



# Library Perspectives

## New Librarian Recruiting Grant

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has awarded a new grant to the Library in the amount of \$500,000 to continue its highly successful cooperative program designed to recruit undergraduates from diverse backgrounds into librarianship. In addition to Oberlin, five other academic libraries are participating in the project, including three libraries serving historically black institutions.

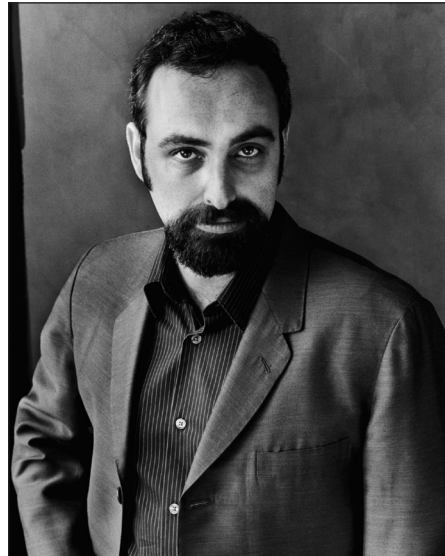
The new grant builds on three earlier grants from the Mellon Foundation that were made in June 2003, December 2004, and December 2006 respectively. With this new grant, the Foundation has now awarded a total of \$2,075,000 to Oberlin for the various phases of the recruiting program.

The new grant project will continue to promote librarianship as an attractive career choice for large numbers of undergraduates through programming about library careers and issues important to the library profession. A small number of students at each participating school will be selected to participate in intensive undergraduate internships that orient them to the library profession. Interns will also do project work with a librarian mentor and complete summer internships in other libraries nationwide. Each library will also employ a recent graduate for one year as a Mellon Fellow. In addition, four \$7,500 scholarships to graduate library school will be awarded on a competitive basis to recent graduates of the participating schools.

Leadership development will continue to be an integral part of the grant program. Studies show that a wave of librarians will soon retire from management and leadership positions, so it is critical that new leadership talent be attracted to the profession.

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## Gary Shteyngart to Speak at Friends Dinner



Gary Shteyngart

Award-winning writer Gary Shteyngart '95 will be the featured speaker following the Friends of the Library dinner on Saturday, November 1. He will also deliver a public reading from his recent work on Friday, October 31.

Shteyngart is best known for his two novels *The Russian Debutante's Handbook* (2003) and *Absurdistan* (2006). The former chronicles the adventures of a young Russian Jewish immigrant living on the lower east side of Manhattan and later in a fictional European city called Prava. The novel won the Steven Crane Award for First Fiction and the National Jewish Book Award for Fiction. It was also named a *New York Times* Notable Book, a best book of the year by the *Washington Post* and *Entertainment Weekly*, and one of the best debuts of the year by *The Guardian*.

*Absurdistan* also received glowing critical reviews, including being named one of the Ten Best Books of 2006 by the *New York Times*. The

lead character of the novel is a young Russian who becomes caught up in the affairs of Absurdistan, a former Soviet republic. Walter Kim, reviewing the novel for the *New York Times*, writes, "Compared with most young novelists his age, who tend toward cutesy

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## More New Looks in Mudd

Main Library physical spaces received significant upgrades over the summer, complementing the recent transformation of the main level of Mudd Center into the Academic Commons.

New environmentally-friendly carpets were installed on the second and third levels of the building. Developed by DesignGroup of Columbus, OH (the same architectural firm that worked on the Academic Commons), the new carpet design matches closely the original building carpets. The multi-colored, abstract design in the open area on the main level

near the Circulation Desk was also replaced with carpeting that matches the colors of the current reading area adjacent to Azariah's Café.

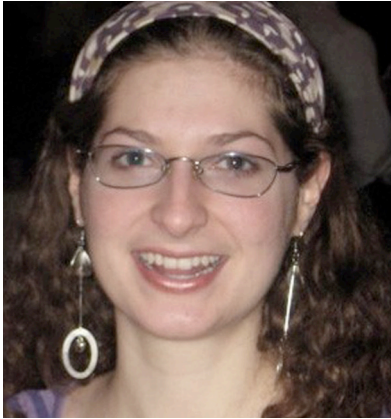
Library nappers will be delighted to discover that the cushions in the center section of the second level have been reupholstered. The banners that hang over the cushions from the skylight in the East Asian Collection reading area also have been replaced with



Refurbished Second Level

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## Friends Scholarship Goes to Gervasio



Darcy Gervasio

Darcy Gervasio '06 has won a \$2,500 graduate library school scholarship from the Friends of the Library. Darcy was a double major in Creative Writing and French with a minor in English, earning High Honors for her senior thesis on French cinema. She will use her scholarship to attend the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Darcy worked five semesters in the Main Library Circulation Department, training other students and supervising desk operations. It was her experience as a teaching assistant in Toulouse, France, however, that led her to consider librarianship as a career. Working with at-risk middle-school students, she discovered she "much preferred being my students' living encyclopedia on the USA to being their disciplinarian." Darcy intends to blend her knowledge of French culture with a library career that facilitates intellectual development and promotes cross-cultural understanding.

### Library Perspectives

Ray English  
Cynthia Comer  
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.

## Friends of the Oberlin College Library Fall 2008 Programs

### Exhibitions:

**Carnegie: An Exhibition of Photographs and Original Documents Celebrating the Library's 100 Year History.**

September 29 through November 2, 2008, Academic Commons, Mudd Center.

### Lectures and Other Events:

**Saturday, September 6, 4:00-5:15 p.m., First Church in Oberlin**

Film screening and facilitated discussion, *Coffee Country: Can Fair Trade Save the Farm?* Co-sponsored by Student Friends of the Library.

**Monday, September 15, 12:00-1:15 p.m., Azariah's Café, Main Level, Mudd Center.**

Talk by Jennifer Thomas, Director, Civic Innovation Lab, Cleveland, OH.

"Funding Social Entrepreneurship." Co-sponsored by Student Friends of the Library.

Reservations requested; contact Lauren Abendschein, Office of Career Services, x58140.

**Thursday, September 18, 4:30 p.m., Moffett Auditorium, Mudd Center**

Faculty talk by Sebastiaan Faber, Professor of Hispanic Studies, "Anglo-American Hispanists and the Spanish Civil War: Hispanophilia, Commitment, and Discipline."

**Saturday, October 4, 4:00 p.m., Carnegie Lobby**

"Remembering Carnegie: A 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration."

The Carnegie Library, which opened in 1908, served for decades as the library for both the Town of Oberlin and Oberlin College. This celebratory program will include a short documentary film, slides, and panelists who will share remembrances.

**Friday, October 31, 10 a.m.-noon, Academic Commons, Mudd Center**

Library Book Sale: Friends of the Library Pre-Sale

Book sale runs from noon - 8 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Saturday.

**Friday, October 31, 4:30 p.m., King 106**

Reading by Gary Shteyngart.

**Saturday, November 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, Gary Shteyngart  
Root Room, Carnegie

**Tuesday, November 11, 4:30 p.m., Art Seminar Room, Art Building**

Talk by local author Mary Haverstock, "George Bellows: An Artist in Action."

**Thursday, November 20, 4:30 p.m., Moffett Auditorium, Mudd Center**

Faculty talk by Julia Christensen, Luce Assistant Professor of the Emerging Arts, "Big Box Reuse."

**Friday, December 5, 4:30 p.m., Azariah's Café, Academic Commons, Mudd Center**

Reception for Oberlin Authors.

## Friends Update

The Friends of the Library received a total of \$53,203 in membership contributions and matching gifts during 2007-08. Membership in the Friends grew to a total of 770, including 583 regular members who contributed directly to the Friends, 94 members who donated to other library funds or made gifts-in-kind, 56 members who were students or recent graduates, 30 life members, and 7 honorary members.

The Friends designated \$40,706 for the purchase of materials for the Library during the year. Acquisitions included major reference works; a new JSTOR electronic journal collection; major digital resources related to the U.S. Congress; a variety of resources for music, science, and art; and rare books and special collections materials. An additional \$10,000 was designated for the purchase of

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## Library Awarded Social Entrepreneurship Grant

The Library has received a FRONTLINE/World Social Entrepreneurs Film Program grant to support collaborative programming in the area of social entrepreneurship.

The Library and the Student Friends of the Library will partner with the Creativity and Leadership: Entrepreneurship at Oberlin Project and the locally-based free trade organization Illuminating Nations Through Offering an Opportunity to screen the film *Coffee Country: Can Fair Trade Save the Farm?*

The screening will take place from 4:00-5:15 p.m. on Saturday, September 6 at First Church in Oberlin, and will include a discussion led by Christopher Kerr, Coordinator of Social Justice Initiatives & Immersion Experiences at John Carroll University. The film showing is part of the the second biannual Northeast Ohio Fair Trade Summit.

The grant also supports a follow-up talk by Jennifer Thomas, Director of the Civic Innovation Lab in Cleveland, on funding social entrepreneurship. That event is scheduled for Monday, September 15,

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## Carnegie Turns 100!



*Carnegie Library Nears Completion, 1908*

In conjunction with the College's 175th anniversary celebrations, the Oberlin College Library and the Oberlin Public Library are co-sponsoring a program entitled "Remembering Carnegie: A 100th Anniversary Celebration." The event will be held in the Carnegie lobby on Saturday, October 4 at 4 p.m. and will include a short documentary film, slides, and panelists from the College and Town who will share remembrances. Audience members will also be invited to convey their memories as part of the celebration. The program will be followed by a reception.

The documentary *Catatome* was produced last spring by student George Saines '08 as his honors project for his Cinema Studies major. It weaves together interviews, historic photographs, music, and narration to relate the history of the Carnegie Library in a lighthearted, engaging manner.

A related exhibit, "Carnegie: An Exhibition of Photographs and Original Documents Celebrating the Library's 100 Year History," will run from September 29-November 2 in the Academic Commons of the main level of Mudd Center. The exhibit is being prepared by Ed Vermue, Special Collections and Preservation Librarian, and Elizabeth Rumics, who worked in Carnegie as a librarian in the 1960s and now volunteers her time in Special Collections. Most of the materials selected for the display have been drawn from the holdings of the Oberlin College Archives.



*Public Library Story Hour*



*Carnegie Reading Room, 1920s*

The Carnegie Library opened its doors in 1908 and served for decades as the library for both Oberlin College and the Town of Oberlin, an arrangement that was unusual in its day and remains rare even today. The story of how Oberlin was given money for the building by Andrew Carnegie is an intriguing one, involving forgery, theft, and a fetching woman who effectively deceived dozens of people into believing she was Carnegie's illegitimate daughter.

The "Libe," as it was affectionately known to students, served for generations not only as a central academic facility,

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## New Looks in Mudd

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vibrant new designs.

A total of 88 additional duplex electrical outlets were installed along the north, south, and west windows on the second and third levels and also in Azariah's Café. These outlets respond to a significant student need produced by heavy use of laptop computers with limited battery life.

As a final part of the project, additional shelving was added throughout the second and third floors in order to provide additional growth space for the collections. Much of this shelving had been removed from the first level of Mudd prior to the construction of the Academic Commons.

Additional building upgrades, including new carpeting on the fourth level and new or refurbished furniture in other parts of the building, are planned for the summer of 2009.

## Shteyngart

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involution, Shteyngart is a giant mounted on horseback. He ranges more widely, sees more sweepingly and gets where he's going with far more aplomb."

In addition to his novels, Shteyngart has published numerous short stories and essays in prominent magazines, including the *New Yorker*, *Esquire*, *GQ*, and *Granta*. He is currently working on a third novel, which features a secondary character from Absurdistan, a Russian immigrant writing instructor. The novel is set primarily in Albany, New York in the year 2040.

Born in Russia, Shteyngart moved with his family to this country at the age of seven. He graduated from Oberlin with a major in politics and subsequently earned an MFA in creative writing from the City University of New York. He currently teaches writing at Columbia University and Princeton University.

Shteyngart's visit to Oberlin is co-sponsored by the Friends of the Library and the Creative Writing Program. His public reading will take place at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, October 31, in King 106. Both his reading and his talk following the Friends' dinner are free and open to the public.

## Student Book Collecting Contest



*James Rowell, Devin Myers, and Peter Nowogrodzki*

Winners of the biennial Student Book Collecting Contest, held during the spring semester 2008 and coordinated by the Student Friends of the Library, were Peter Nowogrodzki '08, James Rowell '09, and Devin Myers '08.

Nowogrodzki, a biology and cinema studies major from Ithaca, New York, won the first prize of \$300 for his collection of field guides to birds called "A Guide to Guides." His collection was built over a fifteen-year period and is international in scope.

The second prize of \$200 went to Rowell for his collection "Kenny G and Experimental Poetry." An English major with a concentration in creative writing, James began building the collection after he took an experimental poetry course from Assistant Professor of English Warren Liu. The collection focuses on contemporary and experimental poetry, especially concrete and conceptual poetics.

Myers won the third prize of \$100 for his collection "Lessons from Darkness: A Collection of Books on the Feeling of War." His extensive and wide-ranging collection of personal narratives of war includes a 1619 edition of Julius Caesar writing on the Gaul War.

The prizes were presented on May 6 prior to an engaging talk delivered by noted Cleveland book collector Robert H. Jackson.

## Biennial Book Sale

The ever-popular biennial Oberlin College Library Book Sale will be held Friday, October 31 and Saturday, November 1. Members of the Friends of the Library have first selection opportunity at the Friends Pre-Sale, which will take place on Friday from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

The sale will be held in the Academic Commons on the main level of Mudd Center. Thousands of books, antiquarian and new, in subjects ranging from architecture to zoology as well as movies in VHS format will be offered for sale at bargain prices.

The book sale is a community event and items sold are not intended for resale. Questions may be directed to Linda Slocum ([linda.slocum@oberlin.edu](mailto:linda.slocum@oberlin.edu), 440-775-5101).



*Books: Plentiful and Cheap*

## RefWorks Manages References and Creates Bibliographies

RefWorks is now available to all library users on campus. This Web-based bibliographic management utility promises “solutions for research management, writing and collaboration.” Similar to programs such as EndNote and ProCite, RefWorks offers the additional benefits of Web accessibility, an unlimited number of stored references, site-wide access with no software installation required, capturing data from Web pages, and more than 800 pre-defined formats for bibliographies and reference lists as well as the option to create individually defined formats.

RefWorks integrates hundreds of bibliographic databases with manuscript writing, making the process of searching, writing, and citing literature more cohesive and easily managed. An online tutorial and quick start guide are accessible at the RefWorks Web site ([www.refworks.com](http://www.refworks.com)), and reference librarians are happy to answer questions and provide assistance.

RefWorks is accessible from any campus computer by going to the Web site and clicking on the “login” tab. New users should then sign up for an individual account.

## Library Grant

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12:00-1:15 p.m. in Azariah's Café in the Academic Commons on the main level of Mudd Center.

FRONTLINE/World is the award-winning PBS international news magazine that turns its lens on the global community. The Social Entrepreneurs Series features the stories of people whose ideas and organizations create new and sustainable markets and services that benefit underserved communities in the developing world. Funding for the library program is provided by the PBS Foundation through a grant from the Skoll Foundation.

All events are free and open to the public.

## Missionary Ethnographic Collection now Online



*Head Rest (Mozambique)*

approximately 1,600 objects donated to the Oberlin College Museum by alumni and friends during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Grimm used the collection intensively with students in her Museum Anthropology course.

She selected works for the missionary collection sample for their interdisciplinary value. In addition to aiding the study of anthropology, these representative pieces are relevant for students of religion, African



*Thumb Piano (Mozambique)*

American studies, art, and Oberlin history. She notes that working with the collection “has been an incredible

experience for students” and hopes that use of the digital version will lead more students to research the objects and learn about doing archival research as well.

Sarah Arriaga '08, who served as Grimm's research assistant, was responsible for reviewing, editing, and correcting all records in the database. “The most interesting thing was learning all about the history of the collection. I knew nothing about Oberlin's missionary history or the history of collecting before I got involved.

The most useful things though were probably learning

to do research in the archives, and learning how to create a database.” This fall Sarah, who has also been a student assistant in the Circulation Department, will enroll in the School of Information at the University of Texas at Austin, where she will also complete a program in museum studies.

## New Digital Resources

The library has recently acquired several new electronic resources. All of the new databases are linked from the library's Web site (select “Databases A to Z” in the Quick Links drop down menu).

*Access NewspaperARCHIVE* contains tens of millions of searchable newspaper pages from communities across the United States, dating as far back as the 1700s. For researchers of local history, the inclusion of a number of Lorain County papers, including the *Elyria Chronicle-Telegram*, is especially welcome.

*Aluka* is a digital library of scholarly resources from and about Africa. Its collections come from contributing organizations and individuals across the globe. Scholarly materials contributed by *Aluka's* partners range from archival documents, periodicals, books, reports, manuscripts, and reference works, to three-dimensional models, maps, oral histories, plant specimens, photographs, and slides. Three content areas are currently under development:

The Library recently unveiled the Oberlin Missionary Ethnographic Collection (<http://oberlin.edu/library/digital/missionary/>), a digital database containing a sample of primarily African objects selected from the Oberlin College Ethnographic Collection (see: <http://ocec.oberlin.edu/>).

Linda Grimm, Emeritus Professor of Anthropology, who has worked with the ethnographic collection for many years, began digitizing objects and creating a database several years ago. The full collection consists of



*Rattle (Mozambique)*

## Haipeng Li Honored by CALA



Haipeng Li

Reference Librarian and Outreach Coordinator Haipeng Li received the 2008 Distinguished Service Award from the Chinese American Library Association (CALA) during the Annual Conference of the American Library Association in Anaheim this past June. This award is a well-deserved honor for Haipeng, who has served CALA in numerous capacities including chapter president, vice-president/president-elect, member and chair of various CALA committees, and newsletter editor. The CALA award committee presentation cited Haipeng's "demonstrated distinguished contributions and services at both the national and international levels to the advancement of librarianship, particularly to Chinese-American librarianship."

Haipeng currently serves on the ALA International Relations Committee, and has been a leader in the National Joint Conference for Librarians of Color program. He was the principal planner of the International Conference on Academic Librarianship held in Kunming, Yunnan Province, China in June 2001, and was instrumental in establishing the CALA 21st Century Librarian Seminar Series, an innovative program that has successfully provided professional development opportunities for librarians in the U.S. and abroad.

During his presidency, Haipeng led the most successful fundraising campaign in CALA history, bringing in more than \$50,000. The award committee also praised Haipeng as an advocate in providing mentorship

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## Mudd on the Silver Screen—Again



Megan Mitchell

This spring the Main Library served as the set for *The Resourcerer's Apprentice*, an engaging film written and directed by Lela Hull '09. Based on the Sorcerer's Apprentice scene from Disney's animated classic *Fantasia*, *The Resourcerer's Apprentice* reveals what can go wrong in the library after night falls and a student assistant thinks she can take over for the librarian.

Hull, a Cinema Studies major, had been thinking about doing a movie in Mudd Center for some time: "I first got interested in making a film about the library when I got an assignment to write a paper without the use of the Internet as a resource. The more I wandered the library trying to find materials, the more I became interested in simply the aesthetic of it; there are so many colors and different shapes and cool angles. I couldn't wait to bring my camera in there and fool around."

Dana Harrison '10 is featured as the Apprentice and Megan Mitchell, Reference and Instruction Librarian, is the Resourcerer. Filming took place over the course of four nights after the Library had closed. Hull assembled a crew of 24 fellow students to assist with camera operation, lighting, and moving furniture and mountains of books and papers. Library materials and furnishings of all kinds come vividly alive under Hull's direction. Books destined for discard were used in the production in addition to boxes of old reserve reading articles.

The film, which premiered at the end of the semester in West Lecture Hall as part of the Cinema Studies 399 practicum screening, has been enthusiastically received. It was also shown during a Student Friends of the Library study break on the front wall of Mudd during reading period, and again over commencement weekend. Hull also spoke to members of the library staff about the project at a special lunchtime screening of the film. She plans to enter the film into a festival, and is already pondering ideas for new projects.

*The Resourcerer's Apprentice* is one of several films that have been set in Mudd Center over the years. The Library intends to distribute the film via YouTube in the fall. Stay tuned!

## Changes for AV and Archives

Administrative oversight of the Audiovisual Services Department (AV) recently moved from the Library to the Center for Information Technology (CIT). In addition, the Oberlin College Archives now reports to Director of Libraries Ray English. Both changes became effective July 1, 2008.

The new reporting relationship for the College Archives was established as a result of the elimination of the Office of the Provost. While the Library and the Archives have always worked together closely, the new structure will foster even greater cooperation.

Ken Grossi, Associate College Archivist, is now Acting College Archivist following the retirement of College Archivist Roland Baumann. A graduate of the University of Akron, Ken holds masters degrees from both Kent State University and Case Western Reserve University. He came to Oberlin in 1996 as Assistant College Archivist and was appointed Associate College Archivist in 2001. In addition, Anne Salsich has been appointed



Ken Grossi, Acting College Archivist

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## Recruiting Grant

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The grant will also continue to focus on recruiting students from the four federally-defined minority groups (African Americans, Asian Americans, Latinos, and Native Americans), since they are significantly under-represented in the profession.

In addition to Oberlin, the libraries of Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, NC; Occidental College in Los Angeles; Saint Augustine's College in Raleigh, NC; Swarthmore College in Philadelphia, PA; and the Atlanta University Center in Atlanta, GA, which includes Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College, and Spelman College, will participate in all aspects of the project. Wellesley College in Wellesley, MA will participate through summer internships.

The grant project is directed by Ray English, Oberlin's Director of Libraries, and coordinated by Tonya Briggs, also at Oberlin.

## Changes in Archives

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Acting Assistant Archivist. Anne received her MLIS degree with an archives emphasis from Kent State University. She was previously archivist at Ursuline College as well as an archival consultant and a project archivist for the Wolfsonian Museum at Florida International University. A search to fill the College Archivist position is expected to be completed next spring.

The recent relocation of the Library's DVD, video, and film collection from Audiovisual Services to the Circulation Desk in the new Academic Commons allows AV staff to focus primarily on supporting the development and use of educational technology equipment in smart classrooms, lecture halls, and other campus locations. The AV Department also continues to manage a wide array of equipment, including projectors, screens, cameras, microphones, speakers, and recording devices available for loan to members of the campus community.

About the new arrangement, Fred Zwagat, Director of AV Services commented, "Everything from equipment scheduling to course content delivery depends more and more on the network and CIT support. This administrative transfer will allow Audiovisual Services to be more actively engaged in the planning and implementation of future classroom technologies."

## Jennifer Starkey: New Reference and Instruction Librarian



Jennifer Starkey

Jennifer Starkey has joined the Reference and Instruction Department in the Main Library. She fills the position held by Jessica Grim, who became Collection Development and Management Librarian in July 2007. A graduate of Kalamazoo College with a major in German Language and Literature, Jennifer feels right at home in Oberlin: "I'm impressed with Oberlin's environmental consciousness and commitment to social justice and am looking forward to getting to know Oberlin students and faculty."

Jennifer earned her MLS at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. She comes to Oberlin from Alma College in Alma, MI, where she worked for three years as a reference librarian and archivist. Her position at Oberlin is appealing because it will allow her to concentrate on reference and instruction and develop experience in collection development.

A native of Rochester, MI, Jennifer enjoys mountain biking, hiking, and cooking (and eating) Indian food.

She is also pursuing a master's degree in American history.

## Sara Hasley is New Monographs Cataloger

Sara Hasley has joined the Monographs Department as a part-time cataloger. She worked for a number of years in the libraries at Ohio State University Mansfield campus (most recently as coordinator for circulation services) and the Agricultural and Technical Institute in Wooster. She finds that her public service experience is serving her well as she learns to catalog monographs. While Sara misses some of the colorful characters she served at the circulation desk in Mansfield, she appreciates the busy but comparatively quiet atmosphere in technical services and looks forward to concentrating on the job of making books and videos accessible in OBIS.

Sara lives in Kipton in what her neighbors call the Price House (former residence of Oberlin Conservatory piano professor Wilbur Price) with her husband and four-year-old son. In her free time she enjoys sewing and trying to tame the vines in her garden.



Sara Hasley

## Marla Thompson Joins Library Administrative Staff

Marla Thompson is the Library's new administrative secretary. In her position she provides secretarial support for the Director and Associate Director of Libraries, works in a variety of ways with the Friends of the Library, creates layout for *Library Perspectives*, and coordinates several administrative functions for the library system as a whole.

A native of the Oberlin area, Marla graduated summa cum laude from Cleveland State University. She worked previously as the secretary for Christ Episcopal Church in Oberlin and was also an assistant children's librarian for the Herrick Memorial Library in Wellington.

Marla lives in Oberlin with her husband and five children – three boys and two girls ages 17 to 2. In her spare time (which she understandably says she doesn't really have!) Marla enjoys reading and writing essays.



Marla Thompson

## Sim Wins Mellon Scholarship



*Yi Hong Sim*

Yi Hong Sim '06 has received one of four library school scholarships available to graduates of the liberal arts colleges participating in the Mellon Librarian Recruitment Program (see related article in this issue). She will use the \$7,500 scholarship to enroll this fall in the University of Wisconsin-Madison's joint graduate program in Musicology and Library and Information Studies.

Yi Hong was a double degree student at Oberlin, earning a B. M. in Music History and a B.A. in English. She was elected to membership in both Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Lambda, the national music honor society. She was also the recipient of a Friends of the Library research award in 2006.

As an undergraduate she worked as a reference assistant in the Conservatory Library and was also selected as a Mellon Undergraduate Library Intern. Following graduation she was hired as the Summer Reference Intern at the Conservatory Library; she continued to work there and in the Main Library Special Collections Department as an assistant through the following academic year.

Yi Hong hopes to become a music librarian and work in a scholarly community. "Librarianship appeals to me because it is a specific yet universal profession. Its firm values and ethics—freedom of access to information, the encouragement of information literacy—serve me as an ideological anchor through the myriad cultural experiences I have had and will continue to have."

## Becky Luedeke in Memoriam



*Rebecca S. Luedeke*

All library staff were deeply saddened by the recent death of our colleague Rebecca S. Luedeke, monographs cataloger in the Main Library, following a brief illness. Becky, as she was known to everyone, was an exceptionally skilled and productive cataloger who made major contributions to catalog access during her 29 years with the Library.

According to John Sluk, Head of Monographs, "Becky was responsible for cataloging over 70,000 titles for the Library during her career." She was instrumental in maintaining the integrity of the OBIS catalog database and worked diligently to keep headings and the supporting cross reference structure in OBIS current and accurate. She also wrote numerous departmental procedures. Her recent work in cataloging special collections materials enabled the Library to reduce a backlog of uncataloged items that had been building over many years.

Becky first joined the library staff as an assistant recordings cataloger in the Conservatory Library in 1979 and became an assistant scores cataloger in 1982. She transferred to a monographs cataloging position in the Main Library in 1984 and assumed increasingly responsible duties over the years. A native of New Bremen, OH, she received her B.S. in Education, with a focus on library and educational media, from Bowling Green State University in 1974. She began library work as a cataloger with the Oberlin Public Library in 1975.

Becky was an active member of numerous library committees. She was also instrumental in the establishment of OCOPE, the Oberlin College Office and Professional Employees union. She was a long-time member of the OCOPE Executive Board, serving at various times as president, treasurer, and trustee. In her free time she enjoyed gardening, sewing and needlework, bridge, her two cats, spending time with her young nieces and nephews, and entertaining friends in her home.

## Tabia Gaston is Mellon Fellow

Tabia Gaston '08 is the Library's new Mellon Fellow, one of six recent graduates who hold one-year appointments at the libraries participating in the Mellon Librarian Recruitment Program (see related article in this issue).

During the 2008-09 academic year Tabia will gain broad experience in a variety of library operations and projects. She will provide service at the research desk, assist in organizing the biennial Friends of the Library Book Sale, work on organizing the mail art collection in the Art Library, help in the Conservatory Library with several local indexing projects, inventory and catalog the library collection in the Afrikan Heritage House, and work with the Student Friends of the Library.

As an undergraduate Tabia participated in the Mellon internship program and loved it: "It was an amazing experience which really helped me focus my interest in librarianship." In August she joined the other Mellon fellows for a leadership institute in Atlanta, where they learned leadership skills and visited the libraries of such diverse institutions as the Carter Center, the Coca-Cola Company, CNN, Emory University, Georgia Institute of Technology, and the King Center.

Tabia, who is from Silver Spring, MD, majored in African American Studies at Oberlin. When not working she enjoys creating jewelry and spending time and money at Bead Paradise in downtown Oberlin.



*Tabia Gaston*



## Haipeng Li

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to new Chinese-American librarians and for his publication record and contributions as a peer reviewer for professional journals. On campus, Haipeng has been very active in the Oberlin Shansi Association, coordinating activities with librarians at Shansi partner institutions, and arranging visits of Shansi scholar librarians at libraries in the United States. Congratulations, Haipeng!

## Carnegie

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but also as a dominant social venue on campus. The main reading room and seminar rooms were favorite places to study and, for many couples, heading to the library each night was a regular date. Carnegie was also the scene of many a prank orchestrated over the years by creative students.

The Carnegie Library was largely vacated with the dedication of the Seeley G. Mudd Learning Center in 1974. For a number of years, Carnegie continued to house the Oberlin Public Library on the ground floor. Many *Perspectives* readers will recall that as you entered the front doors, the children's room was to the left and the adult room was to the right. The Public Library moved to its new facility on South Main Street in December 1990, and the public rooms in Carnegie were gradually renovated and repurposed.

In 1990 the reading room was christened the Root Room in honor of Director of Libraries Azariah Smith Root, who served as College librarian from 1887-1927. The former circulation offices were renamed the Fowler Room after Julian S. Fowler, library director from 1928-1956. Both spaces now serve as function rooms for receptions, dinners, conferences, and other college events. The former public library spaces, staff work areas, and seminar rooms are now occupied by several College offices, including the Registrar, Admissions Office, and Geology Department. The old book stacks are still in place and serve as a vital on-campus storage facility for lesser-used library materials.

## New Digital Resources

*continued from page 5*

African Cultural Heritage Sites and Landscapes, African Plants, and Struggles for Freedom in Southern Africa. New materials are added on an ongoing basis. *Aluka* is expected to be integrated during 2008 into JSTOR, a digital archive of scholarly journals and other information.

*China Online Journals* provides access to over 2,800 major Chinese language full-text journals from Wanfang Data, the leading information content provider in China. Subject coverage includes business and economics, law and politics, social sciences, and arts and humanities, with retrospective coverage back to 1997.

*Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) Daily Reports* presents the United States' principal record of political and historical open source intelligence for the period 1974-1996. FBIS includes English translations of written and spoken material from radio and television broadcasts, news agency transmissions, and magazines and newspapers. The original mission of the FBIS was to monitor, record, transcribe, and translate intercepted radio broadcasts from foreign governments, official news services, and clandestine broadcasts from occupied territories. Many of these materials are firsthand reports of events as they occurred. As such, *FBIS Daily Reports* constitutes a unique archive. Oberlin subscribes to Part 2, consisting of files on Sub-Saharan Africa 1974-1980 and 1987-1996, and South Asia 1980-1987.

*iPoll Databank @ the Roper Center for Public Opinion Research* is a full-text, up-to-date source for U.S. nationwide public opinion organized at the question-level. It allows users to sift through nearly half a million questions archived from national public opinion surveys since 1935. Surveys were originally gathered by academic, commercial, and media survey organizations such as Roper, Gallup Organization, Harris Interactive, ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, Pew Research Associates, Yankelovich Partners, and many more. *iPoll* complements survey data available in the database *Polling the Nations*.

*Language and Linguistics Behavior Abstracts (LLBA)* indexes the international literature in linguistics and related disciplines in language sciences. The database covers all aspects of the study of language including phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics. It provides abstracts of journal articles and citations to book reviews drawn from over 1,500 serials, and also provides abstracts of books, book chapters, and dissertations back to 1973.

The Library also recently gained access to the following resources as part of a statewide initiative funded by a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant administered through the State Library of Ohio. These databases are now available to all Ohioans through Libraries Connect Ohio (LCO). Many of these resources will support the College's various public school partnerships and should be particularly useful to Oberlin students who volunteer as tutors in the local school system, as well as those enrolled in the College's new Graduate Teacher Education Program.

*Biography Reference Bank (BRB)* provides biographical information on approximately half a million people from antiquity to the present. *BRB* offers substantive narrative profiles and thousands of images from a variety of sources including magazines and journals. The biographies are updated daily and are searchable by name, profession, place of origin, gender, race/ethnicity, titles of works, birth and death dates, keyword, and the presence of images.

*Consumer Health Complete* provides convenient access to easily understandable health and medical information. The site includes links to online medical encyclopedias, popular reference books, magazine articles, evidence-based reports, drug and herb information, health news, and images, videos and animations related to conditions and procedures.

*Science Online* offers a comprehensive, curriculum-oriented overview of a broad range of scientific disciplines through extensive essays, diagrams, biographies, and experiments. Included are thousands of essays on major topics and issues in science and technology; diagrams, illustrations, images, videos, and flash animations; science experiments and activities covering key principles in science; biographies of key scientists throughout history; news articles; a chronology of science history; and content tied directly to national and state science education standards.

*World Book Web* is a suite of online research tools that delivers encyclopedia articles, primary source collections, educator tools, student activities, pictures, audio, and video, complemented by current periodicals and related Web sites. In addition to *World Book Encyclopedia*, the site includes a dictionary, atlas, and Spanish-language encyclopedia.

# Join Us. Be A Friend.

The Friends of the Oberlin College Library provide significant support for special acquisitions and programs that help the Library fulfill its fundamental role in the academic life of the College.

Members receive the *Library Perspectives* newsletter, invitations to Friends programs, and other privileges. Most of all, Friends have the satisfaction of supporting Oberlin's outstanding Library.

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## Friends Update

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special collections materials as opportunities arise during the year.

Highlights of Friends programs included a one-day symposium on preservation and the history of the book; an engaging lecture by Nicholas Basbanes on the subject of paper at the annual dinner on December 1; and talks by Baron Pineda, Assistant Professor of Anthropology; Catherine Oertel, Assistant Professor of Chemistry; Pawan Dhingra, Associate Professor of Sociology; Diana Roose, Secretary of the College; Leonard Smith, Professor of History; and Cleveland book collector Robert Jackson.

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Library

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