



# Library *Perspectives*

## OBERLIN'S BIG READ: FAHRENHEIT 451



Ray Bradbury's science fiction novel *Fahrenheit 451* will occupy a prominent place in the community this year, as

Oberlin College, the Oberlin Public Library, and Oberlin High School partner to bring the National Endowment for the Arts' Big Read initiative to Oberlin. The NEA has awarded \$6,800 to the college on behalf of the three partners for the Oberlin Big Read.

Science Librarian Alison Ricker and Reference and Instruction Librarian Jennifer Starkey are spearheading the project, having worked with a planning group of a dozen individuals over the past year to develop the grant proposal. The [oberlinbigread.org](http://oberlinbigread.org) blog lists the planning participants, events, and opportunities for book discussion groups and provides links to Ray Bradbury's official website as well as that of his biographer, Sam Weller.

NEA has funded projects in more than 800 communities in the U.S. since launching the Big Read in 2007. The program is intended to "restore reading to the center of American culture" by involving an entire community in reading the same book. Big Read communities choose one book from a list of 31 titles established by the NEA. *Fahrenheit 451* was selected for Oberlin through a participatory process. The planners believe the novel's themes of government suppression of information, loss of intellectual discourse, overwhelming dominance of media, and erosion of personal relationships will resonate widely with the Oberlin community.

*continued on page 9*

## JEANNETTE SORRELL TO PERFORM AT FRIENDS DINNER

Acclaimed early music conductor Jeannette Sorrell '90 and a small ensemble from Apollo's Fire, the Cleveland Baroque Orchestra, will be featured performers following the Friends of the Library annual dinner on Saturday, September 25. Sorrell will speak about the works they perform and discuss the process through which she has researched musical works and prepared them for performance by her orchestra.

Apollo's Fire is dedicated to performing 17th- and 18th-century music on period instruments. The orchestra was founded in 1992 by Sorrell and has performed in a wide variety of American and international venues. During 2010 the orchestra will embark on a major U.S. tour, performing Monteverdi's *Vespers* with support from the National Endowment for the Arts. The ensemble will

also tour Europe with concerts in Spain, the Netherlands, and London, where the BBC will broadcast the concert. Apollo's Fire has had many broadcasts on National Public Radio, and the ensemble has received critical acclaim for its 13 recordings. The orchestra's most recent release is a new recording of Mozart's *Symphony No. 40 in G Minor* on the British label Avie.

*continued on page 9*



*Jeannette Sorrell*

## iPADS NOW AVAILABLE FOR CHECKOUT

**THE LIBRARY HAS ACQUIRED 15 iPADS**, Apple's popular new tablet computer, that can be used to read e-books, browse the Web, and run numerous other applications. The iPads can be checked out from the Main Library Circulation Desk for a three-day loan period. With Wi-Fi connectivity, the compact devices provide access to the library's electronic collections, the campus Blackboard system, and other websites.

The library has closely followed emerging e-book technologies over the past several years. The iPad is the first portable, lightweight device that is compatible with the library's numerous e-book collections, all of which are accessed through a web browser. Two iPads were circulated on a trial basis last May, allowing users to experiment with the device and assess its user-friendliness and potential as an e-book reader. Allison Gallaher, Head of Circulation, notes that the iPads have proven very popular with students and that use has been brisk, with each iPad circulating well over 100 times in the first two months of availability. "The long battery life of up to 10 hours per charge is a real breakthrough in the viability of tablet computers for use as e-book readers," notes Gallaher.

*continued on page 5*

## FRIENDS UPDATE

THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY received \$48,801 in membership contributions and matching gifts during the 2009-10 academic year. Membership in the Friends totaled 759, including 521 regular members who contributed directly to the Friends, 146 members who donated to other library funds or made gifts-in-kind, 42 members who were students or recent graduates, 41 life members, and 9 honorary members. Both total giving to the Friends and the number of members increased substantially from 2008-09 levels, which had declined due to the financial crisis.

The Friends allocated \$40,000 for acquisitions and to support subjects across the curriculum. Purchases included special collections materials for the Anti-Slavery Collection and to support specific courses; a variety of reference and multidisciplinary resources; and items in the fields of art, music, and the natural sciences. The Friends also allocated \$10,000 for purchases for special materials that become available on the market and require immediate action.

Highlights of Friends programs included a well-attended talk by Rick and Laura Brown in conjunction with the Polish wooden synagogues exhibition in the fall; faculty talks by Dan Chaon (Associate Professor of Creative Writing), Erik Inglis (Associate Professor of Art History), Mary Garvin (Longman Professor of Natural Sciences), Margaret Kamitsuka (Associate Professor of Religion), Ann Sherif (Professor of Japanese), and Roland Baumann (Emeritus

*continued on page 8*

## 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 LIBRARY FALL 2010 PROGRAMS

### Exhibitions:

**In Praise of Music: A Book Arts Sampling from the Frederick R. Selch Collection of American Music History**

*Monday, September 20 – Friday, December 10, 2010, Academic Commons, Mudd Center*

### Lectures and Other Events:

**“Framing Innocence: A Mother’s Photographs, a Prosecutor’s Zeal, and a Small Town’s Response,”** Talk and reading by Lynn Powell, Visiting Assistant Professor of Creative Writing  
*Monday, September 13, 7:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall, First Church in Oberlin*

### Friends of the Library Annual Events

*Saturday, September 25*

- 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 Performer, Jeannette Sorrell and members of Apollo’s Fire, Root Room, Carnegie

**Big Read Kick-Off Bonfire,** Featuring remarks by ALA President-Elect Molly Raphael ’67  
*Saturday, October 2, 4:00 p.m., Tappan Square*

**“Controlling Desires: Sexuality in Ancient Greece and Rome,”** Talk by Kirk Ormand, Associate Professor of Classics  
*Wednesday, October 13, 4:30 p.m., Mudd 050, Moffett Auditorium*

**“A Skeptic’s Guide to Writers’ Houses,”** Talk by Anne Trubek, Associate Professor of Rhetoric and Composition and English  
*Wednesday, November 10, 4:30 p.m., Mudd 050, Moffett Auditorium*

**“Trying to Think with Emily Dickinson,”** Talk by Jed Deppman, Associate Professor of Comparative Literature and English  
*Tuesday, December 7, 4:30 p.m., Mudd 050, Moffett Auditorium*

## RECENT GIFTS

THE LIBRARY gratefully acknowledges the following monetary gifts and gifts-in-kind:

Margaret Atkinson ’60, Scott Bennett ’60, Mimi Halpern ’60, and David Miller ’60 have all made generous gifts or pledges to the Class of 1960 Library Support Fund, which will be used to purchase resources for student capstone experiences and to facilitate collection digitization.

Theresa Brown ’78 and Bruce Regal ’78, as well as William G. Roe ’60, have made major gifts to the Friends of the Library.

Mimi Halpern ’60 and Anne ’62 and Charles ’64 McFarland have made major gifts to the Academic Commons project.

Geraldine Pergament has made a major

gift to the James Walter Bass and Idella Bass Richardson Endowed Library Book Fund.

Robert I. Rotberg ’55 has made a major contribution to the Robert and Fiona Rotberg Endowed Library Book Fund.

Adele Logan Alexander, Professor of History at George Washington University, has given a copy of her daughter Elizabeth Alexander’s poem, *Praise Song for the Day: A Poem for Barack Obama’s Presidential Inauguration*. The volume was presented by Professor Alexander to Oberlin President Marvin Krislov.

Saretta Barnett, mother of Howard Barnett, Jr. ’76, has given many books on African art from her late husband’s library.

*continued on page 9*



## ARCHIVES ACQUIRES CHARLES LANGSTON LETTER

In April the College Archives acquired an important handwritten letter by Charles Langston, one of the Oberlin-Wellington rescuers. Written on June 8, 1859, to Quaker businessman Benjamin Coates, the four-page letter sheds new light on Langston's thoughts about his role in the Oberlin-Wellington rescue, popularized in Nat Brandt's 1990 book *The Town that Started the Civil War*.

In 1858, after runaway slave John Price was abducted by bounty hunters and imprisoned several miles south of Oberlin in Wellington, an outraged group of Oberlin College professors and students, along with white and free-black townspeople, rescued Price and brought him back to safety in Oberlin. Langston was a key figure in this event. Along with other participants he was jailed, put on trial, and found guilty of inciting a mob to rescue the fugitive slave. At his trial, Langston delivered an eloquent speech before the judge defending the rescuers and condemning the Fugitive Slave Law; his influential words were instrumental in the eventual reversal of his conviction.

In the letter Langston comments on his speech before the judge and discusses his plans to revise and publish it. He notes that "a more extensive circulation of the speech would promote the cause of humanity," and that income from the publication would help defray some of his own expenses "incurred in these trials, which have been by

no means small." The letter also documents Langston's thoughts about the repatriation of slaves to Africa and the fact that he was in contact with, and apparently supported, a leading figure in the repatriation movement. Coates was one of the best-known white supporters of 19th-century efforts to resettle slaves in Africa. Langston praises



*The Oberlin-Wellington Rescuers; Charles Langston is 12th from the left.*

Coates' efforts: "Your attention has in the Providence of God been called more particularly to Africa, mine to the United States. I rejoice that you have labored so much for that benighted country. Our object is the same. We will not disagree. I with all my heart congratulate you on your successful labors for Africa."

Charles Langston was the brother of John Mercer Langston, who was the first African American to attend a theological school, the first African American

lawyer in Ohio, and the first African American elected to Congress from Virginia. Charles, the grandfather of Langston Hughes, moved to Oberlin in 1834, following the death of his parents. He enrolled in the Preparatory Department at the age of 15, becoming one of the first African Americans to attend the college. He later enrolled in the college course, although he did not graduate. He lived in the Oberlin area for a number of years, becoming actively involved in the Underground Railroad. He later moved to Kansas, where he became involved in agriculture, politics, business, and community affairs. He died in 1892 in Lawrence, Kansas, at the age of 75.

*continued on page 10*

## TRIZNA RECEIVES FRIENDS SCHOLARSHIP



**LOUIS TRIZNA '10** is this year's recipient of a \$2,500 Friends of the Library graduate library

school scholarship. Trizna graduated in May with a major in mathematics. He continued employment in the library this past summer as a stacks worker. As an undergraduate, Trizna worked for seven semesters at the main library circulation desk, quickly rising to the level of student supervisor.

Lisa Brlas, Trizna's supervisor, praised his creativity, ability to work independently, and willingness to mentor student coworkers. "Louis is known for his calm demeanor and mature attitude, two desirable traits at a sometimes stressful service desk," she noted.

Trizna has enrolled in the School of Library and Information Science at Simmons College, with plans to concentrate

in reference and information services. He would like to work eventually in public libraries. "It was not until entering college that I realized the true value and necessity of library services," he said. "Helping people find the resources they need, as well as informing them of the library's available resources and how to use them effectively, are services that I find most enjoyable to perform and of greatest importance, as they are essential for users to get maximum benefit from their library."

Trizna is the 12th Oberlin College alumnus to receive the Friends Scholarship since its inception in 2002. •

## NEW DIGITAL RESOURCES

The library recently acquired the following new digital resources in support of curricular programs.

*American Periodicals Series Online, 1740-1900* contains full-color scans of more than 1,100 historic American magazines, journals, and newspapers from the archived collections at the Center for Research Libraries. These resources illuminate the development of American culture, politics, and society. Articles can be searched by author, title, source, and words in the complete text. The collection is arranged in three series: 1741-1800, the period of transition from British colony to emerging nation; 1800-1850, pre-Civil War and the era of debate over slavery; and 1850-1900, Civil War and Reconstruction.

The library has greatly expanded its access to *Periodicals Archive Online (PAO)* through a subscription upgrade. The database provides a permanent archive of hundreds of scholarly journals in the arts, humanities, and social sciences from 1802 to 2000. Nearly 20 percent of the journals are in non-English languages, mirroring the broad international scope of *PAO*. When used in conjunction with *Periodicals Index Online*, *PAO* allows users to perform a comprehensive survey of the scholarship on a particular topic and to link seamlessly to relevant full-text content.

*Naxos Spoken Word Library* contains recordings of some of the world's greatest literature, including classic novels, plays, and poetry from medieval times to the 21st century. The audiobook recordings are organized in various categories, such as biography, great epics, religion, classic fiction, and Shakespeare's plays, with new titles added monthly. Readers include many prominent actors, such as Kenneth Branagh, Paul Scofield, and Juliet Stevenson. Many texts are available to follow on screen, providing a comprehensive presentation of the literature and an excellent language-

*continued on page 8*

## STUDENT BOOK COLLECTION COMPETITION



*David Field, Alice Ollstein, and Nathaniel Mich with Friends President Janice Zinser and Collection Development Librarian Jessica Grim*

Last spring the Student Friends of the Library coordinated a book collection competition designed to recognize students who collect books and to inspire others to take up the hobby. Students submitted essays describing their motivation for collecting and their criteria for selecting individual items. They also submitted an annotated bibliography of selected titles in their collections.

First Place, with a prize of \$300, went to David Field '11 for his collection "Books About Baseball." Field's collection, which reveals his passion for the game, contains a wide range of publication types, including novels, poetry, memoirs, philosophy and cultural criticism, comics, statistics, and humor.

## IN PRAISE OF MUSIC: A BOOK ARTS SAMPLING FROM THE SELCH COLLECTION

**BOOKS AND MUSIC** from the Frederick R. Selch Collection of American Music History will be exhibited in the Main Library from September 20 through December 10, 2010. The Selch Collection illustrates the development of music, musical instruments, and music theory in Europe and the United States (see *Perspectives*, Spring 2009). The collection consists of over 6,000 books, manuscripts, and printed music as well as prints, drawings, and other artwork dating from the 16th through 19th centuries.

Second Place and a prize of \$200 was awarded to Alice Ollstein '10 for "Alices in Wonderlands." Ollstein started collecting at age 7, when she received a facsimile of Lewis Carroll's manuscript. She has copies of the novel in multiple languages and seeks unique artistic interpretations of the text. She also collects works that are inspired by or are responses to *Alice in Wonderland*.

Third Place and a prize of \$100 went to Nathaniel Mich '10 for "Eating Through History: Cookbooks as Ethnography and Living Texts." Mich's collection includes a wide variety of cookbooks and other kinds of food writing. Through collecting he found a way to blend his personal interest in food and cooking with his academic work.

The three winners were invited to exhibit selections from their collections in the Academic Commons in Mudd Center. Prizes were awarded at a reception held in Azariah's Café in May. As a gesture to encourage all of the collectors to continue their efforts, the Friends of the Library gave each entrant a \$10 gift certificate for use at local Oberlin merchants.

The selection committee, which included Collection Development Librarian Jessica Grim, Special Collections Librarian Ed Vermue, and Amelea Kim '12, coordinator of the Student Friends of the Library, evaluated collections on their quality, strength, and potential for growth. A total of 17 students submitted entries, the largest number ever received in the book collecting competition. •

The exhibition is organized around six broad themes: musical instruments, the foundations of music theory, the printed musical note, book arts and book binding, instrumental tutors, and early American music printing.

The exhibition is planned in conjunction with the appearance of Jeannette Sorrell and members of Apollo's Fire at the Friends of the Library annual dinner and the liberal arts college workshop on book studies (see articles on page 1 and page 6). •



## LIBRARY CHOSEN FOR “WINDOW TO CHINA” BOOK DONATION PROJECT

The National Library of China (NLC) has selected the Oberlin College Library to join its “Window to China” Book Donation Project. Launched in 2006, the program’s purpose is to promote Chinese culture, help people in other countries learn about China, and increase the availability of Chinese language scholarship internationally.

Through the program, top-notch domestic publications on Chinese politics, economy, environment, society, history, culture, and science are selected for distribution to other countries. Each year, both Chinese and English language books are selected by the NLC for donation to key overseas libraries. The program includes Chinese commercial titles as well as government publications.

East Asian and Web Development Librarian Xi Chen first heard about the program last spring while attending the Council on East Asian Libraries annual meeting in Philadelphia. “The current recipients in the U.S. are mostly big and well-known university libraries such as Harvard, Yale, Columbia, UCLA, and Duke,” explained Chen. She realized the potential benefit from the program and wrote a letter to NLC officials pointing out that, as a top-ranked liberal arts college with cultural and academic ties to China extending back to the 19th century, Oberlin would be a valuable addition to the list of participating institutions. NLC approved Oberlin’s application in July.

So far the “Window to China” Project has donated over 80,000 books to 133 libraries in 65 countries. The NLC has begun sending lists of books to Oberlin, from which library staff and East Asian faculty can select up to 200 titles annually. Materials are expected to begin arriving this fall. Free catalog records for the gift books are included with the project.

Chen notes that these books, often difficult to obtain through traditional channels, will support the college’s strong East Asian studies program and become a valuable supplement to the library’s already strong Chinese language collection.

Next spring, the library plans to highlight materials received through the program in a display on the main level of Mudd Center. •

## MOLLY RAPHAEL ’67 ELECTED ALA PRESIDENT



**MOLLY RAPHAEL ’67** has been elected president of the American Library Association (ALA). She is serving as president-elect in 2010-11 and will assume the president’s role after the ALA Conference in June 2011. The oldest and largest library association in the world, ALA has more than 62,000 members representing all types of libraries in the United States and abroad.

Raphael will be in Oberlin October 1-3 to speak at the kick-off of Oberlin’s NEA Big Read (see article on page 1) and meet with students interested in librarianship as a career. A reception for library staff is planned for Friday, October 1, where she will talk about the most pressing issues for U.S. libraries.

Encouraging library school students, new librarians, and library staff to be active in ALA was one of Raphael’s campaign issues, and is central to one of the highest priorities for her presidency: diversity and inclusiveness. She intends to strengthen

ALA scholarship, leadership and mentoring programs with a goal of increasing diversity within libraries “so that our library staffing at all levels, as well as collections and services, reflect the demographics of the communities and institutions we serve.” She looks forward to exploring these and other issues with Oberlin students and library staff.

Raphael recently retired as Director of Libraries, Multnomah County, Portland, Oregon, and she previously served as Director of the District of Columbia Public Library and as DC State Librarian. Her professional service in ALA ranges from committee work in various divisions of the association to long tenure as a councilor, executive board member, and chair of several association-wide committees central to ALA’s mission, including the Intellectual Freedom Committee. Her knowledge of intellectual freedom issues and broad experience in libraries makes her an ideal speaker at the Big Read Kick-Off.

Raphael served two terms on the Friends of the Library Council from 1997 to 2003 and also acted as chair of the planning committee for the very successful Oberlin Alumni Librarian Conference held in November 1999 (see *Perspectives*, Spring 2000). She earned her Oberlin BA in psychology and MS in library science at Simmons College in 1969.

Raphael joins two other distinguished Oberlinians who have held the ALA presidency: Azariah Smith Root ’84, College Librarian from 1888 to 1927 (ALA president 1921-22) and Keyes Metcalf ’05, University Librarian at Harvard from 1937 to 1955 (ALA president 1942-43). •

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### *iPads, continued from page 1*

During the trial phase, users were invited to complete a brief survey about their iPad experience. High on the list of “likes” were convenience, ease of use, the ability to surf the Web and read materials online, and e-mail access. Drawbacks included the limited number of installed applications and the awkwardness of the on-screen keyboard.

Because the iPad is intended for a single owner, it has inherent limitations in a library setting involving multiple users. Nonetheless, the product shows promise as an e-book reader. Collection Development Librarian

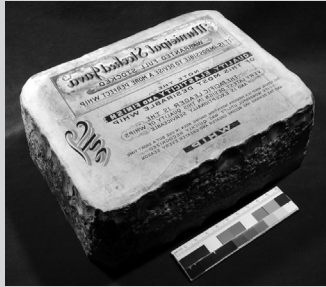
Jessica Grim believes the iPad will become even more useful for libraries as new applications for reading specialized content are developed by publishers and database vendors. “The library will continue to monitor trends in e-book readers and periodically test new products that have the potential to increase access to and use of the library’s growing electronic collections,” says Grim.

Library users who own iPads can access the library’s e-book collections at: [www.oberlin.edu/library/ebooks.html](http://www.oberlin.edu/library/ebooks.html) after first logging in to the campus network. •

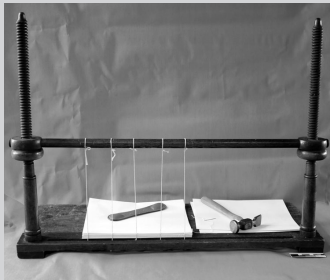
## BOOK STUDIES OBJECT COLLECTION



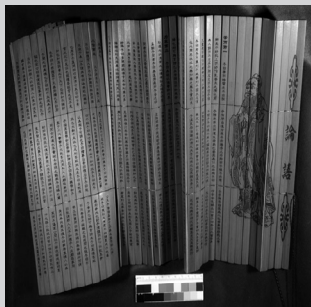
*Binding tools*



*Lithographic stone*



*Sewing frame*



*Bamboo scroll facsimile*

**“The effect on students of learning from original objects is truly stunning. These experiences leave a lasting impression, constituting for many a highlight of the course.”**

**SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARIAN** Ed Vermue has witnessed steadily growing interest among faculty and students in studying the book as both object and art form. There has also been increasing interest in objects and artifacts that enrich the study and understanding of book history and culture.

The library’s special collections now house an impressive range of objects that exemplify book history broadly defined, encompassing early writing systems, calligraphy, manuscript illustration, papermaking, printing, and bookbinding. “There have always been curiosities hidden in our collections—a clay tablet, Egyptian papyrus fragments, a medieval leather Torah, Asian manuscripts, and wooden printing blocks,” says Vermue, “but I have worked consistently to add complementary objects.” Recently he acquired etched copper and steel plates, lithographic stones, and halftone dies to assist in explaining illustration processes.

“The library is a place where undergraduates can and should hone their skills in working with primary resources,” remarks Vermue. “The effect on students of learning from original objects is truly stunning. These experiences leave a lasting impression, constituting for many a highlight of the course.” Some of the items that have been acquired are facsimiles of historical objects; they serve very well as teaching tools, since they can be handled, engaging students’ tactile senses and providing first-hand encounters with communications

technologies of the past. Examples include a replica of the Rosetta Stone, a Greco-Roman diptych, a Chinese bamboo scroll, and a Roman inkwell and reed pen. To round out the collection, the library has occasionally commissioned artisans to make replicas of objects, such as an 18th-century mold for making paper.

The Special Collections Department also contains superb examples of craft book bindings that showcase numerous periods, styles, and techniques, including a recently acquired 19th-century tortoise shell binding, an embroidered binding, a collection of book binding and finishing tools, and an antique sewing frame. Through an important donation, the library recently acquired a complete letterpress studio that will enable students to experience typesetting and printing by hand. These ‘museum objects’ are increasingly being presented alongside texts to help explain book construction and manufacturing, and showcase the variant forms texts can take. In collaborating with faculty who wish to enrich their courses by incorporating book studies, the library’s Special Collections Department has transformed itself from a mysterious and hidden treasure room into an accessible, hands-on humanities lab that offers numerous opportunities for students to view and examine special collections materials and related objects up close.

Selected images from the Book Studies Object Collection are linked from the library’s digital collections page at: [www.oberlin.edu/library/digital/](http://www.oberlin.edu/library/digital/)

## BOOK STUDIES WORKSHOP

On October 29 and 30 Oberlin will host a workshop for a select group of liberal arts college faculty members and special collections librarians on the topic “Book Studies and the Liberal Arts.”

The workshop, funded by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, is being coordinated by Assistant Professors of English Laura Baudot and Wendy Hyman, with assistance from the library.

The event will feature a keynote address by Jonathan Rose, Professor of History at Drew University, presentations by faculty members, and discussion of issues of common concern. In addition to Oberlin, teams represented at the workshop will come from Amherst,

Carleton, Colorado, Grinnell, Smith, Vassar, and Wellesley colleges.

The workshop will explore a variety of issues related to book studies, including teaching with special collections materials, pedagogical uses of hands-on training in book arts, integrating book studies into liberal arts courses, reconciling book studies with the curricular needs of disciplines, and book studies as a curricular entity.

Baudot and Hyman, who are also coordinating a new faculty curricular committee that will explore possibilities for books studies as a curricular area at Oberlin, hope the workshop will be a seminal event in the development of book studies at Oberlin. •



## WORKSHOP ON GOOGLE'S ACADEMIC CONTENT

Most people associate Google primarily with the popular Internet search engine. Last June members of the Reference and Instruction Department and Director of Libraries Ray English presented a workshop for Oberlin College faculty and staff on scholarly resources provided by the Internet giant. The workshop, entitled "Google's Academic Content," included presentations on Google Scholar, Google Books, Google's Public Data Explorer, and the legal case surrounding Google Books.

Google Scholar is a freely accessible, multidisciplinary database of scholarly literature that includes journal articles, patents, and legal opinions. It covers most peer-reviewed journals from major scholarly publishers.

Google Books is a digital archive that allows users to search the full text of millions of books that have been scanned by Google from research library collections or made available by participating publishers. It presents readers with the entire text or a portion of the text, depending on the book's copyright status and Google's agreements with the publisher. Google Books also includes nearly 200 magazines and journals.

The Google Books project has been the subject of much controversy following its inception in 2004. English provided background on the legal battle between Google and the publishers and authors who sued the company for copyright infringement. He also summarized the status of the proposed settlement agreement now before the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York and some of the many possible outcomes that may result from the court's decision.

Google Public Data Explorer, a recent project of Google Labs, makes it possible to use visualization tools to tell stories with numbers. Datasets currently available through the service come from the OECD, World Bank, the European Union, and selected U.S. government agencies such as the Census Bureau, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The workshop will be repeated early in the fall semester. •

## ENHANCING LEARNING THROUGH DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

Oberlin's committee for the Five Colleges of Ohio Next Generation Libraries grant has funded project proposals by Steven Wojtal, Professor of Geology, and Maren Milligan, Visiting Instructor of Politics. The grant will enable faculty members to create digital collections that enhance student learning (see *Perspectives*, Spring 2010).

Wojtal has a collection of nearly 1,000 digital images of geological features; he hopes to enhance the collection by adding geospatial location data to each image. Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) coordinates will allow viewers to locate the features on topographic or geologic maps, or even to visit the actual sites. Wojtal will also explore the possibility of linking his images to GoogleEarth files or other online map applications. Alan Boyd, Associate Director of Libraries, will work with Wojtal to design the templates, which will allow a student assistant to input the data.

Wojtal plans to make the collection accessible to Oberlin students, secondary school teachers, and researchers worldwide by linking the collection to two major earth science education repositories: the Digital Library of Earth System Education (DLESE) and the Science Education Resource Center.

Milligan, who teaches courses in Middle East politics, has been exploring Oberlin's connections to the region, primarily through the work of former college president Henry Churchill King. In 1919 King led President Woodrow Wilson's American section of the Inter-Allied Commission on Mandates in Turkey, known as the King-Crane Commission. While the Oberlin College Archives has many materials related to the work of the commission, they are incomplete, divided among different collections, and accessible only in person. The goal of this multiphase project is to create a centralized digital collection of materials from the King-Crane Commission that will be useful for scholars interested in Middle Eastern history, politics, and religion.

*continued on page 9*

## NEW STAFF: CATALINA OYLER AND PAT STURGES



*Catalina Oyler and Pat Sturges*

Catalina Oyler began working in July as the Mellon Digital Initiatives Coordinator for the Next Generation Libraries Project (see *Perspectives*, Spring 2010). An employee of the Five Colleges of Ohio, she is based in Oberlin but divides her time among all of the schools, working on an array of digital projects at each. "It's great to be working with a consortium that has such a good track record of collaborating," says Oyler, who looks forward to helping each library meet its particular challenges.

Catalina grew up in Calumet, a small town in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. She studied history at the University of Michigan, where she also earned her graduate degree in archives and records management. While there she worked in the manuscripts division of the William Clements Library. Before joining the Five Colleges of Ohio project, Catalina held a similar position with Arizona Archives Online, a digital collaboration involving institutions such as universities, museums, and hospitals. She was responsible for designing workflows, creating metadata, and training staff.

Pat Sturges joined the library staff as Preparations Assistant in March. She had not worked in a library previously and has been amazed at the range of books being added to the

*continued on page 8*

*New Digital Resources, continued from page 4*

learning facility. The service also includes a range of related non-fiction works as well as Naxos educational products, which provide background on operas and the lives of great composers.

*Naxos Video Library* offers a performing arts streaming library with over 475 full-length videos of classical music performances, operas, ballets, live concerts, and documentaries, enabling users to watch the world's greatest opera houses, ballet companies, orchestras, and artists. Users can create custom clips and individual playlists. Subtitles are available in over five languages, and libretti are often included as well.

*American History in Video (AHIV)* provides a rich collection of online video for the study of American history. Students and researchers can analyze historical events and their presentation over time through commercial and governmental newsreels, archival footage, and documentaries. Videos can be searched by dates, historical events, people, places, and topics. A transcript is included for all spoken word videos, allowing the viewer to follow the text as videos are played. Transcripts can be searched for the occurrence of specific words, and users can also create their own assemblage of clips. Upon completion, *AHIV* will offer more than 5,000 titles and 2,000 hours of footage.

Prepared with the assistance of the American Political Science Association, *Encyclopedia of Political Science* (5 vols.) covers central ideas, theories, concepts, research frameworks, and political practices from around the world, highlighting the intersections of politics with other disciplines. *Encyclopedia of U.S. Political History* (7 vols.) examines the political evolution of the United States from the 1500s to the present day, focusing on political institutions, culture, behavior, and change. *Encyclopedia of Religion in America* (4 vols.) examines the origins, development, adaptation, influence, and interrelations of the many faiths practiced in the United States, including major world religions, new religious sects, cults, and religious movements. All three encyclopedias are published by CQ Press. •

## KATHY CARPENTER AND LINDA SLOCUM RETIRE

Kathy Carpenter and Linda Slocum worked a combined 43 years in the main library, stationed just a few desks apart in the technical services area. Both were feted at retirement teas in June to celebrate their contributions to the library and the college.



*Kathy Carpenter*

Carpenter had recently completed her 25th year as Library Technician in the Continuing and Electronic Resources Department, where she managed student assistants and performed a variety of complex tasks involved in the maintenance of the library's periodical and newspaper collections. In 2007 she played a major role in planning and implementing the reorganization of the current periodicals and newspapers area adjacent to Azariah's Café in the Academic Commons. The project required temporary relocation of more than 1,000 titles to the second floor of Mudd Center.

*Updates, continued from page 2*

College Archivist). A high point of the year was the talk by James McBride at the annual dinner along with his separate joint appearance with filmmaker Jonathan Demme. In addition, Johanna Drucker, Professor of Bibliography at UCLA, delivered a lecture in conjunction with the spring exhibition of the Ruth Hughes Collection of Artists' Books.

The Student Friends of the Library were very active during the year. The group sponsored several visits to Special Collections as well as film showings and the student book collecting competition. •

Carpenter stressed the valuable contributions student assistants made in that project and in the processes of checking in, shelving, preparing for binding, and the myriad other tasks required for a continually evolving collection of physical format subscriptions. Hiring, training, and supervising students was "thoroughly enjoyable" for her. Her immediate plans include gardening and relaxing; she may also pursue long-neglected interests in drawing and photography, and she hopes to travel with her husband, Eric Carpenter, Emeritus Collection Development Librarian.



*Linda Slocum*

Slocum began work as Gifts Coordinator in 1994 and also served as the weekend circulation supervisor from 1996 through 1999. In her gifts role, she maintained the extensive database of gifts-

*continued on page 9*

*New Staff, continued from page 7*

library's collections and the number of steps involved in getting them ready for the shelf. She appreciates the warm welcome she has received from the library staff, which she has found to be "a diverse and knowledgeable group."

Before coming to the library she was the administrative assistant for the Graduate Teacher Education Program, a position she held from January 2009 until June 2010 when the program closed. She previously worked at Nordson Corporation and Gilford Instruments. •



### *Digital Collections, continued from page 7*

Working with Milligan and College Archivist Ken Grossi, a student assistant will digitize and create metadata for selected King-Crane materials from among the Oberlin papers of King and his assistant William Bohn. The project will also identify relevant materials from the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and Wilson's papers at the Library of Congress for possible future digitization.

Over the next two years, the campus committee will periodically solicit additional proposals from teaching faculty. Eligible projects should involve digitization of materials that are integral to courses. Materials may be drawn from the library's special or archival collections or from collections that belong to a faculty member or department. Grant funds may be used for student labor, student research assistance, outsourced digitization services, and needed materials.

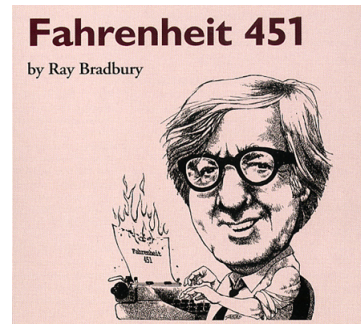
Members of the Oberlin College Campus Committee are Joyce Babyak, Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences; Xi Chen, East Asian and Web Development Librarian; Ray English, Director of Libraries; Ken Grossi, College Archivist; and Steve Volk, Professor of History and Director of the Center for Teaching Innovation and Excellence (CTIE). •

### *Retirements, continued from page 8*

in-kind, corresponded with every donor, and processed over 150,000 gift volumes over the years. She oversaw the receipt of every item, determining, in consultation with other staff members, which were appropriate for the collection and which to sell in one of the many book sales held during her tenure. She worked through a substantial backlog of gifts during the past 15 years, and remembers with appreciation some particularly interesting and valuable collections donated by notable alumni, Friends, and others with Oberlin connections.

Slocum recently started a two-year term as president of the League of Women Voters Oberlin Area; this and other volunteer activities will occupy much of her time. She also hopes to travel with her husband, Harold Slocum. She continues to work as managing editor at the Oberlin College Press, a half-time position she has held since 1999. •

### *Big Read, continued from page 1*



The Oberlin community's commitment to collaborative literacy projects is well-established through such initiatives as America Reads, The Bridge, W.A.V.E., an active G.E.D. program, and reading programs sponsored by the city's parks and recreation department. The planning group is reaching out to these and other groups, including the *Oberlin News-Tribune*, Oberlin Main Street-Chamber, MAD Factory, FAVA, Kendal at Oberlin, and civic and religious organizations, to encourage book discussion groups and events related to the themes of the book. Representatives from Kendal

have contributed significantly to early planning and have scheduled several Big Read events in the Kendal community center. The Oberlin City Fire Department will be on hand for the Big Read Kick-Off on Saturday, October 2, which will feature a bonfire on Tappan Square. American Library Association President-Elect Molly Raphael '67 will speak at the event, which coincides with ALA's Banned Books Week.

On March 16, 2011, Chris Crutcher, whose books for young adults have been frequently challenged in school and public libraries, will offer a keynote speech about freedom to read and its relation to *Fahrenheit 451*. His talk falls during Sunshine Week, which emphasizes open government and the people's right to know. The League of Women Voters Oberlin Area will host a discussion of these issues featuring local journalists that same week. Sam Weller will visit Oberlin during the Big Read to discuss his work as Ray Bradbury's biographer and promote his newest book, *Listen to the Echoes: the Ray Bradbury Interviews*.

Many additional events are being planned, and everyone in the community is invited to participate. Anyone can host a discussion group or other Big Read event. Groups can check out from Oberlin Public Library a circulating "Book Group Kit" that has copies of the book, an audio CD from the Big Read, and readers' guides. Ricker and Starkey also welcome ideas and suggestions for other events. Please contact them if you would like your event posted on the Big Read events calendar.

Hundreds of copies of *Fahrenheit 451* have been ordered and will be given away in the early fall. Numerous copies will also be available at local bookstores and at both the public and college libraries. For those who have never read *Fahrenheit 451*, this is a great time to do so! •

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### *Sorrell, continued from page 1*

Sorrell is an internationally prominent figure in early music circles. She has had guest engagements as both a conductor and soloist in venues throughout North America and Europe. She has also been featured on several live performance interviews on National Public Radio. She is the winner of the 1994 Erwin Bodky Award from the Cambridge Society for Early Music; the 1995 Noah Greenberg Award from the American Musicological Society, given for an outstanding project involving the collaboration of scholars and performers; and the Cleveland Arts Prize in 2003. She received an Artist Diploma from Oberlin in 1990 and also holds an honorary doctorate from Case Western Reserve University. •

### *Recent gifts, continued from page 2*

**Robert Hardgrave** has added over 200 books to his extensive donation of works about Indian history and government.

**John Harding '61** and **Harvey Culbert '58** have each donated collections of musical scores to the conservatory library.

Professor of History **Heather Hogan** has donated books and a large number of Russian journals on microfilm.

**Robert I. Rotberg '55** has added a substantial collection of books and serials about Haiti to his already very generous donation of material relating to Sub-Saharan Africa.

**Patricia Bakwin Selch** has made a major additional donation to the Frederick R. Selch Collection of American Music History. •

## Join Us. Be A Friend.

The Friends of the Oberlin College Library provide significant support for special acquisitions and programs that help the library fulfill its fundamental role in the academic life of the college. Members receive the *Library Perspectives* newsletter, invitations to Friends programs, and other privileges. Most of all, Friends have the satisfaction of supporting Oberlin's outstanding library.

### Annual Membership Categories:

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|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$2 Student   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$5 Recent Graduate |   |
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Please return this form with your membership contribution to: Friends of the Oberlin College Library, Mudd Center, 148 W. College St., Oberlin, Ohio 44074-1545. Please make checks payable to Oberlin College. Friends contributions are tax-deductible.

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### *Langston Letter, continued from page 3*

A scanned facsimile of the letter is now available for study and reference, as is a transcription of the text. College Archivist Ken Grossi is excited that the college was able to obtain this rare historical document, made possible with support from the Friends of the Library. Says Grossi, "I look forward to sharing this important letter with researchers and seeing it used to support new scholarship and understanding of the early history of Oberlin and the abolitionist movement." •