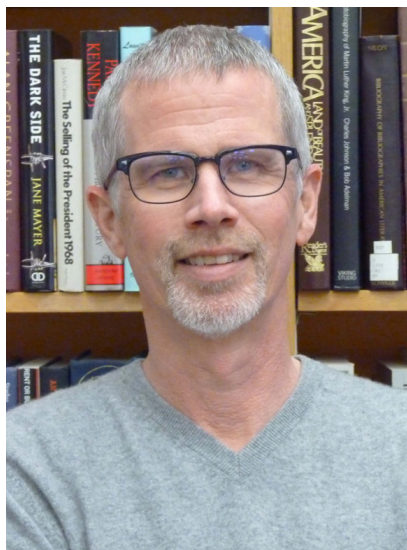




Library *Perspectives*

ALAN BOYD TO SERVE AS INTERIM DIRECTOR



ALAN BOYD, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF LIBRARIES, will serve as Interim Director during the 2015-16 academic year, following the retirement of Ray English (see *Perspectives*, Fall 2014). Boyd joined the library staff in 1981 as Senior Cataloger. He became Head of Cataloging and Library Systems in 1987 and Associate Director in 1992.

Because of the variety and scope of his current duties, which include library technical services and systems, digital initiatives, and budget management, Boyd will delegate some of his responsibilities when he assumes the director's role.

Reference and Instruction Librarian Megan Mitchell, who has extensive experience with library web technologies, will take on the role of Digital Initiatives Coordinator. She will work with library staff, faculty, and students on a wide range of digital collections and projects, including

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STANLEY KING DONATES JAZZ COLLECTION

Stanley King of New York City has donated a rich collection of jazz materials to the Conservatory Library's special collections. Included are magazines (with many rare French jazz magazines from the 1930s), correspondence, financial records for various touring bands in the 1940s, autographed playbills, jazz and blues sheet music, photographs, posters, concert programs, and various audio and video items as well as approximately 350 books on various jazz and blues topics.

The collection is especially strong in objects related to Louis Armstrong, reflecting King's fondness for early Dixieland jazz. Among its gems are a letter from Armstrong to his first wife in the 1940s, years after they had divorced; a letter from Armstrong to Mezz Mezzrow discreetly asking him to bring marijuana on an upcoming European tour; an original concert program for John Hammond's groundbreaking "Spirituals to Swing" concert at Carnegie Hall in the 1930s; and



Sheet music from the King Collection

a VHS copy of *Satchmo the Great*—a film not commercially released that documents Armstrong's tours for the State Department in the 1950s.

The first portion of the King Collection was received in December 2014,

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ENDOWED FUND HONORS RAY ENGLISH

Friends of the Library President Robert Longworth announced at the organization's annual dinner in November that the Friends Council had voted unanimously to establish the Friends of the Library/Ray English Endowed Library Discretionary Fund. The fund honors English for his outstanding efforts in founding and promoting the Friends organization and will provide future library directors with "no strings attached" income

to enhance library programming, acquire resources, and improve facilities and services.

During English's 25-year tenure as Azariah Smith Root Director of Libraries (1990-2015) he often used discretionary funds provided by individual donors to subsidize important new initiatives and projects and to address the library's highest-priority needs. Examples include start-up funding for integrating the library into the college's First Year Seminar Program,

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RECENT GIFTS

THE LIBRARY gratefully acknowledges the following significant planned gifts, monetary gifts, and gifts-in-kind.

- **Norman '56 and Barbro '56 Jung** have included the library in their estate plan. Major monetary gifts have been received from:
- **Mimi Halpern '60** for the Ray English Endowed Library Fund.
- **Lloyd Frank '47** for an endowed library fund.
- **Donald Oresman '46** for the Ray English Endowed Library Fund.
- **Clyde Owan '79** for the George A. and Susan P. Lanyi Endowed Library Book Fund.
- **Lucy Marks '73** and **Scott Sprinzen** for the Friends of the Library and the Lucy Marks Endowed English and Classics Book Fund.
- **Marjorie Henderson MAT '70**, retired Library Administrative Assistant, and **Norman Henderson**, Emeritus Professor of Psychology, for the Ray English Endowed Library Fund and for the Frank Laycock Endowed Library Fund.
- **Theresa Brown '78** and **Bruce Regal '78** for the Friends of the Library and the Archivist's Gift Fund.
- **Robert Taylor** and **Ted Nowick**, for the purchase of a rare architectural history title for the Art Library's special collections.
- **Linda Grimm**, Emerita Professor of Anthropology, and **Robert Grimm**, Emeritus Professor of Philosophy, for the

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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 SPRING 2015 PROGRAMS

Exhibitions:

Princehorn: Oberlin's Pioneer Photographer. An Emblematic Record of the Sioux at Glen Island

Monday, March 2–Sunday, March 22, Academic Commons, Mudd Center

An Exercise in Freedom: The Mail Art of Edgardo Antonio Vigo

Monday, March 30–Friday, June 5, Academic Commons, Mudd Center

Books by Reunion Class Authors

Tuesday, May 19–Tuesday, May 26, Academic Commons, Mudd Center

Lectures and Other Events:

"Racial Reckoning: Prosecuting America's Civil Rights Murders," Talk by Renee Romano, Professor of History

Tuesday, February 24, 4:30 p.m., Moffett Auditorium, Mudd 050

"To Be And/Or Realized: Edgardo Antonio Vigo's Artistic Practice," Talk by Vanessa

Davidson, Curator of Latin American Art, Phoenix Art Museum

Wednesday, April 1, 4:30 p.m., Moffett Auditorium, Mudd 050

"Imagined Empires: A History of Revolt in Egypt," Talk by Zeinab Abul-Magd, Associate Professor of History

Thursday, April 16, 4:30 p.m., Moffett Auditorium, Mudd 050

"Visible Wars and the Ambivalences of Witnessing," Talk by Wendy Kozol, Professor of Comparative American Studies

Monday, April 27, 4:30 p.m., Moffett Auditorium, Mudd 050

Retirement Reception for Ray English

Wednesday, May 13, 4:30 p.m., Root Room, Carnegie

Commencement/Reunion reception for Friends of the Library, alumni authors, former library student assistants, alumni librarians, and anyone else who loves libraries and books

Saturday, May 23, 4:30–6:00 p.m., Azariah's Café, Mudd Center

FRIENDS COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

THE FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS of the Friends of the Library Council meeting held Saturday, November 1, 2014.

The financial report indicated that 2013-14 membership contributions to the Friends totaled \$58,406, slightly above the average of recent years. Income included a planned gift in the amount of \$46,000. The ending fund balance was \$78,786.

The Council approved the Acquisitions Committee's recommendation to spend \$42,215 for new resources for special collections and to support subjects across

the curriculum (see article on page 4).

The Membership Committee reported that regular Friends members (those who contribute directly to the Friends) as well as total Friends members (which includes all donors to the library) remained at high levels. The Program Committee reported on notable 2013-14 programs, plans for the fall 2014 semester, and possible annual dinner speakers.

The Council approved Friends graduate library school scholarships in the amount of \$3,500 each for Charlotte Beers Plank '11

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2014-2015 Friends Council

Officers:

Robert Longworth, *President*
Maxine Houck, *Vice President*
Eric Carpenter, *Secretary*

Members:

John Elder '53
Sebastiaan Faber
Jack Glazier
Herb Henke '53
Nick Jones
Stephanie Davis-Kahl '94
Gary Kornblith
Thelma Morris '54
Anne McFarland '62
Robert Taylor

Ex-Officio and Appointed Members:

Scott Smith '79, *Acquisitions
Committee Chair*
Janice Zinser, *Nominations
Committee Chair*
Daniel Goulding, *Program
Committee Chair*
Ray English, *Director of Libraries*
Jessica Grim, *Collection
Development Librarian*
Ed Vermue, *Special Collections
Librarian*
Sage Mitchell-Sparke, *Student
Representative*

Stanley King, continued from page 1

and additional shipments are expected in spring 2015. Jeremy Smith, Conservatory Special Collections Librarian and Curator of the James and Susan Neumann Jazz Collection, hopes to have the collection processed, described in a finding guide, and available for use by fall semester 2015. He also plans to exhibit some of the collection's highlights in the Conservatory Library and on the digital exhibit monitors in the Kohl Building by that time.

King, now retired, was a textile designer and manufacturer by profession. He has been an avid collector of memorabilia related to a number of interests besides American jazz, including George Washington and Charles Lindbergh. •

NEW FRIENDS LIFE MEMBERS

THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

awarded life memberships to Tracy Chevalier '84 and Myrlin von Glahn '48 at the organization's annual dinner on November 1, 2014.

Chevalier has pledged to donate her papers related to all of her published novels (see *Perspectives*, Fall 2014). She is the author of seven historical novels, including her modern classic *Girl with a Pearl Earring*. Her most recent work, *The Last Runaway*, is set in pre-Civil War Ohio near Oberlin.

The papers consist of hand-written and computer-printed drafts, research notebooks, print and electronic correspondence, and wide-ranging research materials, such as photographs, illustrations, physical objects, articles, documents, and maps. Papers related to *Girl with a Pearl Earring* and *Remarkable Creatures* were received by the library in January 2015.

Von Glahn has given the library a valuable collection of calligraphic art (see



Ray English, Robert Longworth, Myrlin von Glahn, and Alan Boyd

Perspectives, Fall 2014). The collection features her own original artworks and those by leading calligraphers in the United States, Britain, and Europe. Her gift also includes her personal library of books and periodicals on calligraphy as well as archival materials related to her compositions and her long career as a calligrapher.

The von Glahn collection is a superb addition to the library's holdings related to the history and art of the book. •

FRIENDS RESEARCH AWARDS



Rebecca Achtenberg and Zachary Bluford

REBECCA ACHTENBERG AND ZACHARY (ZAKK) BLUFORD were selected as winners of the Friends of the Library Research Awards for 2013-14. Achtenberg is a fifth-year

double degree student and Bluford is a college senior.

Achtenberg was nominated by James O'Leary, Frederick R. Selch Assistant Professor of Musicology, for her work "Firth, Hall, Pond & (Their Many) Co(mpanies)," a paper written for Music History 337: Introduction to Organology. The goal of the assignment was to provide a rich cultural context for a musical instrument—in this case a somewhat mysterious clarinet. Achtenberg's

research involved looking at objects and archival materials in the Frederick R. Selch Collection of American Music History, as well as scholarly literature. Although she was

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DAVIDSON TO LECTURE ON ARGENTINIAN ARTIST



VANESSA DAVIDSON, the Shawn and Joe Lampe Curator of Latin American Art at the Phoenix Art Museum, will present on April 1 a lecture on the Argentinian artist Edgardo Antonio Vigo. Entitled “To Be And/Or Realized: Edgardo Antonio Vigo’s Artistic Practice,” her presentation will explore the artist’s multifaceted career, which included mail art, text-based conceptualism, visual poetry, and performances he called “signalings.”

Vigo (1927-1997) was a pioneer of the mail art movement, which involves transforming everyday materials such as paper, postcards, and rubber stamps into works of art that are distributed directly through correspondence rather than



conventional channels such as galleries. A politically engaged artist, he was active during Argentina’s Dirty War, when the country’s military junta “disappeared” suspected opponents, including Vigo’s son Palomo.

An exhibition of Vigo’s mail art, entitled *An Exercise in Freedom: The Mail Art of Edgardo Antonio Vigo*, will be displayed in the Academic Commons in the Main Library from March 30 through June 5. The exhibition is drawn from the

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EDISON SOUND IN A SUITCASE

The Conservatory Library’s special collections now house a rare Thomas Edison Suitcase Phonograph that was donated by professional trumpet player David Kuehn. His gift was made in honor of Paul Eachus, Director of Conservatory Audio Services.

Edison invented the phonograph in 1877 and commercial production made the device broadly available beginning in the 1890s. Models of the Edison Home Phonograph were manufactured between 1896 and 1913. The phonograph donated by Kuehn is an early version of the Model A, dating from 1898-1901. It is known as a Suitcase Model because of the clips (two front and two rear) that attach the cover to the case.

The phonograph has the capacity both to record sound and to play two-minute wax cylinders. Its wooden case is in excellent condition with just a few spots of paint loss. The phonograph’s straight horn is so large



Edison Suitcase Phonograph

(36 inches long and 16 inches in diameter at the bell) that it is not self-supporting, requiring a tripod crane and a connector to attach the horn to the body.

Jeremy Smith, Conservatory Special Collections Librarian and Curator of the James and Susan Neumann Jazz Collection, plans to demonstrate the phonograph for Oberlin classes and groups of school children learning about the history of recording technologies. In recent years he has given similar demonstrations with a later and less rare 1908 Edison Standard

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FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY PURCHASES

At its annual meeting on November 1, 2014, the Friends of the Library Council approved spending \$42,215 of Friends funds to purchase the following materials in support of teaching, research, and learning.

Special Collections

The Ladies Complete Pocket-Book for the Year of Our Lord 1760. This compendium covers a host of topics to help the cultured 18th-century Englishwoman manage her daily affairs. Serving as almanac, diary, ledger, cookbook, and calendar, it includes everything from a chronology of historical events to recipes, popular songs and dances, astronomical information, forms for financial recordkeeping, an appointment book, and instructions on how to set a table properly. Oberlin’s copy, which includes several diary entries and notes about deaths, engagements, debts, and purchases, is of strong interest to faculty in the English Department.



Abbrégé de l’Art des Accouchemens, 1835.

For 30 years during the 18th century, Parisian midwife Angélique Le Boursier du Coudray traveled throughout France, teaching childbirth techniques to illiterate peasant women to try to lower the rural mortality rate. Her lessons are collected in this textbook that features illustrations using the newly invented four-color printing method. The book will be featured in Assistant Professor of Art History Christina Neilson’s spring 2016

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WINTER TERM AND INTERN PROJECTS IN THE LIBRARY

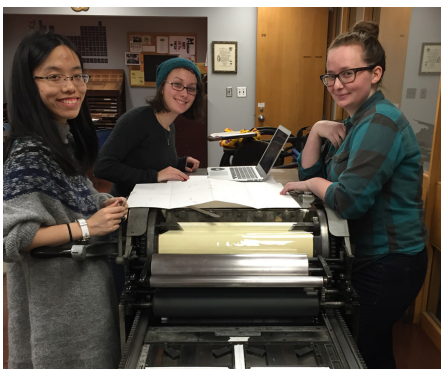
THE LIBRARY hosted in January a number of students who undertook projects for Oberlin's winter term or to earn practicum credit at the Kent State University Graduate School of Library and Information Science. Projects ranged from the technical aspects of library cataloging and metadata to online exhibitions and creative engagement with the book arts.

Sophomore Kate Diamond worked with Collection Development Librarian Jessica Grim on a project to increase awareness of diversity in science fiction and fantasy literature. She developed a database, called *All Our Worlds: Diverse Fantastic Fiction*, of over 800 books with



summaries for each title and the aspects of diversity represented in each book's content. The library purchased approximately 100 titles that she selected. The database, at allourworlds.com/aow/homepage.php, includes links to related resources and a list of the many sites that have featured her database.

The letterpress studio was again the site of a group project (see *Perspectives*, Spring 2014). Seven students, working with graphic designer and printer Robert Kelemen,



Students in letterpress studio; Yunjie Zhu, Sierra Maniates-Selvin, and Carolyn Holt

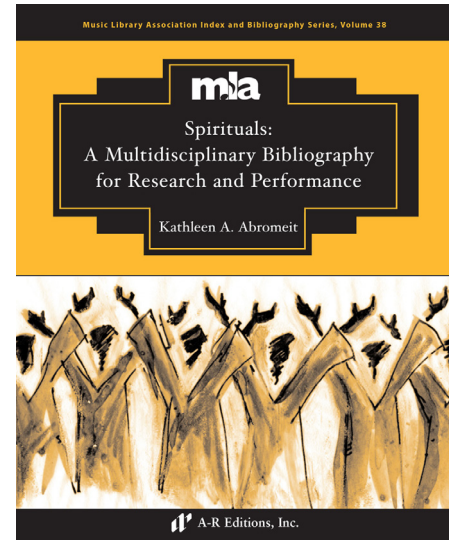
wrote, designed, and printed an illustrated booklet entitled *H is for History: Ohio from A to Z* that will be used by the Oberlin

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ABROMEIT PUBLISHES SPIRITUALS REFERENCE

Kathleen Abromeit, Conservatory Public Services Librarian, has written a major reference work entitled *Spirituals: A Multidisciplinary Bibliography for Research and Performance* recently co-published by the Music Library Association and A-R Editions. The book has been over 10 years in the making and reflects Abromeit's two-decades-long engagement with the subject.

Abromeit's interest in spirituals dates to a 1993 reference question that led to a protracted search for the song "Hear de Angels Singin'." That investigation led her to see a need to update the *Index to Negro Spirituals* published by the Cleveland Public Library in 1937. Abromeit embarked on what she calls a "little database project" that resulted in publication of *An Index to African-American Spirituals for the Solo Voice* (Greenwood Press, 1999).



A visiting scholar who consulted Abromeit's index inspired her to research the literature written about spirituals as well as references to spirituals in American literature. Her research led her to produce an interdisciplinary work that covers

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NEW DIGITAL RESOURCES

THE LIBRARY recently acquired the following new resources to support curricular programs and research.

Arts & Humanities Full Text includes both scholarly, peer-reviewed journals and selected trade and consumer publications. It covers many disciplines, such as art, architecture and design; classics, archaeology, and anthropology; literature, theatre, and film; philosophy and religion; music; and history.

Design and Applied Arts Index covers both contemporary and historical topics in design and applied arts periodicals from 1973 onwards. It indexes articles, news items, and reviews. All types of materials are covered, from textiles and ceramics to glass, wood, and metal. Topics include jewelry, furniture, fashion, typography, and landscape architecture, as well as business-oriented subjects such as advertising, packaging, and industrial design. Also included are web and computer-aided design, computer graphics, and animation.

Environmental Science & Technology Letters, a new journal from the American Chemical Society, is now available to all OhioLINK libraries. It reports on all aspects of environmental science, both pure and applied. Areas covered include natural and affected environments, energy, environmental measurement methods, and remediation and control technologies.

Handbook of the Birds of the World: Alive contains the full content of the acclaimed 17-volume series of the same name. Though Oberlin has long held the print version, the online resource adds useful new elements, including 50,000 videos, photographs, and sounds. Content is updated continuously by professional editors and by moderated



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INTERVIEW WITH RETIRING DIRECTOR RAY ENGLISH



LIBRARY PERSPECTIVES spoke recently with Ray English about his career in librarianship, his time at Oberlin, and his future plans.

What prompted you to consider a career in librarianship?

Librarianship for me was a second career choice. I attended graduate school with the intention of teaching German literature at the college level. Alas, the job market for foreign language teachers tanked as I was finishing my PhD. I knew several people who were working in libraries, so I decided to give library school a try. I wasn't sure if it would work out until I got my first position as a reference intern at Duke University. I absolutely loved working with students and faculty, and from that time on I never regretted my decision to switch careers.

Who were your most important mentors early in your library career?

Lester Asheim was my favorite professor in library school at the University of North Carolina. I didn't realize at the time that he was something of a legend in library circles. He was a wonderfully friendly man and also one of the clearest thinkers and communicators I've ever known. Florence Blakely, who was

head of reference at Duke, was an early role model for me. She had extraordinary knowledge, a wonderful way of engaging library users, and an unforgettably optimistic and enthusiastic orientation to life.

What advice would you give young people contemplating a career in librarianship?

I would offer several suggestions about how to enhance their career prospects. But above all I'd ask them to think about what's involved in librarianship and whether the work is a good match for their interests. If it is, I'd tell them to go for it. It's a great profession.

What are some highlights of your time at Oberlin?

I think we've built a terrific library staff over the years. We know—based on faculty and student surveys—that they're highly respected for their professionalism, service orientation, and focus on Oberlin's academic mission. I'm very proud of the partnerships that our staff have built with faculty in the areas of collection development, student research skills, special collections, and digital collections and scholarship. We've also seen major improvements in library facilities, including the new Science Library in 2001, the Academic Commons in 2007, and the recent renovation of our Main Library special collections area. I also have many fond memories of the development of the Friends of the Library and especially the annual dinner speakers we've had over the years. Finally, joining OhioLINK in the mid-1990s has been crucial in maintaining our status as a first-rate college library.

What stands out most about your library work at the national level?

I really enjoyed my involvement in the Association of College and Research Libraries and I think I made important contributions. I found my work with SPARC (the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition) to be

especially gratifying. I was involved with SPARC from its inception and chaired its steering committee for several years. SPARC has grown into an extraordinarily effective advocacy organization and I often find myself smiling with each announcement of SPARC's latest achievement. It's largely because of SPARC that our country—and indeed the world—is where it is today with open access to scholarship and public access to government-funded research.

What's your favorite RAE Board question?

For those who don't know, the RAE Board is what students call the suggestion board near the entrance to the Main Library. It has that name because I answer most of the questions and sign responses with my initials—RAE. It's a tradition that was started by my predecessor, Bill (William A.) Moffett, so it was known as the WAM Board in the 1980s. My favorite question came up not long after I became director. A student who was no doubt trying to stump me asked, "What is the meaning of life?" Rather than answer with a standard reply ("I reserve the right not to respond to a question if I am unable to invent a connection between it and the library"), I decided to do a short riff in response. Basically I said that, though it may be hard to figure out "the meaning of life," with thought, reflection, and engagement it's possible to discover "meaning in life." I went on to mention some of my favorite authors and books—such as Buber, Emerson, and early Platonic dialogues—that I've found important in my own development.

Tell us about your role in capturing the infamous book thief James Shinn.

I played a bit part in that episode. Shinn was apprehended in Oberlin

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REFLECTIONS ON FOUR DECADES IN LIBRARIANSHIP

in 1981 and had in his possession in the Oberlin Inn about \$30,000 in rare and valuable books that he had taken from our library and a few others. Bill Moffett, who was library director then, had been tipped off by a student who had noticed Shinn behaving suspiciously. Bill enlisted me one evening in observing Shinn in the stacks. I confronted Shinn when I saw him moving a metal object through the crease of several books and he immediately tried to leave the library. Bill stopped him at the exit and managed to escort him to a private area where he was questioned by security and then the local police. There was enough evidence for a warrant to search his room at the Oberlin Inn. The credit for apprehending him belongs to Bill, who orchestrated his arrest and was instrumental in his capture after Shinn jumped bail in Oberlin and resumed stealing valuable books in library open stacks, a trade he had learned in prison. Bill was also instrumental in bringing the problem of library book theft to the attention of both the library profession and rare book dealers.

Is it true that Disney owns the rights for *The Great Womb Chair Caper*?

No, those belong to Steven Spielberg. Seriously, and for those who don't know, we've had two episodes of vanishing womb chairs. One was an actual theft where a chair disappeared for months before a police tip led to its return. The other was a prank. A still-unknown party (yes, I have my suspicions) managed to move one of the chairs out of the library to the off-campus room of a student who awoke one morning to find it beside her bed. She called security and several of us rushed over in my car to get it, only to see the chair leaving the house in the back of a van that was headed

north out of town. We quickly chased it down. The students explained that, even though it looked like they were making off with the womb chair, they'd heard about it from other students, took it in order to pull off a prank on top of a prank, and were just driving around while they figured out where to stash it. Their plan was to leave it



Interviewing Tracy Chevalier '84, Commencement/Reunion Weekend 2013

on Wilder Bowl or Tappan Square early on Commencement morning. That episode actually had a happy ending. One of the students was quite a gifted artist and I wound up buying one of his pieces for the library, a beautiful work of abstract art. He recently gave the library an interesting photographic artwork made by his brother-in-law. This won't make for a movie script, but it's not a bad story.

What made this the right time for you to retire?

There are many factors that go into a decision to retire, but what most comes to mind is the advice that a good friend—a fellow library director—gave me several years ago. He had just decided to retire and I asked him the same question. He said, “When it's time, you'll know it.” I reached that point early in 2014 when everything coalesced and the decision felt right.

What are your plans for retirement?

I have a long-standing interest in philosophy going back to my undergraduate days

and also my graduate study in German literature. Over the years I've read extensively in related areas, particularly psychology. More recently I've gotten interested in such fields as evolutionary psychology and in neuroscience as it relates to human emotional and mental states. I want to write a work of original philosophy that takes a broad interdisciplinary perspective and is accessible to a general audience. The topic I want to tackle is both very old and very current. For lack of a better way of describing it at this point, let's call it “the art of being human.”

If you could arrange a private dinner party with a small number of guests from history, who would join you at the table and what would be the main topics of conversation?

It's a shame it could never happen, but I'd love to have dinner with some of the greats of the Axial Age—Siddhartha Gautama, Jesus of Nazareth, Lao Tse, and Socrates—since their lives and thought have great influence to this day, yet so much of what they actually said and did remains hidden. I would also like to invite someone more recent who represents a scientific worldview, probably Einstein. I would start the conversation, which I would fuel with abundant wine, with some age-old questions: What is the good human life? Can one know what is right (morally good)? If so, how?

How do you plan to stay connected to libraries in retirement?

I expect mainly to be connected as a library user. A fact of life in librarianship is that we learn about so many books and other materials that we simply don't have time to read, listen to, or watch. I'm looking forward to a time when I can freely engage library resources while pursuing my interests. I can't think of a better place to do that than right here in Oberlin. •

A CELEBRATION OF OBERLIN SCHOLARSHIP

THE FRIENDS of the Library sponsored a well-attended reception on December 5 to honor Oberlin faculty and staff authors and creators of books and other major works.



Thirty-five authors and creators of books, artist exhibition catalogs, recordings, and major articles made submissions for the event, which was held in Azariah's Café in Mudd Center. Works published/issued during calendar years 2012, 2013, and 2014 were eligible for recognition.

As was the case when the library last hosted this event in 2011, every division of the college and conservatory was represented. Authors included tenured, visiting, and emeriti faculty as well as college staff. The works represented a wide diversity of scholarship and creativity, from poetry to physics, Korea to Morocco, real numbers to the body politic, and viols and ancient life forms witnessed through photography. Over two dozen of the featured works were on display for perusal and discussion with the authors, and most of these titles are now cataloged for the library's collection.



All of the submitted works will be included in Oberlin SHARES (www.oberlin.edu/shares), and a copy of the brochure created for the event, listing all of the submitted entries, is available from the library administrative office. •

NEW CENTER FOR EMERITI FACULTY



A new work and social center for retired faculty has been created on the lower level of Mudd Center through renovation of a former study lounge. Sean Decatur, former Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, initiated the new space, which is adjacent to the Moffett Auditorium. Constructed in January 2015, it includes conference tables, lounge furniture, and several desks that will be assigned to selected emeriti who receive Senior Research Scholar status.

Sandra Zagarell, Donald R. Longman Professor of English, and Professor of History Heather Hogan, in her former capacity as Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences for Faculty Development, helped plan the center. They considered the library to be an

ideal location for a number of reasons, including its central location on campus and proximity to research resources and social spaces, such as Azariah's Café.

Zagarell and Hogan hope that the center will facilitate integration of retired faculty into college life by providing opportunities for scholarship, intellectual exchange,

and camaraderie as well as planned and serendipitous encounters among emeriti and current faculty and students. They note that many of Oberlin's peer institutions already have such spaces for retired faculty.

The new center was celebrated at a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Friday, February 20. •



BENZING AND LORANDEAU RETIRE

TWO LIBRARY STAFF MEMBERS have recently retired. Lizette Benzing, a member of the Cataloging and Metadata Services Department, retired in August 2014 after 40 years of dedicated service to the library. She joined the staff in June 1975 and had an ongoing passion for her work. Lizette cataloged tens of thousands of books for the Art Library during her career, including many unique acquisitions in the artists' books collection. She also served on the board of OCOPE (Oberlin College Office and Professional Employees).

Nina Lorandeanu retired as Weekend Supervisor in the Main Library Circulation Department in September 2014 after 14

years in the position. She supervised student assistants and was responsible for billing for lost and missing items. In addition to her library job, she has served as Director of the Office of Aging in Amherst, Ohio and has generously shared her expertise with Oberlin colleagues dealing with aging parents. Renowned for her homemade cookies, Nina served unofficially as the Circulation Department baker, delighting student assistants with cookies at exam time and even after her retirement was effective. Nina's plans for the future include spending time with her grandchildren, traveling with her husband, and reading. •

MICHAEL ROY AND JAMES MICHALKO TO DISCUSS LIBRARY FUTURES

Michael Roy, Dean of the Library at Middlebury College, and James Michalko, Vice President for the Research Library Partnership at OCLC, will visit Oberlin on March 30 and April 22 respectively to discuss issues related to academic library futures. During their informal visits to campus they will meet with library and educational technology staff, faculty, and administrators. Their visits will inform library planning and the search for a new director of libraries that will take place during the 2015-16 academic year.

Roy has an extensive background in libraries and information technology. He is currently responsible for both the library and educational technology at Middlebury and previously had responsibility at both Middlebury and Kenyon College for integrated library and information technology divisions. He served earlier in his career as director of academic computing and digital library projects at Wesleyan University.

Michalko directs OCLC's Research Library Partnership within OCLC Research. OCLC is a nonprofit research and library service organization headquartered in Dublin, Ohio that manages WorldCat, the world's largest shared library cataloging database. He was previously president and CEO of the Research Libraries Group, a consortium of major research libraries that merged into OCLC in 2006. •

Davidson, continued from page 4

Art Library's extensive collection of mail art, which represents nearly 1,800 artists and includes more than 25,000 pieces.

A magna cum laude graduate of Harvard, Davidson received a Ph.D. in Latin American art history from New York University's Institute of Fine Arts. Her lecture, which is free and open to the public, will be Wednesday, April 1 at 4:30 p.m. in the Moffett Auditorium (Mudd 050). •

Digital Resources, continued from page 5

user participation, making it one of the most comprehensive resources available for all bird species of the world.

Hollywood, Censorship, and the Motion Picture Production Code, 1927-1968 covers 500 of the best-known films from the period, documenting 40 years of self-regulation and censorship in the motion picture industry. Enforced by the precursor of today's Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA), the Production Code presented guidelines governing American movie production. In its glory days, the Production Code Administration vetted, censored, and sealed virtually every Hollywood movie released in the American marketplace. The code was replaced in 1968 by the current film ratings system.

Independent Voices

An Open Access Collection of an Alternative Press

Independent Voices: An Open Access Collection of an Alternative Press, the inaugural product of Reveal Digital, is a multi-year project to digitize over one million pages from magazines, journals, newsletters, and newspapers drawn from the widely scattered alternative press archives of leading academic libraries, including Oberlin's. With resources spanning the 1960s through the 1980s, the project introduces a platform for libraries to collaborate and create unique digital collections, offering an alternative to mass digitization projects of mainstream publications. Starting with publications by feminists, the GI press, small literary magazines, and LGBT periodicals, the collection will grow to include additional untapped content such as campus underground newspapers, the minority press (Latino, Black, and Native American), and extreme right-wing publications. Oberlin has made a one-time contribution to help fund this openly accessible resource.

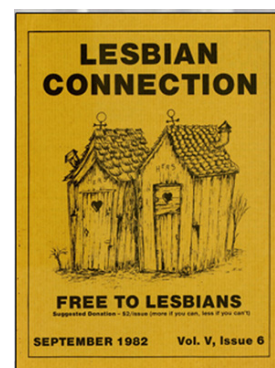
medici.tv is the world's leading classical music digital video channel, offering 1,400 high-definition webcasts and 100 live concerts each year. Programs include concerts, music festivals, operas, ballets, documentaries, master classes, educational films, and artist profiles. A selection of archival films dates back to the 1940s. Users can stream performances from some of the greatest orchestras and concert halls in the world on their desktop computer, mobile device, or Internet-connected TV.

Middle Eastern & Central Asian Studies indexes research, policy, and scholarly publications on the countries and peoples of the Middle East, Central Asia, and North Africa. Subject coverage includes political and economic affairs, law, international relations, business, the arts, society, anthropology, religion, and history.

PhilPapers: Philosophical Research Online is a collaboratively maintained site designed to facilitate the exchange and development of philosophical research. Using advanced trawling techniques and crowdsourcing, the service monitors journals, books, open access archives, and personal pages maintained by academics. Oberlin recently became an institutional subscriber, helping to enable the PhilPapers Foundation to continue hosting the largest open access archive in philosophy, with free access for home users and other online services such as PhilJobs and PhilEvents.

Urban Studies Abstracts indexes publications covering key areas of relevance to urban studies, including city and regional planning, urban affairs, community development, urban history, architecture, and more from 1973 to the present. •

Independent Voices: An Open Access Collection of an Alternative Press, the inaugural product of Reveal Digital, is a multi-year project to digitize over



JUSTIN LONG JOINS STAFF



JUSTIN LONG joined the Library's Cataloging and Metadata Services Department in February as a part-time Library Technician. Long's responsibilities include cataloging both print and non-print materials acquired for the Art Library. He will also coordinate various Art Library metadata projects.

Long brings substantial library experience to the position that includes familiarity with online library systems, cataloging, preservation, and processing. He graduated with a B.A. in organ performance

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RECENT LIBRARY STAFF PUBLICATIONS

REFERENCE AND INSTRUCTION LIBRARIAN

Jennifer Starkey has co-authored a chapter entitled "Google Drive for Library Productivity" in *The Complete Guide to Using Google in Libraries: Instruction, Administration, and Staff Productivity* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2015).

East Asian Librarian Xi Chen's article "Hidden Gems Uncovered—Discovering China Studies Special Collections in Liberal Arts Colleges in the U.S." was published in the February 2015 issue of *Journal of East Asian Libraries*. Her article "Web-based Subject Guides for East Asian Studies: Current Status, Challenges, and Recommendations" will be published in a forthcoming issue of *Reference Services Quarterly*.

Conservatory Librarian Deborah Campana has been named the new editor of *Notes: The Quarterly Journal of the Music Library Association*, effective July 1. •

Purchases, continued from page 4

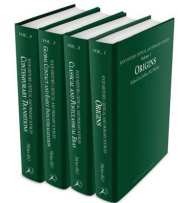
exhibition on art and healing at the Allen Memorial Art Museum.

American slave trader's seizure on Saint Helena, 1840 [manuscripts]. This collection of six original documents relates to the seizure of the American barque *Jones* in 1840 by the brig H.M. *Dolphin* at Saint Helena, a remote South Atlantic island under British rule. The ship, which was under suspicion of involvement in the slave trade, was conveyed to Sierra Leone, where a session of the Vice Admiralty Court took place in October 1840. The allegations were found to be true and the barque was confiscated, causing an argument between U.S. and British officials that continued for over 10 years. This resource will serve courses in Africana studies and history.

Multidisciplinary Resources

Romantic Women Writers Reviewed, 2011-2013. This nine-volume collection offers the first comprehensive compilation of contemporary reviews of the work of approximately 300 women writers of the Romantic period. More than 1,200 articles are reprinted from over 100 periodicals from the era.

Food History: Critical and Primary Sources, 2014. This four-volume collection comprises over 80 historical and contemporary sources on food throughout history. This topic is of increasing curricular and co-curricular interest, serving faculty and students in anthropology, biology, classics, and history.



World Englishes, 2013. This planned 12-volume set, which presents a comprehensive, detailed survey of English as it is spoken all over the world, supports study of the history and structure of the English language. Currently available volumes cover the British Isles, North America, and Central America.

Congressional Research Digital Collection: Part B, 2004-2010 [electronic resource]. Oberlin already owns *Congressional Research Digital Collection Part A, 1830-2003*, which the Friends helped support in 2007-2009. As with the earlier file, the new collection includes committee prints and Congressional Research Service reports. It will be useful for research across the social sciences.

Congressional Hearings: Part D, 2011-forward [electronic resource]. This file complements the historical congressional hearings collection from 1824-2010, which Oberlin already owns. Access to the full run of hearings on a single platform, where it is cross-searchable with other congressional publications, is critical for both ease of use and discoverability.

The Routledge Encyclopedia of Translation Technology, 2014. This is the first definitive encyclopedia for the field of computer-assisted translation, an increasingly significant area of study. It covers history, international developments in translation technology, and specialized topics such as online translation, subtitling, and translation management systems. It supports work in English, creative writing, and comparative literature.

JSTOR Arts & Sciences XIII Collection, and Ecology & Botany II Collection [electronic resource]. The newest JSTOR collections add an increasingly international set of journals in a range of liberal arts disciplines. When complete, *Arts & Sciences XIII* will contain at least 125 journals; *Ecology & Botany II*, which broadens JSTOR's scope in the areas of biological and plant sciences, will include a minimum of 80 journals. Together these collections support multiple disciplines, including art, Asian studies, history, English, music, philosophy, biology, and environmental studies.



Art

Two Years in Reverse, 2013 [artist's book]. Chicago artist Melissa Jay Craig's works embody an autobiographical element, serving as a type of journal in addition to their purpose

continued on page 11

Winter Term, continued from page 5

Heritage Center to illustrate Ohio history in its education programs.

Eight students worked once again with Aimee Lee '99 to learn the craft of papermaking in both Eastern and Western styles (see *Perspectives*, Spring 2014). They also learned how to decorate papers and create books with bindings appropriate to the cultural tradition of the paper. Special Collections Librarian Ed Vermue sponsored both the letterpress and papermaking projects and worked closely with the students in each group.

East Asian Librarian Xi Chen sponsored Kent State student Keiko Hill, who analyzed metadata of the Mary A. Ainsworth Japanese Artists' Books Collection. Hill used the CONTENTdm system to input metadata in an ongoing project that supports Professor of Japanese Ann Sherif's course entitled Book History in East Asia.



Keiko Hill

Junior Eva Fineberg completed a winter term project under College Archivist Ken Grossi with assistance from Associate Archivist Anne Salsich and Xi Chen. She used the Omeka online exhibition software to re-conceptualize the Oberlin Illustrated Building Guide and make it available in a new online format.

Senior Lemley Mullett worked with Selina Wang, Head of Cataloging and Metadata Services, to acquire hands-on experience in library cataloging. Her project included learning cataloging concepts for all formats of materials and gaining an understanding of authority data, balancing theory with practice in order to better serve

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Purchases, continued from page 10

as artworks. This book is an example of how artists use art to engage with illness and disability (in Craig's case, her deafness). It emphasizes Craig's tactile experience of nature.

Chronicles, 2002 [artist's book]. Professor of Studio Art Nanette Yannuzzi-Macias' book illuminates how the unpaid labor of the home opens a space for creativity, much as the unpaid labor of the artist does. The quotidian, domesticity, and labor are all part of the visual narrative of *Chronicles*, created over many years as the artist collected and assembled the visual history of her home.

Spring, 1993 [artist's book]. Known more for her best-selling novels (*The Time Traveler's Wife*, *Her Fearful Symmetry*), Audrey Niffenegger is first an artist and printmaker, whose graphic novels and artists' books are less widely known. This is an early example of her work, created before she began publishing novels.

The Madrid Codices, 1974 [facsimile]. This is a five-volume facsimile edition with commentary, transcription, and English translation of Leonardo da Vinci's two *Madrid Codices* manuscripts, which were only discovered in 1966 in the Biblioteca Nacional de España in Madrid. It supports a new art history seminar which explores the significance of materials in the early modern period in Europe.

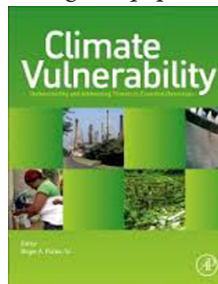


Medieval and Renaissance Sculpture: A Catalogue of the Collection in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, 2014. The Ashmolean Museum has one of the finest collections of medieval and Renaissance sculpture in the world. This important new three-volume catalog of its holdings covers sculptures in metal, clay, ivory, bone, and wood.

Science

Encyclopedia of Human Nutrition, 2013 [e-book]. The third edition of this award-winning work reflects recent scientific advances in the field of human nutrition. It covers many topics currently in the news, such as food safety, vitamins, genetically modified foods, plant-based diets, raw and organic foods, nutritional labeling, and potential treatment and prevention of diseases.

Treatise on Geomorphology, 2013 [e-book]. Providing a useful synthesis of the current state of the discipline, this work highlights historical developments, future challenges, laboratory experiments, and numerical simulations, along with discussion of research strategies, equipment, and field methods that reflect multiple approaches to understanding Earth's surfaces.



Climate Vulnerability: Understanding and Addressing Threats to Essential Resources, 2014 [e-book]. This work assesses from a scientific perspective a broad range of threats to our five most critical resources: water, food, ecosystems, energy, and human health. It goes beyond the role of carbon dioxide emissions in global warming to include other threats, such as population growth and the stress placed on energy sources due to emerging global affluence.

Music

Autograph manuscript on the Conservatoire Américain de Fontainebleau, 1920 [manuscript]. In this letter, Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937), prominent organist, composer, and secretary to the Académie des Beaux-Arts, offers detailed commentary on the establishment of the well-known Fontainebleau School, which had its roots in the United States' involvement in World War I.

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English, continued from page 1

planning and construction of the Academic Commons in Mudd Center, support for students to travel to South Africa for winter term projects in libraries, cleaning of the Reading Girl statue, and transportation and setup of equipment donated to establish the letterpress printing studio. •

Friends Highlights, continued from page 2

and Adekemi Lolade Gbadebo '11. It also approved Life Memberships for Myrlin von Glahn '48 and Tracy Chevalier '84 (see article on page 3). It had approved via e-mail prior to the meeting the establishment of an endowed fund honoring Ray English for his years of service as library director and his support for the Friends organization (see article on page 1).

The Council elected officers for 2014-15 (Robert Longworth, President; Maxine Houck, Vice President; Eric Carpenter, Secretary) and it also elected two incumbent members (Jack Glazier and Anne McFarland '62) to second terms and two new members (Gary Kornblith and Stephanie Davis-Kahl '94) to first terms. It approved an expenditure of \$10,000 to support development of a collection of pre-cinematic artifacts requested by faculty members from three different departments. It also approved a total expenditure of \$1,000 to support two winter term projects—one on letterpress printing and one on papermaking (see article on page 5).

Sophomore Sage Mitchell-Sparke, Coordinator of the Student Friends of the Library, presented the 2013-14 Student Friends report prepared by her predecessor Jesse Gamoran, and she summarized the group's current and planned activities.

The Council had a lively discussion of a report on the 2014 library self-study and external review, including major challenges facing the library.

Detailed minutes of the Council meeting are available on the Friends of the Library webpages at www.oberlin.edu/library/friends/minutes/. •

Recent Gifts, continued from page 2

Ray English Endowed Library Fund.

• **Sharon Sutherland '87** for the Friends of the Library.

• **Avonelle Walker '53** for the Friends of the Library and the Conservatory Library Special Book Fund.

• **Edwin Dugger '62** for the Conservatory Library Special Book Fund for the purchase of scores.

Generous monetary gifts have been received from:

• **Susan Phillips '76** for the Friends of the Library.

• **William Friedman '81** for the Friends of the Library.

• **Maxine Houck '58** for the Ray English Endowed Library Fund.

• **Lawrence Galdieux '65** for the George A. and Susan P. Lanyi Endowed Library Book Fund.

• **Cynthia Grubb '54** for the Friends of the Library.

• **Joseph Hickerson '57** for the Friends of the Library.

• **Norman '56 and Barbro '56 Jung** for the Friends of the Library.

• **Kahle Austin Foundation** for the Friends of the Library and jazz collection digitization.

• **Sarah Lawall '56** for the Librarian's Discretionary Fund for collection digitization.

• **Emily McClintock '76** for the Friends of the Library.

• **William Pollak '58** for the Kenneth Roose Endowed Memorial Book Fund.

• **Andrew Stone '80** for the George A. and Susan P. Lanyi Endowed Library Book Fund.

Significant gifts-in-kind include the following:

• **Stanley King** has donated an extensive collection of materials related to jazz (see article on page 1).

• **Tracy Chevalier '84** has donated papers related to her novels *Girl with a Pearl Earring* and *Remarkable Creatures*.

• **John and Susan Harvith** have given numerous scores and recordings as well as books on film and photography.

• **Nancy '63 and David Finke '64** have donated a collection of small press lesbian literature and related materials.

• **Joseph Sanders** has given additional books for the Joseph Sanders Science Fiction Collection.

• **Gene Woodling**, has contributed additional books and DVDs for the Gene Woodling Collection of Gay Fiction.

• **Don Harvey**, Visiting Assistant Professor of Studio Art, has donated several artists' books for the Art Library's artists' book collection.

• **Avi Brisman '96** has given a photographic work by artist Gregory Vershbow.

• **Harlan Wilson**, Emeritus Professor of Politics, has given a large number of political science books.

• **Sarah Epstein '48** continues to donate books for the Art Library, including many related to Edvard Munch.

• **Janice Zinser**, Emerita Professor of French, has donated a Balinese/Javanese shadow puppet for the library's special collections.

• **Norman Craig '53**, Emeritus Professor of Chemistry, has contributed books on chemistry and general science.

• **Michael Rosen**, Professor of Percussion, continues to donate scores and recordings for the Conservatory Library. •

Long, continued from page 10

from Wheaton College and stayed on to work for six years as Wheaton's interlibrary loan coordinator. As a student at Wheaton he took a number of courses in art history, which will prove useful in his new job. He also worked as an office manager for a Borders bookstore.

Long also holds a Master of Theological Studies degree from Nashotah House Theological Seminary in Wisconsin. In his spare time, he enjoys cooking, gardening, and running. Originally from Brunswick, Ohio, he is pleased to return to northeast Ohio. •

Research Awards, continued from page 3

not able to definitively name the maker of the clarinet, O'Leary had high praise for her research journey and intriguing narrative.

Bluford was nominated by Anuradha Needham, Donald R. Longman Professor of English, for his paper "Gibreel's Inadvertent Conversations: 'extending his internal repertory,'" written for English 388: Selected Authors: Salman Rushdie. In her nomination, Needham noted the challenges inherent in researching and writing about *The Satanic Verses*, a work known more for the controversy surrounding its reception than its literary merit. She found Bluford's essay "polished and compelling" for the way he skillfully blended his own close reading of the novel with the insights of scholars.

Friends President Robert Longworth presented the awards to Achtenberg and Bluford at a luncheon in December 2014. The Research Awards Committee members were Megan Mitchell, chair; Kathleen Abromeit, Conservatory Public Services Librarian; Alison Ricker, Science Librarian; and Ann Sherif, Professor of Japanese. •

Edison, continued from page 4

Phonograph Model D that is also part of the Conservatory Library's special collections.

According to Smith, "These items help bring to life the sound world of the early 20th century—the fragility of the cylinders, the labor involved in changing them out every two or four minutes, the inability to control volume, the poor sound fidelity. Students not only gain a greater appreciation of modern recording standards, but they leave with a tactile understanding of how technological developments have impacted both the creation and the experience of recorded sound over time."

The Edison Suitcase Phonograph will be on display at the entrance to the Conservatory Library during the spring 2015 semester. •

Boyd, continued from page 1

those funded under the Five Colleges of Ohio Mellon Foundation digital collections and scholarship grant (see *Perspectives*, Fall 2013). A temporary Reference and Instruction Librarian will be hired to take over some of Mitchell's reference duties.

Allison Gallaher, Head of Circulation, will assume expanded responsibilities in the areas of library systems, building management, and statistics gathering and analysis. Adjustments in other library staff responsibilities for the interim period are still under discussion.

Boyd holds both B.A. in Russian and M.A.L.S. degrees from the University of Iowa. Before coming to Oberlin he was a foreign languages cataloger at Virginia Tech. He previously served for a semester as acting library director in 1998 when English was on sabbatical. He looks forward to 2015-16 as a period of stability, but also as a time for library staff to grow and experiment as the college conducts a national search to fill the director's position. •

Abromeit, continued from page 5

references in music, theology, literature, history, society, and education, providing a unique perspective on the interaction of spirituals with American culture.

After six years of research and nearing the completion of her manuscript, Abromeit was contacted by a scholar for assistance in identifying spirituals based on psalm texts. This new demand led to adding an appendix of spirituals linked to Biblical passages and scriptural references in spirituals.

Abromeit notes that the "pluralism and diversity along with the complexity of the subject makes a multidisciplinary work like this both a joy and a challenge to tackle." She acknowledges the rich collections of the library as indispensable for her research and is grateful to many colleagues past and present for their support and assistance.

The publication of Abromeit's book was celebrated at an event in the Conservatory Lounge featuring solo voice performances of six spirituals by sophomores Ryan Dearon and Amber Monroe. Abromeit's work will have enduring value for musicians, musicologists, and spirituals enthusiasts. •

Purchases, continued from page 11

A New and Complete System of Music, or General Instructions for the Piano Forte, Organ, Pedal Harp, etc., ca. 1814. This extremely rare publication, a first edition tutor for keyboard instrument instruction, reflects author Joseph Davis' experiments in music theory, including an explanation of his "Union Cliff" invention, which consisted of placing the G-clef on the first line of the staff.

Méthode Raisonnée pour Apprendre à Jouer du Violon, ca. 1783. Leopold Mozart's *Violinschule*, a comprehensive treatise on violin playing, was translated into multiple languages and is widely recognized as the most important violin tutor of its time, offering insight into the musical and aesthetic education of Leopold's son Wolfgang Amadeus. Though considered an "inauthentic abridgment" of the German original, the French edition illuminates violin methods contemporary with Mozart and complements other editions and translations held in Oberlin's special collections.

Metodo pel Clavicembalo, ca. 1811. This rare first edition of a popular early Italian piano method book stands out from other treatises of the period for the attention its author, Francesco Pollini, pays to the relationship between technique and sound quality. This work serves the study of historical performance practice by documenting the early Italian school of teaching and complements related holdings in the Frederick R. Selch Collection. •

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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Winter Term, continued from page 11

user needs. Reference and Instruction Librarian Cynthia Comer also worked with Mullett, to demonstrate use of cataloging records from the public view.

Art Librarian Barbara Prior sponsored two students during winter term: senior Annabella Irvine and junior Dylan Goodman. Irvine created a zine from discarded objects she collected in libraries on campus, including doodles, lists, and photographs. She designed, printed, bound, and distributed 100 copies, including one for the library's collection. Goodman worked on the mail art collection, archiving and processing materials and learning about the mail art movement in order to understand more fully the policies, procedures, and development of the collection. •