives

Oberlin College Library
Mudd Center
148 West College Street
Oberlin, OH 44074-1532