



Library Perspectives

Nicholas Basbanes to Speak at Friends Dinner

Nicholas A. Basbanes, America's foremost writer about book culture and book collecting, will be the featured speaker at the Friends of the Library annual dinner, to be held on Saturday, December 1.



Nicholas A. Basbanes

Formerly a prize-winning investigative reporter, Basbanes came to national prominence with the publication of *A Gentle Madness: Bibliophiles, Bibliomanes, and the Eternal Passion for Books* (1995). The book was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award in nonfiction and has become a classic work on the subject of book collecting. In subsequent years Basbanes has written four other well-received books on subjects relating to books, book culture, and book collecting. They include *Patience and Fortitude: A Roving Chronicle of Book People, Book Places, and Book Culture* (2001); *Among the Gently Mad: Perspectives and Strategies for the Book-Hunter of the 21st Century* (2002); *A Splendor of Letters: The Permanence of Books in an Impermanent World* (2003); and *Every Book its Reader: The Power of the Printed Word to Stir the World*
continued on page 7

Academic Commons: Time to Celebrate!



Oberlin's new Academic Commons, located on the main level of Mudd Center, opened to the public on August 28, just in time for new student orientation. The Commons is designed to provide integrated and coordinated learning support for Oberlin students and also to foster academic community on campus.

Major learning support features of the Commons include:

- A central service desk for reference and technology assistance
- Six group study rooms to be used for multiple academic purposes, including the Writing Center, peer counseling, and tutoring
- Thirty public use workstations for library research and other computing functions
- Collaborative seating for small group work and laptop use
- An electronic classroom for library instruction and other learning support functions
- A multimedia presentation area
- Redesigned space for circulation, interlibrary loan, and reserve functions.

Azariah's Café and a new current reading area are located in the southeast corner of the Commons. The café, which is scheduled to open on Monday, September 24, provides attractive space for various academic community purposes, including faculty-student interaction. The current reading area includes a variety of materials that can be enjoyed in a comfortable setting (see related article this issue).

The overall look and feel of the Academic Commons blends seamlessly with the original design of Mudd Center. Five of the glass-walled group study rooms are constructed in front of existing windows in a manner that allows natural light to enter the space as before. Colorful furnishings, including numerous comfortable lounge chairs, were chosen to harmonize with the original décor of the building.

The Commons will be celebrated at a brief ceremony on Friday, September 28 at 4:30 p.m. A reception for the campus community, sponsored by the Friends of the Library



continued on page 8

History of the Book Symposium

The Friends of the Library and the Intermuseum Conservation Association are jointly sponsoring a symposium on the history of the book entitled "Reading the Book: How Preservation Impacts Interpretation." The symposium will be held on Friday, September 7 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in King 306.

The event features four scholars, including two Oberlin faculty, who will present overviews on the evolution of the book as object. The presentations will also explore how the physicality of the book can affect research and interpretation.

The symposium speakers and their topics are:

Erik Inglis, Associate Professor of Art History, Oberlin College, "Making and Meaning in Late Medieval Illustrated Books: Two Case Studies in the International Marketing of Books of Hours," 9:00-10:30 a.m.

Cathleen Baker, Senior Paper Conservator, University of Michigan Library, "Nineteenth-Century Publishers' Bindings: Reflections of the Industrial Revolution," 10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Randy Silverman, Preservation Librarian, University of Utah Library, "Jackets Recommended: The Case for Preserving Dust Jackets in Research Libraries," 2:15-3:15 p.m.

Anne Trubek, Associate Professor of English, Oberlin College, "A Short History of New Writing Technologies, From Plato to MySpace," 3:30-5:00 p.m. ♦

Friends of the Oberlin College Library Fall 2007 Programs

Exhibitions:

Odyssey of the Book: The Transmission of Ideas Through 5,000 Years: An Exhibition of Materials from the Library's Special Collections
September 3 – September 28, Academic Commons, Mudd Center

Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals: 1933 – 1945: An Exhibition of the Holocaust Memorial Museum
October 1 – November 3, Academic Commons, Mudd Center

Lectures and Other Events:

Friday, September 7, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., King 306
"Reading the Book: How Preservation Impacts Interpretation: A Symposium on the History of the Book"

Friday, September 28, 4:30 p.m., Academic Commons, Mudd Center
"The New Academic Commons: A Celebration"
Followed by Friends of the Library and Alumni Council reception

Wednesday, October 10, 4:30 p.m., Mudd 050, Moffett Auditorium
"Modern Alchemy: How Current Science Informs Pipe Organ Building and Conservation," faculty talk by Catherine Oertel, Assistant Professor of Chemistry

Wednesday, October 31, 4:30 p.m., Mudd 050, Moffett Auditorium
"Shipwrecked Identities: Navigating Race on Nicaragua's Mosquito Coast," faculty talk by Baron Pineda, Assistant Professor of Anthropology

Saturday, December 1, 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, Nicholas A. Basbanes
Root Room, Carnegie

Library

Perspectives

Ray English
Cynthia Comer
Jessica Grim
Megan Mitchell
Alison Ricker
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.

"A Book Humboldt Gave to Schiller"

Emerita Special Collections Librarian Dina Schoonmaker has donated to the Library an important rare book with a remarkable association history.

Alexander von Humboldt's *Versuche über die gereizte Muskel- und Nervenfasern, nebst Vermuthungen über den chemischen Process des Lebens in der Thier- und Pflanzenwelt* ("Experiments on the Stimulated Muscle and Nerve Fiber with Thoughts about the Chemical Process of Life in the Animal and Plant World") was published in Berlin in 1797 when the author was 28 years old. Humboldt traveled to Jena in that same year to visit his friends Friedrich Schiller and Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, at which time he gave the book to Schiller.

The copy owned by Schiller was purchased many years later in Russia by Professor J.J. Bikerman, Schoonmaker's father, who later researched its remarkable history. The volume has five autograph inscriptions on the inside front cover, beginning with the note "Aus Schillers Bibliothek" written by Ernst Schiller, Friedrich Schiller's son. A later inscription by Humboldt himself confirms that he gave the book to Schiller in 1797. The various inscriptions enabled Bikerman to trace ownership of the book up to 1890.

Humboldt's treatise is itself an important contribution to science. It includes astonishing observations on electrical experiments conducted on his own body as well as countless other animal and plant specimens.

continued on page 3

Recent Gifts

The Library gratefully acknowledges the following recent monetary gifts and gifts-in-kind:

Mimi Halpern '60, William G. Roe '64, Sarah Sharpe '82, and Charles '64 and Anne McFarland '62, and an anonymous alumnus have all made major, multi-year pledges to support the Academic Commons project.

Ellen '58 and Thomas O'Flaherty have made a multi-year pledge to create an endowed fund for collection digitization.

Robert I. Rotberg '55 has made a major gift to the endowed book fund he established to support acquisitions related to Africa and Latin America.

Michael Shinagel '57 has created an endowed book fund in the field of education; this is the fourth endowed fund he has established for the Library.

Mary Lou Sprague '38 has made a major gift to support the Library's highest priority needs.

Cynthia Meyer Grubb '54, William G. Roe '64, Robert I. Rotberg '55, the Schwartz Foundation, Lucy Marks '73, and Bruce Regal and Theresa Brown '78, have all made significant monetary gifts to the Friends of the Library.

Paul Arnold, Emeritus Professor of Art, has donated one wood engraving block (of his own design) and one steel engraving plate for the Special Collections object collection.

Juan Buñuel '57 has given several books related to the work of his father, cinematographer Luis Buñuel.

Richard A. G. Dupuis of London has donated a variety of materials related to the life and work of Charles G. Finney.

Nancy Dye, President Emerita, has contributed numerous books from her professional collection.

continued on page 9

Book *continued from page 2*

Bikerman summarized the book's significance and ownership in a peer-review essay entitled "A Book Humboldt Gave to Schiller," which appeared in *Annals of Science* vol. 21, no. 2, June 1965. The book, along with a reprint of Bikerman's essay, now resides in Special Collections. ♦

Friends Scholarships Awarded



Katie Dover-Taylor '06



Kate Pearson '07

Katie Dover-Taylor '06 and Kate Pearson '07 have each been awarded Friends of the Oberlin College Library Graduate Library School Scholarships in the amount of \$2,500.

Dover-Taylor graduated with a major in psychology. As a student she worked all four years in the Main Library's Circulation Department, starting as a Circulation Desk Attendant, and eventually rising to the level of Student Supervisor. From her experience in these positions she realized how much she enjoyed being a resource for fellow students. She loved in particular the chance to be "a jack-of-all-trades, answering reference questions, giving directions, or explaining the OhioLINK system." This fall, Katie will use her scholarship to attend the University of Michigan's School of Information, specializing in library and information services. She aspires to become a reference librarian in an academic library, perhaps eventually managing a department or becoming a library director.

Pearson graduated double-degree with majors in East Asian Studies and Organ Performance. She realized while working one summer as a student assistant in the Library's Serials and Government Documents Department that librarianship offered the perfect blend of her interests in academia, public services, and music. In her scholarship application materials she remarked, "I read with wonder every time a new Bach manuscript is discovered hidden in a library or a private collection somewhere.... I see this as a lesson in the importance of taking care of a collection in which there may be documents of unknown value. Libraries are treasure houses of information!" This fall, Kate will use her scholarship to attend the School of Information Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh and plans to specialize in either preservation or archives.

Both Dover-Taylor and Pearson submitted exceptionally strong applications, and are the eighth and ninth scholarship recipients since the award was established in 2002. ♦

Friends Update

The Friends of the Library received a record total of \$53,552 in membership contributions and matching gifts during 2006-07. Membership in the organization also expanded to a total of 700, including 553 regular members who contributed directly to the Friends, 67 members who donated to other library funds or who made gifts in kind, 39 members who were students or recent graduates, 37 life members, and 4 honorary members.

The Friends devoted \$43,000 to the purchase of special materials for the Library during the year. Major purchases included rare first editions and artists' books for special collections, primary research materials in digital form, major reference works, and retrospective journals in electronic form.

Highlights of Friends programs included an enthusiastically received talk by Adam Moss '79 at the Friends annual dinner; faculty talks by Chris Howell (Professor of Politics), Linda Grimm (Associate Professor of Anthropology), Carl Zimring (Visiting Professor of History), Ronald Kahn (James Monroe Professor of Politics), and Frances

continued on page 9

Xi Chen Joins Library Staff



Xi Chen

Xi Chen joined the Oberlin College Library staff in April as the East Asian/Web Development Librarian, a newly-defined position responsible for the Library's East Asian language collection and for helping to develop library resources and services based on World Wide Web applications.

Originally from Nanjing, China, Xi came to the United States in 2002 when she enrolled at the University of South Dakota. After earning a Master's degree in adult and higher education, she moved to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she received her MLS in 2006.

Prior to coming to Oberlin Xi served as Interim Chinese Studies Librarian at the Perkins Library at Duke University, and as the Carolina Academic Library Associate for East Asian Collections the Davis Library at UNC-Chapel Hill. In addition to experience with collection development, acquisition, and cataloging of East Asian materials, Xi brings skills in developing various Web applications.

This summer Xi familiarized herself with the Library's local databases (such as the Oberlin Song Index and the index to local newspapers), contributed to ongoing development of the Library's Web site, and worked on cataloging various East Asian language materials. In the fall she looks forward to getting to know all of the East Asian Studies faculty members and collaborating with them on building the library collections and serving the research needs of the students.

continued on page 8

Current Reading in the Academic Commons

The new Academic Commons features a range of current reading options in a comfortable space adjacent to Azariah's Cafe. In addition to the current periodicals and newspapers that have been located in the southeast corner of the main level in the past, there are now browsing collections of popular magazines, newly acquired books, recent faculty publications, and a leased collection of "recreational reading" titles.

Popular Magazines

This collection of about 70 titles includes news magazines from the U.S. and around the world (e.g. *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Der Spiegel*, *Macleans*, *Beijing Review*), literary magazines (e.g. *McSweeney's*, *Ninth Letter*, *Field*), and a range of



general interest magazines across a broad spectrum of interests (e.g. *Wired*, *New Yorker*, *Ms.*, *Film Comment*, *The Advocate*, *Foreign Policy*).

New In Mudd

Want to see some of the latest scholarly press books in a given field? Browse for recent books of poetry, fiction, biography, or film theory? This is the place for you! Come see what's being published in international politics, comparative religion, literary studies, or transnational feminisms. This collection represents just a fraction of the new books being acquired by

the Main Library on a daily basis. Titles will stay on these shelves for about a week before being shelved upstairs in the general circulating collection.

Faculty Publications

Recent books by Oberlin College faculty and staff are displayed for perusing, sampling, or checkout. Titles have publication dates within the last three years.

Recreational Reading

The Library is leasing a selection of high demand bestsellers and popular titles – that's right, we send them back when no one wants to check them out any longer! Some 300 volumes are provided as part of the academic plan from the Brodart Company's McNaughton Book Services.



continued on page 9

Digital Developments

The Library has recently acquired the following electronic resources:

US Congressional publications

Two archives of primary source materials provide searchable full text access to historical U. S. Congressional publications: *LexisNexis Congressional Hearings Digital Collection* (CHDC) and *LexisNexis Congressional Research Digital Collection* (CRDC). These publications are valuable not only for researching politics and public policy, but also for study of a broad range of subjects such as African American studies, agriculture, economics, education, gender and women's studies, and health care as well as science and technology.

CHDC covers Congressional hearings from 1824-2003. The collection includes not only full transcripts of proceedings before Congressional committees, such as all oral statements, committee questions, and discussion, but also related reports, statistical analyses, correspondence, exhibits, and articles presented by witnesses or inserted into the record by committee members and staff.

The CRDC includes Congressional Research Service (CRS) reports from 1916-2003 and Congressional committee prints from 1830-2003. These materials, compiled at the request of Congress, provide access to research on a wide variety of topics and are excellent sources of information for nearly every discipline.

Both collections are searchable through the LexisNexis Congressional interface: http://web.lexisnexis.com/congcomp/form/cong/s_pubadvanced.html.

Nineteenth-Century U.S. Newspapers

This searchable full text database covers approximate 200 newspapers and includes 1.7 million pages of content. The collection, which encompasses the entire 19th century, is a rich archive of primary source material for research on such topics as the American Civil War, African-American culture and history, Western migration, and the Antebellum era. It is possible to search the entire database or to limit a search by city and/or state as well as by newspaper title.

continued on page 6

Jessica Grim is New Collection Development and Management Librarian

Former Reference Librarian and Instruction Coordinator Jessica Grim has been appointed Collection Development and Management Librarian. She brings



Jessica Grim

broad experience in both library public services and collection development, proven leadership skills, and astute knowledge of Oberlin's culture to her new responsibilities.

When asked during her interview "Why are you interested in making this change in your career?" she told a compelling story of her passion for collections, for library materials in all formats, and the pleasure of selecting titles that will be used with satisfaction to fulfill specific needs and desires. Rather than a marked change, she sees the move to her new job as traversing the circle back to what drew her to librarianship twenty years ago.

continued on page 6

Three Faculty Receive Special Collections Grants

Friends of the Library have awarded curriculum development grants to three Oberlin faculty members. The grants are designed to help faculty integrate special collections materials into their courses, working in collaboration with Library special collections staff.

John Harwood, Assistant Professor of Modern and Contemporary Architectural History, will incorporate materials from the Robert M. Campbell (OC '34) Collection into a number of his courses including: *Approaches to Western Architectural History*, *Architecture of Enlightenment*, and *Architecture in the Age of Historicism*. The Campbell Collection is comprised of maps, engravings, and books on the urban development of England, particularly London. These materials, which date from the fifteenth through twentieth centuries, "are of particular pedagogical value as both primary and secondary documents of the transformation of the first truly modern city." Funding for this project will go in part towards creating an inventory and digitizing appropriate items from the collection in order to make them more accessible for students doing research in history and literature.

Sebastian Faber, Associate Professor of Hispanic Studies, will integrate materials from Oberlin's collection of nineteenth-century Spanish romantic novels into his course *Historical Fiction and the Development of Nationalism in Spain, 1800 □ present*. Reading representative books from the collection, comprised of nearly 600 titles published between the 1830s and the 1870s, will provide students with "a unique opportunity to analyze how these texts help construct particular notions of Spanish nationhood."

Paula Richman, Professor of Religion, will incorporate Mithila paintings into her seminar *The Ramayana Tradition in India*. Mithila is a region of northern India between the Bihar state and Nepal where women historically created ephemeral designs in conjunction with weddings. The tradition evolved into works on paper made for sale. Oberlin has one of the largest collections of such Mithila paintings dealing with the Ramayana, one of the two great Sanskrit epics of the Hindus. Students in the seminar will participate in the preparation of an exhibit of the paintings, creating labels and other explanatory panels; in addition, they will develop and present a lecture on the paintings for students in the *Religion in Modern India* course. ♦

Eugene Owens Is New Reference and Instruction Librarian



Eugene Owens

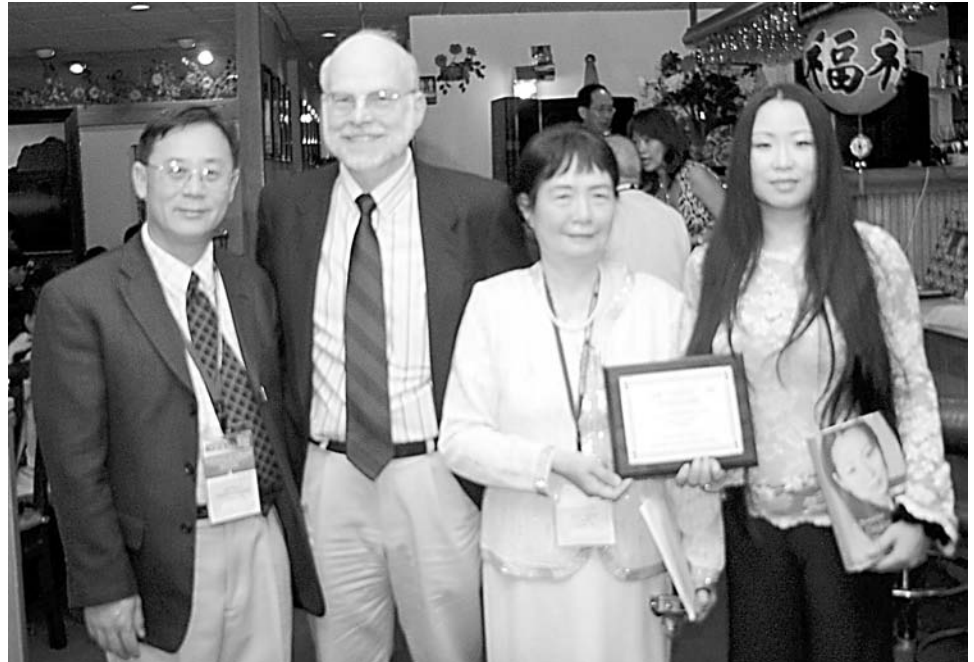
A warm welcome to Eugene Owens, who recently joined the Library staff as Reference and Instruction Librarian. Eugene received the M.S. in Library and Information Science from Simmons College and the B.A. in English literature from Western Washington University. His previous jobs include stints in the reference departments at the Simmons and Emerson College libraries in Boston, where he worked with undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty. He also brings teaching experience through information literacy sessions and workshops conducted at Simmons. Eugene was particularly attracted to this position because of his sister Eva, who graduated from Oberlin in 2000. His appointment extends through June 2008. Eugene looks forward to working with members of the college community over the coming year at the information desk, through research appointments, and via library instruction sessions. ♦

Digital Developments *continued from page 5*

Academe Today

The Chronicle of Higher Education's daily e-mail report is now available to members of the Oberlin College community. This online newsletter summarizes stories related to higher education and provides links to the full text in the online edition of the *Chronicle*. The daily briefing also covers essays and career advice. To receive the daily updates, go to <https://chronicle.com/services/?slm> and create a free *Chronicle* account; readers who sign up for *Academe Today* can subscribe to *continued on page 8*

Haipeng Li Serves as CALA President



Haipeng Li, Director of Libraries Ray English, CALA Executive Director Sally Tseng, and student scholarship winner at CALA Awards Banquet in Washington, DC

This past June, Reference and Instruction Librarian/Outreach Coordinator Haipeng Li concluded a year of service as president of the Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA). Founded in 1973, CALA is a national professional organization dedicated to promoting Sino-American librarianship and library services, as well as providing a forum for discussion, communication, and cooperation among Chinese American librarians. It is an affiliate of the American Library Association (ALA) and serves over 1,100 members around the globe.

Haipeng began to assume leadership positions in CALA approximately eight years ago, serving as member and chair of various committees at the national level and for the Midwest Chapter. He edited the association's newsletter from 2001-2004, served as president of the Midwest Chapter in 2002-2003, chaired the publications committee in 2004-05, and became vice-president/president-elect of the national organization in 2005. In that position he chaired the conference planning committee, taking responsibility for the challenge of overseeing CALA's events at the ALA annual conference in New Orleans in 2006, less than a year after the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina.

continued on page 9

Jessica Grim *continued from page 5*

As a selector and reference librarian at the New York Public Library, Jessica viewed those functions as two sides of the same coin – both essential for connecting a researcher with appropriate material at the right time. Her experience at the Moffitt Undergraduate Library, University of California, Berkeley, further developed the dual aspects of collection building and reference service.

In her sixteen years at Oberlin Jessica has served as a collection development liaison librarian for several departments and played important roles in numerous collection development projects. She has also been instrumental in the growth and success of the Library's instructional programs.

Jessica began her new role in the Library on July 1. She eased into the position with a number of orientation sessions with former Collection Development Librarian Eric Carpenter, who retired at the end of June. The Library's collection development program promises to move forward smoothly and with continued success under her capable direction. ♦

Soleau Wins Mellon Scholarship



Teresa Soleau '05

Teresa Soleau '05 has won one of four library school scholarships awarded to graduates of the seven institutions participating in the Mellon Librarian Recruitment Program (see *Perspectives*, Spring 2007). She will use the \$7,500 scholarship to attend the Department of Information Studies at the University of California – Los Angeles.

Teresa worked in the Library during her four years at Oberlin. As a first-year, she began as a student assistant in the Monographs Department, a position she held for three years. In the fall semester of her senior year, as part of her Art History major, she undertook a private reading under the direction of Art Librarian Barbara Prior, assisting with archival processing of the mail art collection. That spring she was selected as an undergraduate intern in the Mellon Librarian Recruitment Program, which allowed her to continue working on the mail art project. Her responsibilities included preparing an inventory of folders, researching the mail art movement and artists, choosing

continued on page 8

Basbanes *continued from page 1*

(2005). His centennial history of the Yale University Press will be published in 2008.

The author of numerous articles on book-related topics that have appeared in prominent newspapers, magazines, and journals, Basbanes publishes a bi-monthly column in *Fine Books and Collections* magazine. He is now writing a wide-ranging book on the historical and cultural importance of paper, which will be the subject of his talk at the Friends' dinner. ♦

Thornton Wilder Letter Uncovered

Special Collections Librarian Ed Vermue recently discovered a handwritten Thornton Wilder letter in the back of the 1926 first edition of Wilder's first novel, *The*

Cabala, which was donated to the Library by Charles Wager, Professor of English at Oberlin from 1900-1935. The letter, addressed to Wager and dated November 4, 1921, was written at the private school where Wilder taught English at the time. It describes Wilder's experience as a teacher, including the questions the students brought him during their evening study period and his various interactions with them in the school environment.

Although he was only 24 at the time, the prose displays his obvious gifts as a writer, as in the following passage where he describes his effect on students when they became a bit rowdy during evening study: "Every now and then there is sound of scuffling on one of the three floors. I rise, and descend the stairs with majestic and perfectly audible advance, dispensing awe and order like fragrance."

The letter demonstrates Wilder's clear enjoyment of teaching, a

Dear Dr. Wager: Nov. 4 - 1921
 Four evenings a week I sit up in my study from seven until ten while my thirty-two boys do their preparation for the morrow. They begin to drop in, a difficult phrase in Caesar, a little Trig, "Please, sir, what does mendacity mean?" some French, a little chat, "would you like some fudge my sister made, sir?" Every now and then there is a sound of scuffling on one of the three floors. I rise, and descend the stairs with majestic and perfectly audible advance, dispensing awe and order like fragrance. Finally fifteen minutes freedom before lights-out; sudden activity, four Victrolas play, rushings to the bathroom, four-part harmony. Then the last bell and I lower the lights. An expensive benevolent peace invests us, my heavy reasoning foot-tips flower into symbolic significance as I lock the backdoors and try the windows. Follows about ten minutes of further whisperings from bed to bed, and they fall off to sleep - most of them having sustained the incessant impacts of football practice throughout these hours of the afternoon. People said to me Never Teach School, You will be so unhappy, it will deaden you. But what happy surprises you find here; how delightful the relations of the teacher and an interested class; casual encounters with retiring boys on the campus, and at lights-out the strange big protective feeling, locking the doors against dark principalities and powers and thrones, and the great lamp-eyed whales that walk ashore in New Jersey - *Wilder*

Wilder Letter

profession he practiced throughout his life, even though he was also an enormously successful writer: "People said to me Never Teach School, You will be so unhappy, it will deaden you. But what happy surprises you find here; how delightful the relations of the teacher and an interested class; casual encounters with retiring boys on the campus, and at lights-out the strange big protective feeling, locking the doors against dark principalities and powers and thrones, and the great lamp-eyed whales that walk ashore in New Jersey." Wilder subsequently taught at the University of Chicago, The University of Hawaii, and Harvard. He received three Pulitzer Prizes during his career – for the novel *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* (1927) and the plays *Our Town* (1938) and *The Skin of Our Teeth* (1942).

Wilder maintained an extended friendship with Professor Wager from the time he studied at Oberlin (beginning in 1915) until Wager's death. He credited Wager with awakening in him a sense of the power of literature, especially the Greek and Roman classics.

Special Collections holds other letters from Wilder to Wager as well as a rare book that reflects their long-standing friendship. Following Wager's death in 1935, his widow gave to Wilder a beautifully printed sixteenth century edition of the works of Virgil that Wager had purchased on a trip to Europe in the 1920s. That same edition of Virgil was given back to Oberlin by Wilder's sister following the writer's death in 1975. ♦

Julie Weir in New Public Services Role



Julie Weir

The new Reference & Academic Commons Assistant is Julie Weir, OC '86, formerly Reserve Room Supervisor in the Main Library. Julie replaces Helen Black, who retired last April. Julie brings ample library experience to her new position. Prior to her work in reserve, she served as both the evening and daytime circulation desk supervisor in the Main Library. She also worked as a student assistant in the library while an undergraduate. Julie's new responsibilities include staffing the information desk, overseeing the reference collection, serving as liaison to the college's OCEAN program, coordinating scheduling of group study rooms in the Academic Commons, and assisting with the new current reading area (see related articles in this issue). Julie is very excited to continue serving the college community in her new position. ♦

Commons *continued from page 1*

and the Alumni Council, will follow the ceremony.

All signs indicate that the Academic Commons will be a popular location for members of the Oberlin community to both socialize and pursue Oberlin's fundamental purpose of liberal arts learning. ♦

Chen *continued from page 4*

Xi and her family are enjoying life in the Midwest. As she puts it, "We like living in a college town. The people in Oberlin are friendly and open." Her husband, Paul Cao Yingjun, will teach statistics in the Department of Mathematics at Oberlin this year. ♦

Eric Carpenter Honored



Eric and Kathy Carpenter (right), along with son-in-law Mike, daughter Sarah, and son Paul

In recognition of his superb twenty-six-year tenure as Oberlin's Collection Development Librarian, Eric Carpenter was honored on the occasion of his retirement (see *Perspectives*, Spring 2007) at a large public reception in Peters Hall on May 18 and at a Library staff tea on June 29. A print of Williams Hogarth's portrait of actor David Garrick as Richard III was presented at the reception and will hang in the Library in his honor. The print reflects Eric's interests in English literature, especially Shakespeare, and the fact that he was instrumental in acquiring for the Library's Special Collections the collection of Robert M. Campbell '34, which contained the Hogarth print. ♦

Digital Developments *continued from page 6*

other free *Chronicle* e-mail newsletters, including *Job Alerts in Higher Education* and *The Wired Campus* (see the full listing at <http://chronicle.com/help/emails/?slm>).

Oxford Digital Reference Shelf

OhioLINK has expanded access to the number of Oxford University Press reference sources by purchasing the *Oxford Digital Reference Shelf*. Subject areas covered by this collection include art, food and nutrition, history, names and places, linguistics, literature, performing arts, and science. Sample titles include *The Grove Encyclopedia of Classical Art and Architecture*, *Oxford Encyclopedia of Food and Drink in America*, *International Encyclopedia of Dance*, *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Mesoamerican Cultures*, and *Encyclopedia of Evolution*. For a complete listing see: <http://www.oup.com/online/digitalreference/>

OhioLINK will provide permanent access to these titles by loading the content into the OhioLINK Electronic Book Center, which is currently in beta release. All titles in the collection will eventually be linked from OBIS as well. ♦

Mellon Scholarship *continued from page 7*

works to be included in the prototype database, and developing a controlled vocabulary to describe and catalog images.

Teresa was employed until recently as a library assistant in the serials section of the Research Library at the Getty Research Institute in Los Angeles. In this position she was responsible for creating original and copy cataloging for auction sales catalogs, processing serials, and performing database maintenance.

In reflecting on what most interests her about working in libraries, Teresa notes, "There is one core value that has remained a focus of mine throughout the positions I have held—access. For this reason and others, I envision myself most productive and most fulfilled as some form of cataloger." She adds, "As a future professional, I hope to work on archives to preserve the legacy of various communities, thus providing artists, historians and researchers access to those important histories." ♦

Li continued from page 6

During his 2006-07 presidential year, Haipeng both initiated and nurtured a number of important projects. CALA launched its Twenty-First Century Librarian Seminar Series with four institutions in China in 2007 (with Haipeng as an important contributor), established a new Southeast Chapter, and adopted a strategic planning document for the organization. In addition, CALA was a key participant in the October 2006 Joint Conference of Librarians of Color held in Dallas, Texas, the first-ever national conference to be sponsored by the five ALA affiliate member caucuses of color. Haipeng was also very successful in boosting fundraising for the organization. He headed a 14-member CALA delegation to Kunming, China to attend the Library Society of China Annual Conference in June 2006.

Congratulations to Haipeng on his successful leadership of CALA over the past year! His vital participation in this organization at both the national and regional levels has significantly raised Oberlin's visibility not only among Chinese American librarians, but also in the broader international library community. ♦

Friends Update continued from page 3

Hasso (Associate Professor of Gender and Women's Studies and Sociology); a talk by Stephen Miles, author of *Oath Betrayed: Torture, Medical Complicity, and the War on Terror*; and a well-attended reception for recent Oberlin book authors.

The Friends initiated a new grant program for Oberlin faculty designed to encourage them to incorporate Special Collections into individual courses. The organization also 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 annual meeting on Saturday, December 1, at 1:30 p.m. in the Goodrich Room in Mudd Center. All those interested in the Friends of the Library are encouraged to attend. ♦

David Matchim is New Mellon Fellow



David Matchim '07

Oberlin's Mellon Fellow for 2007-2008 is David Matchim, a recent graduate of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music with a degree in trumpet performance. David is one of six Fellows chosen from the schools participating in the Mellon Librarian Recruitment Program (see *Perspectives*, Spring 2007).

For most of his college career David worked as a student assistant in the Circulation Department of the Conservatory Library. In his first project as a Fellow, he used his knowledge of the Conservatory collection to coordinate an extensive inventory project that involves both public and technical services staff. This fall semester David will move to

the Main Library, where he will gain exposure to many different aspects of librarianship, including special collections, technical services, and reference work.

David will also help promote library careers to Oberlin students by working closely with Mellon Librarian Recruitment Coordinator Tonya Briggs and in collaboration with the Mellon Fellows at Johnson C. Smith University, Occidental College, Saint Augustine's College, Swarthmore College, and The Robert W. Woodruff Library at the Atlanta University Center. He met his colleagues in Los Angeles during a weeklong trip this summer designed to develop the Fellows' leadership skills and expose them to varied library environments.

From Newfoundland, Canada by way of Rocklin, California, David is enjoying post-student life in Oberlin, where he has many friends and continues to teach trumpet to young musicians. After his Mellon year he plans to pursue graduate trumpet studies as well as a library science degree. ♦

Gifts continued from page 3

Lawrence Funkhouser '43 has donated funds to the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) to underwrite a perpetual subscription for the Library to AAPG electronic journals.

William C. King '67 has donated an original hand-colored engraving from the elephant folio edition of John James Audubon's *The Birds of America*; the print is the Cardinal Grosbeak.

Dorothy Luciano of Oberlin has given to Special Collections a signed 1804 edition of Giovanni Gherardo de Rossi's *Scherzi Poetici e Pittorici*.

Robert Piron, Emeritus Professor of Economics, has donated numerous books from his professional collection.

Gene Woodling of Akron has donated two hundred books and videos for the Gene Woodling Collection of Gay Fiction. ♦

Current Reading continued from page 4

Each month McNaughton's selection team of librarians, book buyers, and editorial staff reviews hundreds of forthcoming books and issues lists of likely bestsellers from which library staff select about 20 new books each month. Review sources include *The New York Times*, *Library Journal*, *Kirkus Reviews*, *Booklist*, and *Publishers Weekly*. Genres include biography, mystery, popular science, science fiction, suspense, thrillers, and more.

The library periodically returns books that no longer circulate, and can purchase titles that have permanent value. Many academic libraries rely on McNaughton to extend recreational reading to their campus communities, and we're happy to be joining the ranks!

So come on in, browse all the current reading collections, sit a spell with a cup of fresh coffee in a comfortable lounge chair, and lose yourself in whatever catches your reading fancy. Enjoy! ♦

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

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$2 Student | <input type="checkbox"/> \$5 Recent Graduate | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 Friend | <input type="checkbox"/> \$40 Couple | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Associate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Sponsor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Patron | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 Benefactor |

Please return this coupon with your membership contribution to:
Friends of the Oberlin College Library, Mudd Center, Oberlin, Ohio 44074-1532

Name

Street

City, State, Zip

E-mail Address

Please make checks payable to Oberlin College.
Friends contributions are tax-deductible.

Library

Perspectives

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

Nonprofit Organization U.S. Postage P A I D Oberlin, Ohio Permit No. 8
--