



# Library Perspectives

## Student Friends Organization Flying High



Becky Thompson and Maria Paz Esguerra at the Giving Tree

The Student Friends of the Oberlin College Library is enjoying tremendous success. Membership has grown to approximately 100 students, almost double that of the previous year. The Student Friends have also sponsored a number of events that have brought high visibility to the organization, not to mention a lot of good old-fashioned fun.

The new level of success is due to the hard work, dedication, energy, and creativity of Maria Paz Esguerra '02 (who has been the Library's Graduate Diversity Associate since last May), and Becky Thompson '03, who have jointly coordinated Student Friends programs. The following are highlights of Fall '02 Student Friends events:

### Ice Cream Social

This kick-off event for the semester, which was held the first week of classes on a beautiful sunny day, involved many gallons of ice cream, and engendered large

*continued on page 7*

## Library to Acquire Seal Press Archives

The Oberlin College Library, with major support from the Friends of the Library, is acquiring the archives of the Seal Press, a prominent publisher of books related to feminism and women's concerns.

Founded in 1976 by Barbara Wilson and Rachel da Silva to print letterpress poetry and writing by women of the north west United States, the Seal Press became a nationally recognized leader in the women's press movement, publishing both fiction and non-fiction titles. It was sold to Avalon Publishing Group in 2001, ending its existence as an independent publisher.

The archive includes complete editorial correspondence, original manuscripts, publicity materials, financial records, and internal correspondence of officers and employees of the Seal Press. It will provide a rich resource for both student research projects

*continued on page 6*



Books from the Seal Press

## Prior Wins Recognition for "Ask Clarence"

Art Librarian Barbara Prior has won the Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA) Award for Electronic Resources for "Ask Clarence," a Web interface that helps Oberlin College researchers identify the OBIS records for a pre-selected set of key reference tools for art history research.

The purpose of the ARLIS/NA award is to recognize outstanding electronic publications by ARLIS/NA individual members. Prior will receive the award, which includes a cash prize, at the ARLIS/NA annual conference in Baltimore, MD in March.

The idea for "Ask Clarence" (which is named for Clarence Ward, the founder of Oberlin's Art Library) grew out of Prior's interest in providing reference assistance to users of the Art Library when no reference staff is available. If you have a question about research in Art History, you can Ask Clarence at: <http://www.oberlin.edu/library/libncollect/art/clarence.html> ♦

## Friends Highlights

At their annual meeting on September 28, 2002, the Friends of the Library Council heard reports from its standing committees and the coordinators of special programs. The Council also approved one honorary and one life membership and it elected new council members and officers. Acting as the Friends membership, those present approved a change in the bylaws.

The Research Awards Committee reported on the very successful second year of the award program. Two students were chosen for the award from a total of 15 who were nominated for consideration. The Library School Scholarship Committee reported on the award of the first scholarship, which was received by Catherine Pellegrino '88 (see *Perspectives*, Fall 2002).

Following recommendations from the Acquisitions Committee, the Council approved a major expenditure to support the purchase of the archive of the Seal Press. The Council also approved a total of over \$18,000 in other acquisitions expenditures.

The Friends Program Committee reported on 2001-2002 programs as well as the full series of events planned for the fall of 2002, including a first-ever reception to honor Oberlin faculty authors.

The Council heard a full report on the many activities of the Student Friends of the Library. The Council also discussed the cost of the annual Friends dinner, as well as ways to highlight recent Friends acquisitions for the campus community.

Those present at the meeting, acting as the Friends membership, approved a change in Bylaw 3a, as follows: that the contribution ranges be changed to \$2-\$29 for student members and to \$5-29 for recent graduates.

The Council elected officers and new members of the Council for 2002/2003 and it reviewed the membership for each of the standing committees.

Full minutes of the Friends Council Meeting are available at: <http://www.oberlin.edu/library/friends/minutes2002.html> ♦

## Research Awards Presented



*Scott McMillin, Michael Block, Gary Kornblith, Marian Schlotterbeck, and Janice Zinser*

Oberlin College students **Michael Block '04** and **Marian Schlotterbeck '05** received the second annual Friends of the Library Excellence in Research Award at the Friends dinner on September 28. The awards, in the amount of \$500 each, were presented by Janice Zinser, Professor of French and member of the awards committee.

Mr. Block's winning paper "All Was Confusion: The Civil War in New Mexico Territory" was written for Professor of History Gary Kornblith's course *The American Civil War and Reconstruction*. Mr. Block used a wide variety of library resources in his work. Professor Kornblith noted that "This paper is a gem" and that although he was "...a bit skeptical about the significance of the topic..." at first, Mr. Block had "...demonstrated persuasively why the failure of Sibley's campaign in New Mexico mattered, even if relatively few commentators at the time or since have recognized its importance."

"Modestly Appropriating Conventions: Anne Bradstreet, Phillis Wheatley and the Literary Sphere of Early America", Ms. Schlotterbeck's winning paper, was written for *continued on page 3*

### Friends of the Oberlin College Library Spring 2003 Programs

Sunday, February 23, 7:00 pm., Fisher Hall, Art Building  
Alumna artist Nanette Carter will speak about her work.  
Co-sponsored with the Art Department.

Monday, February 24, 4:00 p.m., Main Level, Mudd Center  
Dedication of an artwork by Nanette Carter '76, with remarks by the artist.  
This artwork was purchased with prize money from the ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award. Reception follows.

Wednesday, March 5, 7:00 p.m., Goodrich Room, Mudd Center  
Book artists Carolyn Fraser and Holly Morrison will speak about their new artists' book "The Extinguishing of Stars."

Monday, April 14, 4:30 p.m., Goodrich Room, Mudd Center  
Laura Wendell '90, Executive Director and Founder of the World Library Partnership, will speak about the work of her organization.

Saturday, May 24, 3:00 p.m., King 106  
Friends Commencement Weekend Program  
Speaker: David Orr, Professor of Environmental Studies  
Reception follows in the King-Rice Courtyard

## Recent Gifts

The Library gratefully acknowledges the following recent monetary gifts:

**Mimi Halpern '60, William G. Roe '60, and Geraldine Meyer '41 and Richard Meyer** have all made major gifts to the librarian's discretionary fund to support the Library's highest priority needs.

**Paul and Louise Erler '32** have established a second gift annuity with the Friends of the Library as the beneficiary.

The estate of **Harriet F. Griswold** has made a major gift to the James and Hope Griswold Book Fund.

**Robert I. Rotberg '55** has made another major gift to the Robert and Fiona Rotberg Endowed Book Fund.

The Library is also grateful for the following gifts-in-kind:

The late **Archie Nedelman**, grandfather of current Oberlin student **Eden Trenor**, has given the Library a collection of works by authors whose writings appeared in the *New Yorker* during the editorship of Harold Ross, 1926-1951. This fine collection, which includes many first editions of the twentieth century's most important authors (such as W. H. Auden, Saul Bellow, Truman Capote, Brendan Gill, Mary McCarthy, John O'Hara, Dorothy Parker, Philip Roth, and James Thurber) is being added in its entirety to Special Collections.

The late **Dr. Sanford Palay '40**, Professor Emeritus of Anatomy and Cellular Biology at Harvard Medical School, donated his neuroscience historical collection, which consists of over three hundred publications from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, including a number of rare and valuable volumes. Dr. Palay had previously given the Library full runs of several important neuroscience journals, including *Brain Research* and the *Journal of Comparative Neurology*.

**Jane Blodgett** has donated to the Art Library books related to American architecture from the library of the late Professor of History **Geoffrey Blodgett**.

**Robert Hardgrave, Jr.** has donated over one hundred books on Indian history and politics, many with Indian imprints.

*continued on page 4*

## Friends Honorary and Life Memberships



*Friends President Terry Carlton, Ogden Hannaford, and Ray English*

The Friends of the Library awarded one honorary and one life membership at their annual dinner on Saturday, September 28, 2002. According to the Friends bylaws, life memberships are given to those who have made generous contributions to the Library or to the Friends of the Library, while honorary memberships go to those who have made outstanding contributions.

**Irving M. Klotz**, Professor Emeritus of Chemistry at Northwestern University, was awarded an honorary membership. Professor Klotz, who has two adult children who graduated from Oberlin (Edward Klotz '82 and Audie Klotz '85), established a generous library acquisitions endowment in 1995, which was named the Klotz Family Fund. The purpose of the fund was, according to Professor Klotz, "to maintain the library as a leading scholarly resource" and it was to be used "primarily for the purchase of scholarly items, books or electronic resources, addressing areas at the forefront of the natural sciences and humanities." In recognition of his generosity, Professor Klotz was made a life member of the Friends in that same year. Since 1995 Professor Klotz has made major donations to the Klotz Family Fund on a regular basis. The fund, which has grown to be one of the Library's larger endowments, generated a substantial income and has been used to acquire a variety of important items for the collections, including subscriptions to several major disciplinary sources in electronic form.

**Ogden Hannaford** of Oberlin received a life membership. A long-time member of the Friends of the Library, Mr. Hannaford played a central role in donating a very special book to the Library last year. He and the four other heirs of Foster Hannaford of Winnetka, Illinois, gave the Library a complete medieval manuscript in original bindings. A missal that dates from early 15<sup>th</sup> century Germany, the manuscript book is beautifully written, illustrating the fine craft that went into working texts that were used in medieval times on a daily basis. It contains a full set of liturgical calendars and extensive illuminated letters. The missal is one of five complete medieval manuscript books in the Library's collections, and one of two that are in original bindings. ♦

### Research Award *continued from page 2*

Associate Professor of English Scott McMillin's course, *In Search of America: The Concept of Nature in Early American Writing*. In his comments at the awards ceremony Mr. McMillin noted that "Marian's work, which demonstrated a remarkable maturity, made use of over 60 texts in developing a persuasive argument for a fresh reading of early American women poets... The care and creativity of her approach, as well as the elegance of her own writing, make her truly worthy of your reward and of our respect." ♦



## 2002-2003 Friends of the Library Council

### Officers:

Dina Schoonmaker, President  
Gordon Neavill '66, Vice President  
Nathan Haverstock, Secretary

### Members:

Scott Bennett '60  
Terry Carlton  
Carol Ganzel  
Erik Inglis '89  
Lucy Marks '73  
Carl Peterson  
Mary Raphael '67  
Richard Rubin '71  
Scott Smith '69  
Anne Trubek '88

### Ex-officio and appointed members:

Ann Sherif, Chair, General Faculty  
Library Committee  
Eric Carpenter, Collection  
Development Librarian  
Jessica Grim, Reference Librarian  
Ray English, Director of Libraries

### Student Members:

Maria Paz Esguerra  
Rebecca Thompson

## Gifts *continued from page 3*

**Gene Woodling** has continued to add monographs to our extensive collection of books and videos in the area of gay and gender studies.

**Robert Jackson** has given several hundred book dealer and auction catalogs.

An anonymous donor has given the Art Library monographs related to the work of Joseph Cornell, including a *Joseph Cornell Portfolio*.

**Joyce Bodig** and the estate of **Richard Bodig** have donated a substantial number of scores and monographs to the Conservatory Library.

Over 1,100 music compact disks came to the library from the estate of **Darius Rastomja**.

**Douglas Baxter '72** has given a number of new art exhibition catalogs and other art books.

Conservatory faculty member **Michael Rosen** has donated several composer-autographed letters. ♦

## Friends of the Library Purchases

At its September meeting the Friends of the Library Council authorized the use of Friends funds to acquire a variety of resources to enhance the Library's collections. Purchases include major reference works, important full-text online resources, primary source materials, and first editions and rare books. The approximate cost of these acquisitions, which are described below, is \$18,000. The Friends Council also approved a major expenditure toward the acquisition of the Seal Press Archives (see related article, this issue).

*Annual Plant Reviews*, published by Sheffield University Press.

Volumes of this important monographic series in botany will be purchased to fill in our holdings. This series supports the teaching and research of a new tenure track professor in Biology.

*The First World War: a Documentary Record. Series One: European War 1914-1919.* London: Adam Matthew Publications, Ltd., 2000-

This important documentary collection provides a rich compilation of primary source materials to support and encourage study of the "War to end all wars." The Friends funded purchase of Part Two last year, and is now purchasing Part Three, *Allied Propaganda of the First World War* (on 20 microfilm reels).

Grimm, Jacob, 1785-1863. *Deutsches Wörterbuch. von Jacob Grimm und Wilhelm Grimm.* Leipzig: S. Hirzel Verlag, 1965-

A new edition of the great dictionary of the German language, by the brothers Grimm, which was originally completed in 1960 after more than a century's effort. Compiled on historical principles, the intent is to "give an exhaustive account of the words of the literary language (New High German) from about the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century..." Oberlin also owns the original edition of this work.

*Handbook of Metalloproteins.* Edited by Albrecht Messerschmidt. Chichester, New York: Wiley, 2001.

This unique source provides an analysis and classification of 105 major metalloproteins. Articles have been contributed by renowned researchers. Content is presented in a large format and includes many full color plates.

*Historical New York Times Online (1851-1999: perpetual access rights, 1851-1924)*

Long known as the U.S. newspaper of record, the *New York Times* is an important primary source for scholars and students in virtually every field. This database provides

*continued on page 7*



## Michael Dirda on the Joys of Reading

Michael Dirda, Senior Editor of the Washington Post Book World, delighted attendees at the Friends of the Library dinner on September 28 with his humorous and touching talk, "Looking for a Good Time: Reading, Libraries, and the World of Books".

During the course of the talk Dirda reflected on the importance of libraries throughout his life, the nature of reading itself, and why reading, books, and libraries continue to be so important to our culture even in this, the electronic, age.

Dirda's talk has been published by the Friends of the Oberlin College Library and will be distributed during the month of February to Friends members.

## In Memory of J. Periam Danton, '28



*J. P. Danton*

Oberlin alumnus, Joseph Periam Danton, Professor Emeritus and long-time Dean of the School of Librarianship at the University of California at Berkeley, died November 12 in San Francisco at the age of 94.

Danton, who graduated magna cum laude from Oberlin in 1928, became Associate Professor and Dean of the Library School at Berkeley in 1946. He served as Dean until 1961 and as Professor until 1976. Under his leadership the Berkeley library school was greatly expanded and a research-oriented curriculum was instituted. He replaced a certificate program with a bachelor's degree and later with a masters of library science. According to Ray Swank, former Dean at Berkeley, Danton was the "architect of Berkeley's doctoral program" in librarianship.

A widely published scholar, Danton was an expert in academic and research libraries, library administration, book selection, collection development, education for librarianship, and comparative and international librarianship. He remained an active scholar in retirement, publishing his last study in *The Library Quarterly* in 1999 at the age of 91.

After graduating from Oberlin, Danton received a bachelor of library science degree from Columbia University and went on to earn a masters degree in German from Williams College and a Ph.D. in librarianship from the University of Chicago. Before becoming Dean at Berkeley, he worked at the

*continued on page 6*

## Reference Area Redesign



*New Reference Desk and Workstation Furniture*

This fall the reference area in the Main Library was rejuvenated with the installation of a new reference desk, workstation tables, and chairs. The new furniture was installed to fit new patterns of reference service, which are heavily reliant on computer searching. According to Cynthia Comer, Head of Reference and Instruction, "now that the reference desk faces the workstations and we can see students and other researchers we can provide better assistance. The entire area is more inviting and the new arrangement, particularly the setup of the reference desk, is more conducive to collaboration."

The new furniture was made possible in large part through a generous gift from Mimi Halpern '60. ♦



*Reference Librarian Megan Mitchell with Student*



## Seal Press Archives *continued from page 1*

and faculty research on a variety of topics related to women's studies. The archive also captures an important period in the history of small, politically-oriented, independent presses that are now being bought out or priced out of the market.

The Seal Press, which won numerous awards for its titles, was a pioneer in publishing on many topics related to feminist issues. It published the first handbook for women leaving abusive relationships (*Getting Free* by Ginny NiCarthy), calling attention to the issue of domestic violence. In addition to books of fiction, the press also published titles on such topics as women's health, parenting, lesbian life and issues, and women's travel and outdoor adventure. "Women in Translation," a major Seal Press series, provided English translations of major feminist works in other languages.

In a widely publicized case, the Seal Press was sued by Mattel, the maker of the Barbie Doll, for publishing *Adios Barbie*, a collection of essays by women writers about body image and self-esteem. *Adios Barbie* (retitled *Body Outlaws* in the second edition) was widely used as a text in women's studies courses.

In conjunction with the purchase of the archives of the Seal Press, the Library is acquiring a complete collection of Seal Press books. The collection consists of 300 titles, primarily first editions, including examples of fine press printing from the press' early history.

The Library hopes that it will be able over time to add related material to the archive, which promises to be an important source for research on the feminist movement in the late twentieth century. ♦

## Danton *continued from page 5*

Williams College Library, the New York Public Library, the American Library Association, Colby College and Temple University.

Danton was the son of George H. Danton, who was Professor of German at Oberlin from 1927-35. His son, Joseph Periam Danton, Jr., graduated from Oberlin in 1973. ♦

## Emergency Response in Action



*Damaged Book*

The importance of library disaster preparedness was underscored early in the morning of December 12 when a staff member discovered water flooding the entire northeast corner of the third level of Mudd Center. The water, which was one-half to one inch deep throughout the area, originated from a broken water pipe in the Preservation Mending Lab on the fourth level of Mudd and it also covered a section of the Audiovisual Services Department on that same level.

The water that leaked through to the third level caused significant damage to a section of the history collection. Approximately 750 volumes, primarily local history and Civil War materials, were affected. About 400 of these required air-drying to some degree.

Ed Vermue, Special Collections and Preservation Librarian, set the Library's Disaster Plan into motion shortly after the damage was discovered. He coordinated a large team of *continued on page 7*



*Paper Towels Being Used To Absorb Water*

## Emergency Response

*continued from page 6*

volunteer library staff, including student assistants, who worked on the affected volumes. Buildings and Grounds staff assisted in the emergency response by removing the water and helping to dry out the area with fans and dehumidifiers in order to prevent mold.

Staff treated the wet books by putting paper towels between the pages, standing the books on end and setting them in front of fans, which ran continuously for several days. The paper towels were replaced regularly as they absorbed water from the pages of the books. This drying technique, though surprisingly low-tech, was extremely effective. A small number of books had to be pressed to prevent warping, and some 40-odd others will have to be mended in some way – with new spines or covers, new call number labels, etc. While some books have been permanently stained by the water, all damaged items will remain usable for the collections.

Although there is never a good time for a flood in a library, we were fortunate that this occurred in the winter, when humidity levels are lower in the building. The rescue was labor-intensive but the staff was in good spirits, and enjoyed the camaraderie of pitching in to save the books. Said Vermue: “In spite of everything, I think we can be pleased with the team recovery. I want to thank all those who contributed staff time to the drying effort.” ♦

## Library

### Perspectives

**Ray English**  
**Jessica Grim**  
**Megan Mitchell**  
Editors

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.

## Student Friends Organization Flying High *continued from page 1*

quantities of good will. Lines of students waiting for the free ice cream stretched from the front of Mudd (where four student members were busy scooping up the ice cream) all the way to Wilder Hall. It’s estimated that nearly 400 students were served.

### The Big Big Talent Show

This October 11 extravaganza drew a packed crowd to the Cat in the Cream to enjoy a wide variety of performances by nearly 20 student volunteers. Performers in this high-energy event included a capella singers, several musical groups, a stand-up comic, an accordion player, a group of didgeridoo players, and a juggler. Student Friends member Donavan Williams served as a most effective and entertaining master of ceremonies

### Student Friends Book Sale

About 75 students took advantage of this early December event. Members of the Student Friends received invitations to the sale, but other students could sign up at the door if they were not already members. Hundreds of books were for sale, at the hard-to-beat price of \$1.00 for hardbacks and \$0.50 for paperbacks. All of the books were donated from personal collections, primarily by Library staff and faculty. Titles for sale included fiction, biography, history, gender studies, etc.

### Giving Tree Book Program

On December 18 each and every first grade student at Oberlin’s Eastwood Elementary School received a wonderful gift: a brightly wrapped brand new book on a topic of special interest to them. The gift giving represented the culmination of the Student Friends Giving Tree Book Program.

In early December the first-graders had penciled in their names and interests on decorative cards that were then hung on a tree near the entrance of the Main Library. Sponsors (primarily Library staff, students, and faculty) then selected cards from the tree, purchased appropriate books, and brought the books back to the Library for wrapping and distribution to the children.

Maria Esguerra, the primary coordinator of the program, visited Eastwood several times during the process. “Seeing the kids receive the books made me realize why we were doing this project, and made it all worthwhile. The kids were so excited about receiving new books, and were especially delighted when they understood that these books were for them to keep, to take home and read with their families over and over again.”

Ms. Esguerra anticipates an active spring term for the Student Friends, including “Library Lovers’ Month,” a sponsored lecture, and other fun events. Visit the Student Friends on the Web at: <http://www.oberlin.edu/library/friends/studentfriends/> ♦

## Friends Purchases *continued from page 4*

downloadable PDF files of cover to cover full-page and article images from the first issue in 1851 to three years before the current date.

*Los Angeles Times*. Los Angeles, Calif. : H.G. Otis, 1886- . Ann Arbor, Mich.: ProQuest/University Microfilms, 1925-1945, microfilm.

This historical segment of the *Los Angeles Times* will facilitate study of the growth of the Hispanic community in Los Angeles through World War Two. Note: Friends will help support the purchase of five years of this title.

Whitehead, Alfred North and Bertrand Russell. *Principia Mathematica*, 1<sup>st</sup> ed. Vol. I only. Cambridge, University Press, 1910.

The first appearance in print of any portion of this landmark work of 20<sup>th</sup> century mathematics and logic. Oberlin owns vols. 2 and 3 of the 1<sup>st</sup> ed., but not the rare first volume (750 copies printed).

*World Architecture 1900-2000: a Critical Mosaic*. 10 vols. Ed. by Kenneth Frampton and Zhang Qinnan. Vienna: Springer-Verlag, 1999-.

A basic set covering important architects and their works in various regions of the world. ♦

# 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

\$5 Student	\$5 Recent Graduate	
\$30 Friend	\$40 Couple	\$50 Associate
\$100 Sponsor	\$500 Patron	\$1,000 Benefactor

Please return this coupon with your membership contribution to:

**Friends of the Oberlin College Library**  
**Mudd Center, Oberlin, Ohio 44074**

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## Library

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## Perspectives

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