CONSERVATORY LIBRARY RECEIVES EXTENSIVE BLUES COLLECTION

Last summer the Conservatory Library received an impressive collection of blues-related audio recordings from Gordon Barrick “Barry” Neavill ’66 and Mary Ann Sheble. The collection comprises nearly 6,000 CDs and 4,000 LPs that provide extensive documentation of the history of the blues. With reissues of the earliest blues recordings from the 1920s and extending up to the present, the collection is expansive in both chronological scope and geographic range, an important element for a genre in which regional differences can result in significantly distinct styles.

The donation greatly enhances Oberlin’s blues holdings, which previously numbered around 1,500 items. The recordings will directly support teaching and research in a number of conservatory and college departments and will likely attract general interest from students across campus. The recordings will soon be enhanced by a notable group of blues magazines, books, and discographies that Neavill and Sheble have compiled and plan to donate to Oberlin in the near future.

ALAN BOYD RETIRES

Alan Boyd, Associate Director of Libraries for the past 25 years, was among a group of seven long-time library staff members who retired in December (see related article on page 11). During a career that spanned 35 years at the Oberlin College Libraries, Alan played key roles in library automation, library use of the once-novel Internet, and library support for digital scholarship through the creation of several local digital collections. Alan’s duties also included budget oversight, personnel and facilities management, and supervision of the library’s technical services operations. He served as Acting Director of Libraries in the spring of 1998, and was Interim
RECENT GIFTS

The Libraries gratefully acknowledge the following significant monetary gifts and gifts-in-kind.

Major monetary gifts:
- David Berger and Holly Maxson for the Librarian’s Discretionary Fund in ongoing support of the Milton J. and Mona C. Hinton Collection.
- Theresa Brown ’78 and Bruce Regal ’78 for the Friends of the Library.
- Robert ’54 and Virginia Cassady ’55 for the Friends of the Library.
- Kahle/Austin Foundation for the Librarian’s Discretionary Fund in support of jazz collection digitization.
- Virginia Luce ’63 for the Ray English Endowed Discretionary Fund.
- Lucy Marks ’73 and Scott Sprinzen for the Friends of the Library and the Lucy Marks Endowed English and Classics Book Fund.
- Paul Seebohn ’38 for the Conservatory Special Book Fund.
- Avonelle Walker ’53 for the Friends of the Library and the Conservatory Special Book Fund.

Generous monetary gifts:
- Brandon Burnette ’82 for the Friends of the Library.
- David Culbert ’66 for discretionary use by the Head of the Conservatory Library.
- Edwin Dugger ’62 for the Conservatory Special Book Fund for the purchase of scores.
- Cynthia Grubb ’54 for the Friends of the Library.

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Library Perspectives
Cynthia Comer            Alison Ricker
Jeremy Smith             Jennifer Starkey
Alexia Hudson-Ward
Editors
William Ruth, Copy Editor
Marla Thompson, Production Editor

A newsletter for users and Friends of the Oberlin College Library, Library Perspectives is issued two times a year. Printed from an endowed fund established by Benjamin and Emiko Custer.

Friends of the Library
Spring 2017 Programs

Exhibitions:
- Pathway to Hope and Opportunity: Oberlin as a Sanctuary
  Monday, February 6–Friday, March 31, Academic Commons, Mudd Center
- Peace Posters Project
  Monday, April 3–Sunday, April 30, Academic Commons, Mudd Center
- Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Allen Memorial Art Museum
  Friday, May 19–Sunday, May 21, Academic Commons, Mudd Center
- Celebrating the 50th Reunion of the Class of 1967 and the 25th Reunion of the Class of 1992
  Friday, May 19–Sunday, May 21, Goodrich Room, 4th Floor, Mudd Center

Lectures and Other Events:
- “Breeze of Peace: Art from Shiraz,” Gallery talk about the Peace Posters Project exhibition by Mohammad Jafar Mahallati, Presidential Scholar of Islam
  Monday, April 3, 4:30 p.m., Academic Commons, Mudd Center
- “David Smith in Two Dimensions: Photography and the Matter of Sculpture,” Talk by Sarah Hamill, Assistant Professor of Art History
  Thursday, April 20, 4:30 p.m., Moffett Auditorium, Mudd 050
- “Oberlin and the Introduction of Dutch Caravaggism to America,” The Harold Jantz Memorial Lecture by Arthur K. Wheelock Jr., Curator of Northern Baroque Paintings, National Gallery of Art
  Thursday, May 4, 5:30 p.m., second floor, The Hotel at Oberlin
- “Citizen, Student, Soldier: Latina/o Youth, JROTC, and the American Dream,” Talk by Gina Pérez, Professor of Comparative American Studies
  Tuesday, May 9, 4:30 p.m., Moffett Auditorium, Mudd 050
- Commencement/Reunion reception for Friends of the Library, alumni authors, former library student assistants, alumni librarians, and anyone else who loves libraries and books
  Saturday, May 20, 4:30–6:00 p.m., Azariah’s Café, Mudd Center

Friends Council Highlights

President Robert Taylor convened the 26th annual meeting of the Friends of the Library Council on November 5, 2016. The financial report showed gifts from the membership totaling $68,313 in 2015-16, an increase over the previous year. In addition, Robert and Virginia Cassady created an annuity yielding income of $10,856 in 2015-16. The end-of-year balance was $48,551.

The Council approved recommendations from the Acquisitions Committee to spend $40,000 on new resources to support teaching and learning (see article on page 9). The Membership Committee reported that regular Friends members (those who contribute directly to the Friends) decreased from 662 to 630. Total membership, which includes all donors to the libraries, remained above 750. The Program Committee reported on 2015-16 programs and plans for the fall 2016 semester. Committee Chair Bob Longsworth noted that the choice of programs this past year was directly related to the scholarly endeavors of Oberlin faculty members in the College and Conservatory. The Council approved graduate library school scholarships in the amount of $3,500 each for Deborah Smith ’89 and Hazel Koziol ’13 (see Perspectives, Fall 2016). It also approved honorary memberships for

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2016-2017
Friends Council

Officers:
  Robert Taylor, President
  Wendy Wasman ’85, Vice President
  Eric Carpenter, Secretary

Members:
  Sebastiaan Faber
  Robert Follet
  Jack Glazier
  Tom Lopez ’89
  Stephanie Davis-Kahl ’94
  Rod Knight
  Gary Kornblith
  Anne McFarland ’62
  Steve Volk

Ex-Officio and Appointed Members:
  Scott Smith ’79, Acquisitions Committee Chair
  Robert Longsworth, Program Committee Chair
  Alexia Hudson-Ward, Director of Libraries
  Jessica Grim, Collection Development Librarian
  Ed Vermue, Special Collections Librarian
  Gabrielle Kaufman, Student Representative

NEW FRIENDS HONORARY AND LIFE MEMBERS

THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY awarded honorary memberships to
Gordon Barrick
“Barry” Neavill ’66 and Mary Ann Sheble, and life memberships to Nancy ’64 and
David Finke ’63, at its annual dinner on November 5, 2016.

Long-time library supporters Barry Neavill and Mary Ann Sheble recently donated their expansive blues-focused collection of nearly 10,000 LPs and CDs (see related article on page 1). The collection is an important complement to the Conservatory Library’s existing jazz holdings, including the James R. and Susan Neumann Jazz Collection and the Milton J. and Mona C. Hinton Collection, and provides a depth of blues-related materials that the library would otherwise lack. The expertise and care that Neavill and Sheble put into compiling this collection are evident, and this gift will enhance the curriculum and enrich the educational experiences of Oberlin’s students for generations to come.

In 2013, Nancy and David Finke donated to the Main Library Special Collections a group of 59 original watercolors by Johnny Gruelle, an American artist, political cartoonist, book author, and illustrator best known as the creator of Raggedy Ann and Raggedy Andy (see Perspectives, Spring 2014). The Finkes have also donated archival materials related to Nancy’s co-ownership from 1976 to 1984 of the Jane Addams Book Shop, a pioneering feminist bookstore in Chicago. These materials strengthen the libraries’ ability to support teaching in Oberlin’s new book studies curricular concentration, approved by the faculty in May (see Perspectives, Fall 2016).

FRIENDS RESEARCH AWARDS

Nicholas Capozzoli ’16
and Junior Naomi Roswell
were selected as winners of the Friends of the Library Research Awards for papers written during academic year 2015-16.

Capozzoli was nominated by Steven Plank, Andrew B. Meldrum Professor of Musicology, for his paper “Music of the ‘Ringing Isle’: the Culture of Bell-Ringing and Its Musical Evocations in England, c. 1660-1700,” submitted for Music History 301: Introduction to Music Research and Writing. Committee members were impressed with Capozzoli’s thorough and scholarly approach, contextualizing bell-ringing in the social, religious, and political aspects of life in the British Isles, while analyzing compositions through a wide range of resources and investigative methods.

Roswell was nominated by T. S. McMillin, Professor of English. McMillin nominated several students from his English 255 course, The Concept of Nature in Early American Literature. Entitled “Eradicating the Logs, Brambles, and Boulders of Misunderstanding: Creating Social Change Through Oratory in Early America,” Roswell focused on two stirring speeches delivered by Native American leaders separated in time by more than a century. Roswell creatively wove together writings and research from four different centuries to argue that oratory is a persuasive vehicle of social change, and that evocation of natural

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Since arriving at the Conservatory Library in January 2014, the Milton J. and Mona C. Hinton Collection has become a valuable resource for students and faculty in the Jazz Division and beyond (see Perspectives, Spring 2014). Recently, library staff achieved a significant milestone in sharing the collection outside campus with the creation of an innovative traveling exhibition.

Titled *Playing the Changes: The Life and Legacy of Milt Hinton*, the exhibition comprises some 50 of Hinton’s most acclaimed original photographs taken from the 1930s to the 1990s that capture his behind-the-scenes life in music, along with 10 biographical panels containing digital surrogates of materials drawn from the Hinton Collection. Conservatory Special Collections Librarian Jeremy Smith collaborated with David Berger and Holly Maxson, co-directors of the Milton J. Hinton Photographic Collection, to select the images, and he worked with Special Collections Assistant Lindsey Felice on the design of the biographical panels.

The exhibition documents Hinton’s legendary seven-decade career, during which he performed on the road and in recording studios with luminaries ranging from Cab Calloway to Aretha Franklin; from Barbra Streisand to Louis Armstrong; from Bing Crosby to Paul McCartney. It also highlights the social context in which Milt made such monumental contributions: overcoming racial discrimination during his Jim-Crow-era travels with the Cab Calloway Orchestra in the 1930s and 1940s, and later breaking through the color line in New York recording studios in the 1950s.

*Playing the Changes* made its debut at the Beck Center for the Arts in Lakewood, Ohio, where it was on display in the Jean Bulicek Galleria through February 18. The Beck Center hosted an impressive opening night program on January 13 that included a screening of the award-winning...
NEW DIGITAL PROJECTS RECEIVE MELLON FUNDING

THREE MORE FACULTY-SPONSORED PROJECTS have received funding through the Five Colleges of Ohio’s grant, “Digital Collections: From Projects to Pedagogy and Scholarship,” which began in 2014 with generous funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation (see Perspectives, Fall 2013).

Zeinab Abul-Magd, Associate Professor of History, is teaching a new course this semester, Borders, Wars, and Refugees in the Middle East, which covers the drawing and evolution of modern borders in the region from the 19th century through today. In the summer of 2016, Abul-Magd conducted research in the National Archives in London and the Ottoman Archives in Istanbul, where she gathered a number of important maps of the Middle East from the early 1800s up to World War I. She also collected records about Arab soldiers from those time periods. In preparation for the course, student research assistants have created descriptive metadata for the maps, and transcribed and described handwritten field notes from the Labour Corps of the British Army. Abul-Magd envisions a website that will serve as a repository of maps and primary documents that students can engage with, and a place to post their essays and analyses.

For her project on the Criminal Courts of DC, Tamika Nunley, Assistant Professor of History, photographed approximately 3,000 court records from 1830 through 1865 at the National Archives. This material, which includes demographic data such as race, gender, occupation, and marital status, will allow researchers to explore both quantitative and qualitative aspects of early national jurisprudence, such as rates of arrest of free and enslaved people, and rates of arrest according to race and gender. Three students from Nunley’s Civil War and Reconstruction course worked on the project last summer, transcribing court records, creating descriptive metadata, and developing digital exhibits. This grant will allow work to continue and make more

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LIBRARIANS INVOLVED IN WINTER TERM PROJECTS

The projects that mark Oberlin’s January term often include forms of hands-on learning that don’t easily fit into the traditional classroom format. In recent years the libraries have hosted intensely active winter term projects (see Perspectives, Spring 2014, Spring 2015). This new use of library spaces is in keeping with the libraries’ support for emerging pedagogical approaches. The effort involved in preparing fibers to make paper, or completing an edition of a book on a printing press, requires full, consecutive days of work. For many students, winter term may provide the only chance in their college career when they can focus so intently on a single endeavor. It also offers a rare opportunity to master visualization of a project, while gaining new skills using tools that range from sewing needles and eye droppers, to cameras and lights. Project-focused learning encourages real-world problem solving in a context that utilizes fun and play to expand participants’ educational experiences. Several librarians facilitated a wide range of both individual and group winter term projects this year.

Special Collections Librarian Ed Vermue continued his longstanding work with several winter term projects:

Senior Chelsea Ettlinger prints covers for the booklet “The Gingerbread Man,” the letterpress class group project.

Outreach and Programming Librarian Eboni Johnson sponsored an off-campus winter term project for first-year student Eli Kirshner, who studied genealogy and family history through the lens of the recent presidential election. In addition to using databases for research (newspapers, Social Explorer), Kirshner studied the historical factors and racial dynamics of the Pennsylvania communities that his grandmother’s family came from, and analyzed how that history contributed to the 2016 presidential election results. His project included creating a series of podcasts to talk about his experience, reflections, and discoveries, as well as oral history research in Western Pennsylvania.

Jeremy Smith, Conservatory Special Collections Librarian, worked with sophomore Paul Schubert on an on-campus winter term project to expand a guide to historic stringed instrument treatises in the Conservatory Library’s special collections. A cello performance major, Schubert is considering librarianship as a career; he already works as a reference assistant in the Conservatory Library and sought a winter term project that would combine his interest in library work with his major. Drawing primarily from the Frederick R. Selch Collection of American Music
A CONVERSATION WITH ALEXIA HUDSON-WARD

LIBRARY PERSPECTIVES recently spoke with Azariah Smith Root Director of Libraries Alexia Hudson-Ward, who was appointed Oberlin’s 10th library director in July 2016, about her first eight months on the job.

What attracted you to the position at Oberlin?
There’s a lot that’s really attractive about being the Azariah Smith Root Director of Libraries for Oberlin College and Conservatory. The Oberlin College Libraries is a storied institution within an excellent liberal arts college. This position provides a unique opportunity to lead one of the nation’s oldest library systems and have one’s finger on the pulse of many of the current trends within academic librarianship, including cultural heritage asset management, digital initiatives, special collections illumination, and strategic engagement of space utilization.

What led you to pursue a career in librarianship?
It was the influence of my public branch librarians and school librarians. I was mystified by their ability to answer questions in a seamless effort. I am a child of the 1970s and computers were not accessible in the way they are now, so it was magical to me to watch and learn from them.

As the years went on, I took on various professional positions, none of which were focused on librarianship. Like many people, I was transformed by the events of 9/11 and decided that I wanted to go back to school and pursue my passion, which was becoming a librarian. I enrolled at the University of Pittsburgh and the rest is history, as it is said.

What major challenges do you see facing academic libraries over the next five years?
This is always an interesting but difficult question to answer, because I want to be sure that my statements are relevant to the excellent work that is taking place here. But talking about the future of academic libraries gets me super excited, so I will identify three challenges that are foremost in my thinking and planning.

Without question, the myriad of issues related to open access (OA) resources and OA’s intersection with digital initiatives and digital scholarship is a major challenge we will face over the next five years. We have and will continue to wrestle with agreement on nomenclature regarding what exactly constitutes digital scholarship, what is our position on OA, and how OA impacts students and faculty—especially regarding the open access textbook movement, and the libraries’ role in deepening curricular integration of all things digital. This movement is growing beyond our traditional yet evolving understanding of the digital humanities at a rate quicker than many of us anticipated.

Another challenge facing academic libraries over the next five years is space prioritization and reallocation that allows for traditional library services to successfully converge with all of the academic communities that desire to have “residence” within our facilities. Many of our library spaces have evolved into campus community hubs through which coursework, independent and self-navigated study, and socialization take place simultaneously. We need to consider how we co-locate these experiences in a way that is healthy and meaningful for all patrons, often in spaces and buildings that were not created for multi-use purposes.

This raises another challenge in my mind that faces academic libraries over the next several years: our philosophies on collection development and management. When I first entered the field, one of the major metrics of an academic library’s “girth” and relevance was the size of its collection. Now we seem to be shifting towards strategic content management in a manner that elevates collection usage as a core metric. These concepts of collection size versus collection usage can significantly influence how academic libraries prioritize budgetary dollars, website “real estate,” and physical library space. It has been only within the past few years that academic libraries have discussed how collection analysis and data-driven collection development are informed by variables such as patron segmentation research. This so-called CI—collection intelligence—is moving to the forefront as a huge challenge and opportunity.

What new initiatives have you launched or are considering that will position the libraries to better serve the college and the conservatory communities?
The biggest new initiative I’ve launched has been our restructured model, which went into effect on January 3, 2017. The catalyst for the restructuring was the College’s VSIP program, leading to...
the retirement of seven beloved library colleagues. The redeployment of work from those departing OCL created an opportunity to restructure the libraries for future growth, empowering people through the creation of several leadership roles, while also vertically linking integrated tasks.

I am excited to have Allison Gallaher serve as the Assistant Director/Head of Public Services. She is doing a great job so far in providing leadership to our so-called “front of the house” operations, including circulation, reserves, interlibrary loan, and reference and instruction services. All of the librarians have more refined roles that will enhance the team-based philosophy in which they work with an emphasis on lead expertise in key functions. Cynthia Comer is now the Academic Commons Coordinator, Eboni Johnson ’97 is the Outreach and Programming Librarian, Jennifer Starkey is the User Experience and Assessment Librarian, and we are thrilled to have Rosalinda Linares join us in a continuing position as the Information Literacy and Special Initiatives Librarian.

Our “back of the house” operations of systems integration, digital initiatives, collection development, and discovery and metadata services will still be managed by an Associate Director, the role vacated by Alan Boyd. Selina Wang is now in a reenvisioned role of Head of Discovery and Metadata Services. Megan Mitchell has assumed the role of Digital Initiatives Librarian and manages a team of two. Jessica Grim continues as the Collection Development Librarian and oversees two full-time employees and one part-time employee. This group also has two new positions—an Emerging Technology Librarian (which will be filled this year) and a Visual Resources Curator. The job titles of the librarians leading the branch libraries were changed to “Head” to better reflect their administrative functions. There were no changes to Archives and Special Collections. In the administrative group, Marla Thompson is now full time as Administrative Secretary and Bill Ruth is now the Facilities and Operations Assistant.

What is your impression of Oberlin students? Do you plan to interact or engage with students on a regular basis?

I am incredibly impressed with the students here at Oberlin for a variety of reasons. They are super sharp and thoughtful intellectuals. I’ve enjoyed meeting and dining with several students. Their respect for Oberlin’s history, their interest and excitement around social justice, and how they envision themselves as leaders in that domain are extraordinarily impressive to me.

I spend a great deal of time speaking with students informally. I am considering a series of symposia or “lunch and learn” sessions with various leaders on a multitude of topics. I’m still fleshing out the details in my mind.

What are your thoughts about the Friends of the Library organization?

You know, I love our Friends group; it is an incredible group for a whole host of reasons. When I talk about the Friends group to my peers across the country, they tell me how impressed they are with our Friends of the Library organization, and I have to agree. Their enthusiasm for our libraries, their dedication to our success, and their focus on collaborative partnership are three outstanding attributes. The Friends have been very warm, gracious, and supportive of me, and thoughtful about my transition. I am so excited that the Friends Council officers have all agreed to take on another term to aid in my transition. I truly appreciate that; it speaks volumes to their commitment. It has been my privilege and pleasure to work closely with Friends President Robert Taylor, Vice President Wendy Wasman ’85, Secretary Eric Carpenter, and the rest of the incredible Council. I am remarkably blessed to have such a committed group to support our initiatives and our goals, and I thank all of them from the bottom of my heart.

How can the Friends best support the work of the Libraries?

Continuing to do just what it does—serving largely as a philanthropic and promotional extension of the Libraries—will serve us very well. Cultivating the next generation of Friends is a high priority. We are working on that together with our Student Friends of the Library and continue to brainstorm ideas. The Friends support for the libraries is already tremendous: they contribute meaningfully to our collections; support book talks, exhibits and other events; provide scholarships; encourage philanthropy; and have raised the visibility of the libraries to an even wider audience through social media. It is a remarkable privilege to serve with them in my capacity.

Hudson-Ward and Ed Vermue show slave stocks and chains from the anti-slavery collection to visitors.
ALUMNI LIBRARIAN PROFILES

Continuing our “Where are they now?” series (see Perspectives, Fall 2016), two alumnae are profiled here, with their responses to these questions:

1. What led you to pursue a Master’s degree in library and information science?
2. What is most satisfying, as a professional, about your current position?
3. Where do you see yourself in ten years?
4. Anything else you’d like to share?

Lizzie Ehrenhalt ’05, BA in gender and women’s studies, Latin language and literature; MS Information, University of Michigan, 2008. Current position: Editor, MNopedia, Minnesota Historical Society; Friends scholarship winner, 2006.

1. I had a great time working for Ed Vermue in Special Collections. I realized I loved manuscript collections and decided to study how to manage them.
2. I develop and edit articles before they’re published in MNopedia, an online encyclopedia about Minnesota history. Each article is different; one day I’m focusing on the science of seed corn cultivation, the next the Andrews Sisters. The writers I work with are passionate about what they do.
3. I’d like to stay at the Minnesota Historical Society.
4. Ed Vermue was a great mentor for me. Working for him and then receiving the Friends of the Library scholarship inspired me to go to graduate school, which put me on the museum studies and archives management career path that led to the job I do and love today.


1. I became interested in libraries as a reference assistant in the Conservatory Library. I have thoroughly enjoyed my first professional position as a librarian, and I look forward to helping people become increasingly information literate as I continue my career.
2. As Emerging Technologies Librarian, I have many different responsibilities, including reference, collection development, program planning, marketing, readers’ advisory, and anything else that walks through the door! I also teach technology, both one-on-one and to classes. I count myself lucky to have so many great opportunities early in my career.
3. I am excited to embark on what I hope will be a long career in libraries. I would love to see my interests in music and libraries overlap more. Right now, I am inspired to pursue public library work in places that see their library as a community center.
4. I am incredibly thankful for my experiences both as a student and as a student library worker. I had mentors that I will be thanking for the rest of my life, and that I continue to see as friends along the way.

Oberlin College Libraries is pleased to be a funding library and content contributor to the Independent Voices digital collection. The project is the effort of Reveal Digital, an organization that collects and makes available a vast array of alternative press materials. Independent Voices focuses on publications produced during a time of rising dissent of young people in America, beginning in the late 1960s. Groups representing the interests of feminists, campus radicals, the New Left, Black Power advocates, Native Americans, and other identities published many newspapers, newsletters, and periodicals. Many were short-lived or had limited distribution, making them difficult to find and preserve.

In 2015 the libraries contributed funds as a partner institution, receiving in return campus access to the complete database of digital scans. Anyone may search Independent Voices, but only a limited number of titles are openly accessible. The collection will eventually become fully open access and available to all scholars, likely in 2019. When complete, Independent Voices will be the largest digital collection of alternative press publications, with over 1,000 titles and 750,000 pages of content.

Oberlin College Archives contributed the scans of two titles to the Independent Voices collection. The Activist was an independent student journal of politics and opinion, published in Oberlin. The complete run of 44 issues is now in the collection, covering October 1960 through April 1975. The libraries also facilitated the scanning and uploading of Outlook, a lesbian publication from San Francisco, which published 17 issues from 1988 to 1992.
TECHNO-WOMBS A HIT WITH STUDENTS

LAST FALL the library arranged for furniture samples from three different manufacturers to be displayed in the Academic Commons in Mudd Center for students to “test drive.” The models chosen represent the latest trends in flexible, technology-enabled work spaces. As Director of Libraries Alexia Hudson-Ward thinks ahead to how the campus libraries can be updated to better serve the current generation of learners, she decided to showcase some of the newest innovations in library furniture design. With a deferential nod to Mudd’s iconic womb chairs, Hudson-Ward created a buzz on campus by dubbing the new furniture “techno-wombs.”

The furniture samples include attractive features such as electrical and USB outlets, task lighting, footrests, comfortable seating, soundproofing, adjustable work surfaces for laptops and other devices, and a cubby space for personal belongings. Though no decisions have yet been made on which model the library may eventually purchase, there is no question that Mudd is overdue for furnishing updates. The libraries need to update seating options to include configurations that are optimized for students who multitask with several devices, all of which have batteries that need to be recharged, and ensure that furniture selections are as inclusive as possible. “One thing I’ve heard from students,” remarked Hudson-Ward, “is that Eero Aarnio’s classic ball chair (womb chair) was not designed to be accessible to everyone. Some students with disabilities lamented their inability to

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY PURCHASES

AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING on November 5, 2016, the Friends of the Library Council approved spending $40,000 of Friends funds to purchase the following materials in support of teaching, research, and learning.

Special Collections

*Journals of Congress: Containing the Proceedings in the Year, 1776, Volume II, 1777.* Covering events of 1776, this rare volume serves as a vital document in the history of American independence. Philadelphia printer Robert Aitken was commissioned by Congress to produce a uniform edition of its *Journals.* Though 532 copies of this volume were completed, in the fall of 1777 the British campaign under General William Howe forced members of Congress to evacuate Philadelphia. The fleeing Congress took with it what it could, but was unable to remove many copies of its printed *Journals.* Copies left behind were presumably destroyed by the British, accounting for its scarcity today.

Publications on the theme of revolution [six pamphlets]. This group of rare pamphlets supports a future library exhibit that will tie into a series of courses taught across the curriculum on revolutionary movements and perspectives from Latin America, Russia, China, Eastern Europe, England, France, and Germany. Included are publications ranging from a 1581 edict published in Delft containing the first statement of the rights of man as formulated by a representative national assembly against a tyrannical ruler, to five pamphlets published in England during the second half of the 17th century. One of the English pamphlets has a note tipped in the front instructing the owner to strike out (i.e., censor) a passage of text, which its owner dutifully did—a fascinating bibliographic artifact.

Multidisciplinary Resources

*Nineteenth Century Collections Online, parts 9-12 [electronic resource]. NCCO* provides a broad range of digitized primary documents from leading libraries worldwide. This is the second of three installments towards the Friends’ commitment to fund the final four segments of this important collection; the last segments focus on children’s literature, maps and travel literature, religion and society, and science, technology, and medicine (see Perspectives, Spring 2016).

*African American Newspapers, Series 2, 1835-1956 [electronic resource]. This new series expands on African American Newspapers, Series 1, 1827-1998, purchased by the Friends in 2009. Published in 22 states and the District of Columbia, the 75+ newly-available titles in Series 2 significantly increase access to primary sources for researchers in Africana studies, political science, diaspora studies, women’s studies, and cultural, literary, and social history.*

*Caribbean History and Culture (1535-1920) [electronic resource]. This collection includes more than 1,200 books, pamphlets, almanacs, broadsides, and ephemera from the Library Company of Philadelphia. Works of all kinds are included: histories, letters, diaries, trial records, confessions, ship logs, military reports, and more. This resource supports a range of departments with its coverage of slavery, diaspora studies, economic history, history of medicine, ethnicity, gender, and more.*

Art

*Gerhard Richter: The Overpainted Photographs, a Comprehensive Catalogue, 2016.* This six-volume set offers a comprehensive account of a largely unexplored, though immensely popular, aspect of the practice of Gerhard Richter: the Overpainted Photographs series, which he began creating in the 1980s and still engages with today. These works begin with informal photographs—often snapshots of the artist’s personal life—which he obscures under layers of paint, often transforming their visual meaning and creating a fascinating and dreamlike body of work.
**IN MEMORIAM: EMIKO CUSTER**

**EMIKO HARA CUSTER** died at her home at Kendal at Oberlin on January 14, 2017. Emiko, a former cataloger at the Library of Congress, supported the Oberlin College Libraries in many ways, most notably as a volunteer working on Japanese-language cataloging projects during the 1990s. Emiko and her husband, the late Benjamin A. Custer ’31 (see Perspectives, March 1997), were among Oberlin’s most generous donors, having established a charitable remainder trust that represents one of the largest gifts ever received by the libraries. Their generosity led to the establishment of an endowed fund to support the publication of Library Perspectives. Because of their important contributions to the libraries, Ben and Emiko were named honorary members of the Friends of the Library at the organization’s inaugural dinner in November 1991.

**STAFF PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

Recent activities of library staff include the following:
- Alison Ricker (Head of the Science Library) and Rebecca Whelan. “Reading, Writing, and Peer Review: Engaging with Chemical Literature in a 200-Level Analytical Chemistry Course.” In

**LIBRARIANS VISIT LIBRARY OF CONGRESS**

**DIRECTOR OF LIBRARIES** Alexia Hudson-Ward, Head of the Art Library Barbara Prior, Head of the Conservatory Library Deborah Campana, and College Archivist Ken Grossi visited the Library of Congress on October 19. The trip provided an opportunity to explore innovative and creative solutions for storing and exhibiting items, producing interactive displays, and supporting teaching with primary source materials. The group learned about an initiative called the World Digital Library that aims to expand cultural content on the Internet and narrow the digital divide by building capacity in partner institutions. They also toured the Jefferson Building and viewed exhibits featuring a copy of the Gutenberg Bible and Thomas Jefferson’s library. As a result of the trip, several new initiatives will be explored such as the implementation of new digital display cases, improved storage for objects, and possible participation in promoting Oberlin’s collections via the World Digital Library.

**NEW DIGITAL RESOURCES**

_National Journal_ is a nonpartisan political news and analysis media source, with daily feeds about what’s happening in Washington, plus sophisticated election tracking tools and a web edition of _The Almanac of American Politics_ with extensive profiles of governors, senators, and members of Congress. The libraries recently subscribed to two new sections of the database: Presentations and Data & Charts, which were used by faculty and students during the lead-up to the 2016 elections.

*Duxiu* is an aggregated search engine providing access to millions of Chinese bibliographic entries and full-text scholarly resources. The content covers all subjects and formats, including books, journal articles, conference papers, newspapers, and video clips, with both current and historical materials.

*Worldmark Encyclopedia of Cultures and Daily Life* is an extensive five-volume set providing in-depth information about cultural groups in Asia, Europe, the Americas, and Africa. Articles written by notable scholars cover history, politics, customs, religion, education, human rights, teen life, and more for over 500 cultural groups.

*CQ Almanac Online Edition* provides authoritative congressional reporting for every session of Congress back to 1946. Each volume is arranged thematically and distills all of the policy debates, decisions, and legislation using clear, understandable language. This critical resource for teaching and learning gives insight into the actions of the United States Congress.

*RILM Music Encyclopedias* is a full-text collection with 45 core music reference titles published from 1775 to today. It covers all aspects of the world’s music, spanning a wide range of geographical areas and languages.

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NEW STAFF

ROBERT BARTLES joined the Archives and Special Collections departments in November 2016 as the Archives and Special Collections Intern. In this role, Robert processes collections, responds to digitization requests from off-site users, and creates inventories and finding guides. He has enjoyed getting to know the varied collections held by Oberlin, particularly the anti-slavery materials in Special Collections. Robert is a 2016 graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, where he worked in the university archives while completing a Master of Library and Information Science degree. He previously earned a bachelor’s degree in history from Ohio Wesleyan University in 2015. Robert is also a substitute reference librarian at the Shaker Heights Library. An American history buff and a huge movie fan, he enjoys watching films of all genres.

Julie Cowan began working in December 2016 as Project Archivist to process the official papers of President Marvin Krislov, who will step down from his post on June 30. Julie was instrumental in processing the records of Ray English, Emeritus Director of Libraries, during his last year as director. Julie is particularly excited to work with the Krislov materials, as they include a wide range of formats, from paper documents to e-mail and other digital records. Julie has substantial experience in libraries, having previously worked for the Lorain Public Library System from 2007-2014, and as an Administrative Clerk and Assistant Branch Manager of Domonkas Branch Library in Sheffield Lake. She earned a Bachelor of Technology degree from Bowling Green State University in 1987, and a Master in Library and Information Science degree from Kent State University in 1994.

FAREWELL TO LIBRARY STAFF

There was a large turnout at the retirement reception held October 31 in the Carnegie Building’s Root Room for seven members of the library staff. The retirees were honored for their decades of service to the college and conservatory with gifts presented by Director of Libraries Alexia Hudson-Ward, including a limited-edition print designed and created by Special Collections Librarian Ed Vermue. Each retiree also received a certificate of appreciation signed by Friends of the Library President Robert Taylor. Two retirees, Tom Hinders and David “Jack” Knapp were profiled earlier (see Library Perspectives, Fall 2016), and an article on Associate Director Alan Boyd appears on page 1 of this issue. The other retirees, all from the main library, are listed here with their titles and years of service to the college:

Alexis Edleman, Catalog and Metadata Services Assistant, 11 years
David Goldberg, Systems Technician, 30 years
Yolanda Kistemaker, Circulation Desk Supervisor, 13 years
Sharon Miller, Stacks Supervisor, 40 years

These four individuals saw enormous change during their years in the library, from automating circulation processes on a home-grown computer system to installing successive generations of integrated library systems from different vendors. Their years of service span remarkable transformation in the collections to include a wide array of multimedia, digital, and streaming resources, requiring new skills and updated procedures throughout their careers. When asked to remember a significant project from the past, Sharon Miller recalled the experience of continued on page 12
2014. Beyond the library, Julie enjoys being outdoors, whether for long distance cycling or walking her dog Pickles. She is also the proud parent of a transgender son, and is interested in supporting and protecting transgender teens and their parents.

Since October 2016 Jacob (Jake) MacDonnell has served as Oberlin’s first Student Assistant to the Director of Libraries. In this capacity Jake contributes to a number of library meetings, providing a valuable student perspective. He also works with Digital Initiatives Coordinator Megan Mitchell on digital humanities projects. A sophomore English major, Jake gained experience in digital humanities in the summer of 2016 when he assisted Professor Alston Cobourn on a project at Washington and Lee University, examining the works of rapper-activist Kendrick Lamar. At Oberlin he has enjoyed learning about the various types of work that go on in the libraries and observing the range of social and academic roles the libraries play on campus.

FOLLOW THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY ON FACEBOOK! It’s a great way for members to feel connected to the community and receive reminders of Friends’ activities and other library events. Be sure to ‘like’ the Friends’ Facebook page and check back often for news and announcements: facebook.com/FriendsofOCL.
• Marjorie Henderson MAT ’70, retired Library Administrative Assistant, and Norman Henderson, Emeritus Professor of Psychology, for the Friends of the Library, the Frank Laycock Endowed Library Fund, and the Ray English Endowed Discretionary Fund.
• Joseph Hickerson ’57 for the Friends of the Library.
• Maxine Houck ’58 for the Ray English Endowed Discretionary Fund.
• Norman ’56 and Barbro ’56 Jung for the Friends of the Library.
• Sarah Lawall ’56 for the Ray English Endowed Discretionary Fund.
• Jeffrey Levi ’75 for the George A. and Susan P. Lanyi Endowed Library Book Fund.
• Emily McClintock ’76 for the Friends of the Library.
• Louisa ’80 and Peter Rozo for the Friends of the Library.
• Michael Shinagel ’57 for the Friends of the Library.
• Andrew Stone ’80 for the George A. and Susan P. Lanyi Endowed Library Book Fund.

Gifts-in-kind:
• David Culbert ’66 donated a large number of scores for the Conservatory Library.
• Sarah Epstein ’48 donated materials for the Art Library.
• Nancy ’64 and David Finke ’63 contributed a large collection of books, serials, papers, and ephemera in gender and women’s studies for Special Collections.
• Peter Gould and Robin Potter, parents of Alexandra Gould ’11, donated books on African and Islamic art for the Art Library.
• Robert Hardgrave made a large donation of history books for the Main Library.
• John and Susan Edwards Harvith donated materials and photographs for Main Special Collections and the Conservatory Special Collections.
• Nick Jones, Emeritus Professor of English, donated a large number of literature books for the Main Library and Special Collections.
• Anne McFarland ’62 donated books for the Art Library and Special Collections.
• Michael Rosen, Professor of Percussion, donated scores and material for the Conservatory Library.
• Robert Rotberg ’55 continues to make donations of African history books.
• Joseph Sanders has given additional books for the Joseph Sanders Science Fiction Collection.
• Bruce Simonson, Professor of Geology, continues to donate books about geology and physical science for the Science Library.
• Heidi Tewarson, Emeritus Professor of German, donated a large number of German literature books for the Main Library.

In reflecting on his years at the library, Alan offered the following thoughts and observations.

I’m deeply aware that any contributions I’ve made were developed in collaboration with a great group of current and past library and CIT staff, as well as the faculty and students who love and appreciate the library, challenge us, and expect the best of our services. I was also fortunate to have worked for many years under the guidance of Bill Moffett and Ray English, two truly exceptional, nationally recognized library directors who both gave me wise and unfailing support. That said, it was all a blast—from lugging home and experimenting with the first 25-pound “portable” computer, to organizing dozens of student assistants to computerize our century-old card catalog, to installing the first online library catalog in a half dozen refrigerator-sized cabinets.

In recent years, I’m most proud of the great progress the library has made in creating digital collections and engaging with faculty and students in digital scholarship. These projects extend access to Oberlin’s unique holdings to a global audience, and are key to opening up those rare books, photographs, manuscripts, recordings, and other objects to intensive research and study within the Oberlin curriculum.

Finally, I appreciated and enjoyed representing Oberlin as a leading institution within the library profession while getting to know and work with hundreds of great professional colleagues across the state and country as we all worked to steer our libraries through the information revolution.
Sheble played a key role in the development of the collection by being a consistent supporter of her husband’s collecting. An award-winning library administrator, Sheble earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in sociology and library and information studies. She is currently Dean of Learning Resources at Oakland Community College in Michigan. Neavill and Sheble, both long-time supporters of the Oberlin College Libraries, were awarded honorary memberships in the Friends of the Library at its 2016 annual meeting (see article on page 3).

**Livingstone, continued from page 1**

Educational use by a broad audience. The repository is supported by a grant from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, with intent to make available scholarly materials on Livingstone’s middle journey, the expedition during which Charles Livingstone’s journals were written. The materials contributed from the library may be accessed at bit.ly/2je8qkJP and at the Internet Archive at bit.ly/2jtcF5T.

**Highlights, continued from page 2**

Gordon “Barry” Neavill ’66 and Mary Ann Sheble and life memberships for Nancy ’64 and David ’63 Finke (see article on page 3).

The Council appointed Robert Taylor to a second term as president, elected one new member (two remaining vacancies will be filled in the near future), and approved the reelection of last year’s officers for 2016-17. Gabrielle (Gabi) Kaufman, Coordinator of the Student Friends of the Library, presented the 2015-16 Student Friends report, written by her predecessor Jesse Gamoran, and shared details of planned events. Council also discussed outreach efforts through social media and heard a report from Alexia Hudson-Ward on her orientation and developments during her first four months as Director of Libraries. Detailed minutes of the meeting are available at oberlin.edu/library/friends/minutes.

**Research Awards, continued from page 3**

Elements strengthens the arguments of the orator.

Friends President Robert Taylor presented the award to Roswell at a luncheon at The Hotel at Oberlin. Capozzoli was unable to attend, as he is now attending graduate school in Wisconsin. Links to the award-winning papers are at oberlin.edu/library/friends/research.awards/winners.html. The Friends Research Awards Committee members are committee chair Alison Ricker, Head of the Science Library; Kathy Abromeit, Conservatory Public Services Librarian; Ann Sheriff, Professor of East Asian Studies; and Jennifer Starkey, Assessment and User Experience Librarian.

**Milt Hinton, continued from page 4**

Documentary Keeping Time: The Life, Music, and Photographs of Milt Hinton, and a well-attended reception. Berger and Maxson, who produced the film and are generous supporters of the Oberlin Conservatory Library, were in attendance.

Smith and Peter Dominguez, Professor of Jazz Studies and Double Bass, presented a lecture-demonstration on Hinton’s life and legacy at the Beck Center on February 4. Smith shared biographical insights gleaned from close study of the Hinton Collection, while Dominguez provided live musical examples from Hinton’s career, performed on Hinton’s personal double bass.

Discussions are underway with additional host venues across the country; Smith anticipates that the exhibition will begin traveling to new locations by the fall semester. As Milt Hinton once put it, “I’ve always tried to help young people. If someone wants to improve, if they have a sincere desire to learn, I’ve always tried to be there to give them whatever I can.” Through this traveling exhibition, the Conservatory Library is proud to continue its efforts to preserve Hinton’s legacy while providing new ways for people from across the country to interact with the rich contents of the Hinton Collection.
Winter Term, continued from page 5

material available for use in Nunley’s courses this semester.

Associate Professor of Sociology Greggor Mattson and Associate Professor of French Libby Murphy received funding to continue collaboration on their digital humanities project In Search of Lost Women (see Perspectives, Spring 2016), which is centered on the 19th-century landmark study On Prostitution in the City of Paris. This spring, students in Murphy’s course In Search of Lost Women will read history and literature to contextualize this work in French history and culture, while students in Mattson’s course, Prostitution and Social Control, will consider its implications for the state regulation of sexuality. Together, students from both classes will create online digital exhibits, curating documents from the police archives and images from the Allen Memorial Art Museum, synthesizing students’ translations with contemporary sociological research. Their ongoing project can be viewed at onprostitution.oberlincollegelibrary.org.

Examples of grant projects from Oberlin and other colleges in the Five Colleges of Ohio consortium are available at www.ohio5.org/portal.

Mellon Funding, continued from page 5

South, learning agricultural practices that varied from soil preparation for row cops, pecan harvesting, and hog butchering to aquaponic gardening in a large greenhouse, including construction of its irrigation system.

Staff Publications, continued from page 10


Digital Resources, continued from page 10

MGG Online: Die Musik in Geschichte und Gegenwart is a broad-ranging encyclopedia containing details of every aspect of music history and the study of music. The online version contains the second edition of MGG, published from 1994 to 2008, and is continually revised with new and updated entries.

Farewell, continued from page 11

implementing the library’s first automated circulation system. She added that the most satisfying part of her job was not new technology, but “helping people find what they want and need, plus working with all the students over the years.” Best wishes to all of the retirees in their plans for travel, more time for family and volunteer activities, and pursuing personal interests.

Purchases, continued from page 12

music, all with letterpress text, complements the holdings of the Conservatory Library’s Frederick R. Selch Collection of American Music History.

The Bows of Nicolai Kittel, 2011. This profusely illustrated book highlights the bows of Nicolai Kittel (1805-1868) of St. Petersburg. Kittel’s bows have long been regarded as mysterious, in part due to the historical lack of information about the bow maker and the relative rarity of examples. Extravagant materials, exemplary workmanship, and beauty of tone along with nimbleness of handling have earned Kittel bows a well-deserved reputation for excellence. Recent discovery of new biographical information about Kittel has given rise to a growing appreciation of the extraordinary output of his workshop.

Techno-Womb, continued from page 9

participate in this enduring tradition of the college.”

Library staff will use the results of a current campus-wide space utilization study, along with feedback from students, in considering what new furniture to purchase and where to place it. Meanwhile, Hudson-Ward wants to assure everyone that the existing womb chairs won’t be replaced. “They’re an instantly recognizable symbol of Mudd and the college and remain enormously popular, even after nearly 45 years. They are here to stay,” she promised.
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 libraries.

Annual Membership Categories:

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Please return this form with your membership contribution to: Friends of the Oberlin College Library, Mudd Center, 148 W. College St., Oberlin, Ohio 44074-1545. Please make checks payable to Oberlin College. Friends contributions are tax-deductible.

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PARTING SHOT

Sharon Miller at the libraries retirement reception. See article on page 11.