This year marks the centennial of women’s suffrage in the United States. Although women have been enfranchised for one hundred years, the movement to obtain the vote for women has a much longer history, particularly at Oberlin College.

In January 2019 the Oberlin College Libraries Women’s Suffrage and Leadership Working Group was formed to plan projects and events to commemorate Oberlin’s participation in the suffrage movement and celebrate Oberlin women in leadership. A commemorative 2020 calendar, a traveling exhibit, and a digital collection were created to illustrate Oberlin’s efforts for and against the right for women to vote, and to provide resources for teaching, research, and scholarship related to these themes in Oberlin’s history.

Social media posts from the spring of 2019 through the end of 2020 have featured people, events, and important dates related to the history of the women’s suffrage movement. For example, on June 16, 1919 Ohio became the fifth state to ratify the 19th Amendment and on August 26, 1920 the 19th Amendment became law.

The second crowdsourcing campaign for the Mary Church Terrell Endowed Book Fund was held in conjunction with “Giving Tuesday” in November 2019. Donors received a commemorative 2020 calendar with a gift of $50 or more.

The National Women’s History Museum and the Oberlin College History Department co-sponsored the panel discussion “Tainted: Anti-Suffragism and Race Politics in the Crusade for Women’s Votes” on Tuesday, March 10 in the Hallock Auditorium from 4:30 – 6 p.m. Emerita Professor of History Carol Lasser and Assistant Professor of History Tamika Nunley participated in the panel. This event was part of the National Women’s History Museum “Determined to Rise” public program series related to women’s history topics from the early 1830s to the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920.

During March the traveling exhibit and materials from the Archives and...
From the Director

Dear Friends,

The year 2020 is a wonderfully significant year for Oberlin College and the Libraries. The centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment gives Obies and Friends an opportunity to celebrate our institution’s role as an engine of leadership. The brave decision of our early leaders to admit and graduate women in four year degree programs was exceptional for the times – impacting generations to come. Obie Leaders such as our Mary Church Terrell, Lucy Stone, Ida Gibbs Hunt, Anna Julia Cooper, Doris Stevens, and many more, stood courageously in the face of exceptional opposition to advance women’s rights and civil rights in America.

These women “leaned in” before the phrase gained traction in popular culture. Many of their decisions were not met kindly by the American press or the United States government. They were frequently jailed and harassed. Yet, they stood on the principles of social justice, freedom for all, fighting for an America that includes all of us and amplifies all of our voices. I feel particularly grateful to them for paving the way for me and millions of other women to lead in various sectors today.

Given Oberlin’s rich history in suffrage and coeducation, the Libraries staff began our work in early 2019 in crafting a year-long celebration that is worthy for this once-in-a-lifetime commemoration. Led by College Archivist Ken Grossi and Head of the Conservatory Library Deborah Campana, I charged a working group (see page 9) with leveraging materials from our outstanding College Archives and the collective talent of our team to create several educational components. Their work is nothing short of outstanding.

The majority of our programming and activities (free and open to the general public) will again situate Oberlin in an important international discourse regarding women’s leadership. Our 2020 calendar (provided to Friends at the Associate level and above) beautifully illustrates the stories of these brave women leaders who sought to change the course of history. Our traveling exhibition and open access digital exhibition extends our contribution to the public humanities by making our rich resources accessible to any interested student, educator, and researcher. Our active social media presence invites new forms of real-time digital engagement with Obies and Friends worldwide. Several objects-exhibitions within our libraries here on campus will highlight new narratives for students, faculty, and staff to explore.

Equally exciting is our partnership with Tamika Nunley, Oberlin Assistant Professor of History, and Fredara Hadley, Juilliard School Graduate Studies Professor (formerly an Oberlin Conservatory Visiting Assistant Professor of Ethnomusicology) to elevate the global impact of Shirley Graham Du Bois (OC ’34, MA ’35) in music, history, social justice, Pan-Africanism, and broadcast communications. A plaque in her honor will be installed in the Conservatory Library—a place where her creativity blossomed during her time as a student.

As we prepare to participate in our third “All In For Oberlin” campaign in April, we have set an ambitious goal that will strengthen our role as a leader in object-based pedagogy. The ongoing support of the Friends will afford us the ability to continue to acquire signature unique items that are hallmarks of our rich collections.

One very proud alum uses the hashtag #OberlinProud when sharing the work of the Libraries on Twitter with her network. This sweet gesture warms my heart and affirms why the Friends are so important to us. So much of our success is because of you. Thank you for all that you do for the Oberlin College Libraries.

In Honor of Learning and Labor,
Alexia
Farewell to Alexia Hudson-Ward

I first met Alexia a little over four years ago at a luncheon arranged by former Director of Libraries, Ray English. It was just the three of us, but by the end of our meal, I felt as though I had known Alexia for a very long time. I cannot believe that four years have passed so quickly.

As a lover of jazz music and a big fan of the late great McCoy Tyner, one of my favorite pieces by him is “Walk Spirit, Talk Spirit,” and in my opinion, Alexia has done just that. There have been many developments that have taken place during her tenure as Director of Libraries, with bringing such notables to campus for the annual Friends dinner such as Maria Balinska, Clifford Thompson, and Mitchell S. Jackson, just to name a few. And let’s not forget the special visit of the Honorable Robert L. Wilkins of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia last October.

Of course, the icing on the cake for me, and I’m sure many of us, was the main library’s naming after Mary Church Terrell. What a wonderful weekend that was not only with the Terrell dedication, but it was held during the same weekend as the Black alumni reunion, OA4, which made it extra special.

As Manager of the Langston Hughes branch of the Cleveland Public Library and President of the Friends Council of the Oberlin College Libraries, I was honored to have collaborated with the Friends Council to host such exhibits as the Milt Hinton Traveling exhibition and the Oberlin Sanctuary Project. So, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank Alexia for all her support and guidance that she’s given to the Friends Council and me. What she has meant to the council in terms of mentoring, membership, programming, fundraising, and just being a good person cannot be understated. I will miss her smile and warm personality.

The winds of change are sometimes difficult and unexpected. However, I wish Alexia Hudson-Ward nothing but the best as she and her husband Linton move on to their next adventure.

—Bill Bradford, Friends of the Libraries Council President

Interim Co-Directors of the College Libraries

Tracy Sutherland, Associate Director of Libraries and Head of Public Services, and College Archivist Ken Grossi will serve as interim co-directors of the Oberlin College Libraries, beginning October 1, 2020 following the departure of Alexia Hudson-Ward, Director of Libraries. Sutherland joined the Libraries’ staff in February 2020 as Assistant Director of Libraries and Head of Public Services and was promoted to Associate Director of Libraries and Head of Public Services and was promoted to Associate Director in May 2020, a realignment of responsibilities after the resignation of former Associate Director Sarah Weeks. Grossi was appointed College Archivist in 2009 after serving as Assistant Archivist, 1996-2000, Associate Archivist, 2001-2008, and Acting College Archivist, 2008-2009.

2019-2020 Friends Council

Slate of Officers
William “Bill” Bradford ’76
President
Jennifer “Jen” Graham ’12
Vice President
Ann Sherif
Secretary
Gary Kornblith
Immediate Past President

Council Members
Jeanine P. Donaldson ’75
Ifunanya “Ify” Ezimora ’19
Wendy Beth Hyman
Michael J. Moore
Rachel Mattson ’92
Drew Wilburn
Sandra “Sandy” Zagarell
Elizabeth Sullivan and Runxiao Zhu, Ex-Officio Representatives from the Libraries

Jessica Ford, Ex-Officio Representative from the Division of Advancement
Nathan Carpenter ’20 and Veronica Mahoney ’22, Student Representatives

Committee Chairs
Michael J. Moore, Chair of Acquisitions
Gary Kornblith, Chair of Membership
Jeanine Donaldson ’75,
Chair of Nominating
Sandra Zagarell, Chair of Programming
Alison Ricker, Chair of Research Awards
Ken Grossi, Chair of Scholarship Awards
Recent Gifts
(July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020)

Major monetary gifts:
• Richard Apling ’68, for the Friends of the Libraries.
• Brewster Kahle ’82, for the Librarian’s Discretionary Fund.
• William Roe ’64, for the Librarian’s Discretionary Fund.

Generous monetary gifts:
• Scott Bennett ’60, for the Librarian’s Discretionary Fund and the Friends of the Libraries.
• Theresa Brown ’78, for the Friends of the Libraries.
• Michael Broudo ’90, for the Librarian’s Discretionary Fund.
• Cab Calloway Foundation, for the Conservatory Special Book Fund.
• Robert Cassady ’54, for the Friends of the Libraries.
• CENGAGE, for the Librarian’s Discretionary Fund.
• Edwin Dugger ’62, for the Conservatory Special Book Fund.
• Gwendolyn Freed ’85, for the Friends of the Libraries and the Librarian’s Discretionary Fund.
• Jeffrey Guterman, for the Librarian’s Discretionary Fund.
• Joseph Hickerson ’57, for the Friends of the Libraries.
• Alex Ho ’91, for the Librarian’s Discretionary Fund.
• Maxine Houck ’58, for the Friends of the Libraries and the Librarian’s Discretionary Fund.
• Norman Jung ’56, for the Friends of the Libraries.
• Richard Lehmann ’70, for the George A. & Susan P. Lanyi Fund for Library Acquisitions.
• Mary Majewski ’88, for the Friends of the Libraries.
• Lucy Marks ’73, for the Lucy K. Marks ’73 English & Classics Book Fund and the Librarian’s Discretionary Fund.
• Emily McClintock ’76, for the Friends of the Libraries.
• William Pollak ’58, for the Ken Roose Economics Library Book Fund.
• William Scheuch, for Library Preservation and Special Collections.
• Dorothy Seebohn ’39, for the Conservatory Special Book Fund.
• Clarence Sheffield, for the Librarian’s Discretionary Fund.
• Michael Shinagel ’57, for the Friends of the Libraries and the Librarian’s Discretionary Fund.
• Christopher Smith ’68, for the Librarian’s Discretionary Fund.
• Mark Smith ’90, for the Clarence Ward Art Library Special Book Fund.
• Andrew Stone ’80, for the George A. & Susan P. Lanyi Fund for Library Acquisitions.
• Robert Taylor, for the Friends of the Libraries.
• Avonelle Walker ’53, for the Conservatory Special Book Fund and the Friends of the Libraries.

Significant gifts-in-kind
(July 1, 2019 – February 29, 2020)
• Brian Alegant, Professor of Music Theory, donated CDs to the Conservatory Library.
• Judy Cook ’71 donated scores to the Conservatory Library.
• Douglas Baxter ’72 continues to donate catalogs and art books to the Clarence Ward Art Library.
• Sarah Epstein ’48 donated books to the Clarence Ward Art Library.
• Ron Fein donated CDs to the Conservatory Library.
• The Ford Family donated scores to the Conservatory Library.
• Arlene Forman, Emerita Associate Professor of Russian, donated books to the Clarence Ward Art Library.
• Susan and John Harvith donated CDs, books, photographs, and autographs to the Conservatory Library.
• Louise Luckinbill ’58 donated books and scores to the Conservatory Library.
• Michael Rosen, Ruth Strickland Gardner Professor of Percussion, continues to donate recordings and scores to the Conservatory Library.
• Robert Rotberg ’55 donated books to the general collection of the Terrell Main Library.
• William Scheuch donated his collection of advertising paperweights to the Libraries in honor of the Class of 2020.
• Bruce Simonson, Emeritus Professor of Geology, continues to donate books for the Terrell Main Library and the Science Library.
• Veljko Vujacic, Professor of Sociology, donated books to the general collection of the Terrell Main Library.
• Judy Cook ’71 donated scores to the Conservatory Library.

Friends Council and Scholarship Committee Update

The Friends Council cancelled all Friends-sponsored events for the 2020-2021 academic year, except for a presentation by Erica Armstrong Dunbar that took place virtually on November 7. All committee work excluding that of the Graduate Library School Scholarship Committee has been postponed. The Scholarship Committee received seven applications. Four applicants were selected to receive scholarships, three of whom are featured here: Anne H. Buckwalter ’15, Jacob W. MacDonnell ’19, and Kira G. Zimmerman ’19. The fourth winner will be highlighted in a future edition of Perspectives.
The 2019 Friends Annual Meeting and Dinner Featuring Award-Winning Author Mitchell S. Jackson

The 2019 Friends Annual Meeting and Dinner featured award-winning author Mitchell S. Jackson as the featured speaker, who discussed his recent work *Survival Math: Notes on an All-American Family* (Scribner, 2019). This signature event was attended by more than 100 Friends and guests, who were delighted to receive a sneak preview of the Libraries’ 2020 traveling exhibition that celebrates Oberlin’s historic role in co-education and suffrage. Student research awards and scholarships were provided (see *Perspectives*, Fall 2019 issue).

Long-time Friends Council Secretary Eric Carpenter was bestowed Honorary Membership with Voting Privileges for his dedication to the Council over many years. Grover Zinn and Lee Drickamer ’67 received Life Membership for their philanthropic support of the Libraries.

Friends Vice President (2019) William “Bill” Bradford ’76 had a fun conversation with Wendy Wasman ’85, former Friends Vice President.

Friends member Donica Varner, Vice President/General Counsel, Secretary to the Board of Trustees enjoyed the evening with family members.

Right: Author Mitchell S. Jackson gave an electrifying account of his life transition from the criminal justice system into academia.


Friends and guests viewed the Libraries’ 2020 traveling exhibition during the social hour.
Friends of Libraries Purchases

At its annual meeting on November 2, 2019, the Friends of the Libraries Council approved spending $43,530 of Friends funds to purchase the following materials in support of teaching, research, and learning.

Art

*What’s Left* by Tracy Bullington is the result of a collaboration between the artist and a group of high school students who immigrated to the United States as children. The artist interviewed each student and asked: “What is the most memorable thing you left behind when coming to the United States?” *What’s Left* explores contemporary issues of migration and transition through research, social interactions, conversations, printmaking, as well as the combination of text and image. It will support various studio art classes.

*The City Within* is a kinetic book exploring cartography and whimsical anatomy. Juxtaposing bird’s-eye maps and hand-drawn street-level maps with a ribcage of text centered around Montreal’s downtown core, *The City Within* overlays the heart of a city with the interior body of a city dweller. Both a book and a sculptural object, this multi-layered work can be read and explored through many pathways. Natalie Draz, the creator, combines traditional print media with flag, tunnel, and pop-up structures to create an alterable book filled with visual metaphors and an open-ended narrative. Those interested in studio art and poetry will appreciate the technical and conceptual aspects of this book.

Music

These documents are four Richard Strauss originals that relate to op. 26 (two lieder for voice and piano), op. 27 (four lieder, including the song *Morgen*, one of Strauss’s best-known works in the genre), and op. 32 (five lieder). Included is a manuscript statement signed by Eugene Spitzweg, stating that he received 1,000 marks from Professor Franz Strauss (Richard’s father) as a subsidy for the cost of publishing Strauss’s op. 12 symphony, and that this money will be returned from income generated from sales of the score. The group of four printed and manuscript documents, each signed and dated by the composer, will be of interest to the Conservatory instrumental and vocal departments as well as musicology.

Arcangelo Corelli, Op. 5. Parte Prima Sonate a Violino e Violone o Cimbalo Dedicate all Altezza Serenissima Electorale
This beautiful 18th-century score is leather with marbled boards, red leather title label with “CORELLI” within a decorative full-page pictorial frontispiece engraved by P. P. Bouche. Interesting early performance annotations are included, and the score contains the signature of singer John Comer (1800-1886) and a date of 1825. This score will complement other holdings in Conservatory Library’s special collections and will especially appeal to musicology, historical performance, and string instruments.

American Civil Liberties Union Papers (ACLU), 1912-1990. Part I is part of Gale’s The Making of Modern Law project and is a collection on American social history with a focus on civil rights, civil liberties, race, gender, and issues relating to the U.S. Supreme Court. Awarded one of Library Journal’s “Best Databases of 2017”, these resources would provide support for research and teaching in political science and history and could also support social justice projects more broadly across the community.

The Libraries purchased Archives of Sexuality & Gender, Part I last year. LGBTQ History and Culture Since 1940, Part II, continues the series, providing coverage of underrepresented communities through access to key publications. This second installment in the series highlights often-excluded groups—even within the LGBTQ community—and enables users to draw new connections across the development of LGBTQ culture and activism.

General / Reference
Global Press Archive (GPA) from East View Information Services (part 2 of 3) will enable access to millions of pages of predominantly non-English-language newspaper titles ranging in coverage from the late 19th century to present times. In total, 4.5 million pages of global newspaper content over three years is being proposed. Through participation in this alliance, Oberlin users will have access to an unprecedented corpus of digitized global newspapers. The GPA will support area studies as well as other social sciences, and provide a new foundation for work in Digital Humanities.

The International Encyclopedia of Public Health, 2nd Edition (print and online) will help address Oberlin’s increasing interest in global health/public health. It serves as an authoritative and comprehensive guide to the major issues, challenges, methods, and approaches of global public health. This new edition combines complementary scientific fields of inquiry, linking biomedical research with the social and life sciences to address the three major themes of public health research, disease, health processes, and disciplines.

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Science
The New York Academy of Sciences Wiley Digital Archive contains a vast range of primary sources from a society that has shaped two centuries of scientific progress. The archive, including some content from the New York Botanical Garden, represents a unique opportunity for scholars to reinvigorate their research with previously unexplored historical context. These collections of digitized unique and rare primary sources have been compiled into a discoverable online format, allowing researchers from around the world to access source materials and educators to integrate this content into their syllabi and learning/course management systems.

Special Collections
Thomas Paine’s “The Rights Of Man” (Pt. 1, 1791 and “The Rights of Man” (Pt. 2, 1792) is a direct response to Edmund Burke’s classic Reflections on the French Revolution (1790), a work already in Special Collections. Together, Burke and Paine have done much to frame the fundamental questions of Anglophone historiography of the French Revolution. This purchase will be used in the popular first-year seminar, The French Revolution. The students also examine other materials from the era of the French Revolution and have enjoyed being able to touch and read materials that are more than two centuries old.

WORDS on the Edge, a limited edition portfolio of poetry & lyric prose in broadside format, represents twenty-six artist presses and their collaborations with poets. The volume beautifully gathers a bouquet of printers and print layouts without seeking them out individually on the art and rare book market. Those interested in layout, typography, illustration, and all of the other aesthetic choices that go into a visual “performance” of poetry or prose will find WORDS on the Edge meaningful and useful.
Special Collections related to suffrage and Oberlin women in leadership were on display in the Academic Commons of the Mary Church Terrell Main Library. The traveling exhibit banner was displayed during the Friends of the Oberlin College Libraries dinner on November 2, 2019. The exhibit “Women as Victims, Women as Activists—History of Opioids and Women” was also on display in the Academic Commons. The Conservatory Library’s Tiny Reference Desk Concert featured suffrage songs.

During the 2020 spring and fall semesters the Libraries sponsored voter registration and “get out the vote” campaigns to encourage students, faculty, and staff to vote during the primary and general elections.

“With a keen sense of the RESPONSIBILITY which we shall continue to assume, we look forward to a FUTURE large with PROMISE & HOPE.”

Mary Church Terrell

Photos of Mary Church Terrell and Anna Julia Haywood Cooper

The senior photos of Mary Church Terrell and Anna Julia Haywood Cooper, Oberlin College Class of 1884, were featured in the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) and National Portrait Gallery’s poster exhibition Votes for Women: A Portrait of Persistence. The photos were also included in Smithsonian’s annual report to highlight the Votes for Women: A Portrait of Persistence exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery (March 2019 – January 2020).
Oberlin College Libraries
Women’s Suffrage and Leadership Working Group

Ken Grossi, College Archivist, Co-Chair
Deborah Campana, Head, Conservatory Library, Co-Chair
Cynthia Comer, Academic Commons Coordinator, Co-Chair*

Working Group Members
Kathy Abromeit, Conservatory Public Services Librarian
Alonso Avila, Information Literacy and Student Success Librarian
Eboni Johnson, Outreach and Programming Librarian
Megan Mitchell, Academic Engagement & Digital Initiatives Coordinator/Team Leader, Instruction
Heath Patten, Curator, Visual Resources
Barbara Prior, Head, Clarence Ward Art Library
Alison Ricker, Head, Science Library
Elizabeth Sullivan, Assessment and User Experience Librarian
Selina Wang, Head of Acquisitions, E-resources and Serials
Julie Weir, Reference and Instruction and Academic Commons Assistant
Runxiao Zhu, East Asian Studies Librarian

Working Group Internal Consultants
Lindsey Felice, Discovery and Metadata Services Assistant
Sara Hasley, Discovery and Metadata Services Assistant
Diane Kajganich, Special Collections/Oberlin Scholarship OA Cataloger
Michael McFarlin, Emerging Technologies & Systems Librarian
Cecilia Robinson, Electronic and Continuing Resources Assistant

*Cynthia Comer served until her retirement in August 2019.
**How Do I?**

The Libraries’ tangible resources remain available to students, faculty, and staff even as restrictions continue to prevent congregating in campus facilities. Consult the “COVID-19 FAQs” on the Libraries website for up-to-date information. Look for the red banner at the top of libraries.oberlin.edu

The service model for each campus library varies. The Mary Church Terrell Main Library has the most generous hours for access, including evenings and weekends. Access is controlled by swiping or tapping your current, valid Oberlin College ID at the front door. Upper floors are not available; use OBIS to request library materials for checkout, and pick them up at the circulation desk.

Community members, registered alumni, and retirees may also request items using OBIS; pickup arrangements will be communicated by email. Four computers are available by reserving a group study room (1 person/1 computer per room). Printers and copiers are also available.

The current reading area in Azariah’s Café is not accessible. Contact ILL@oberlin.edu to request something specific from a current magazine, newspaper, or journal. The café is serving food and beverages; however, the campus community is welcome to get something to go and enjoy the exhibits that are mounted there.

Both the Art and Science libraries offer access by appointment, with a total capacity of 38 users in Art and 50 in Science. Seating in both libraries is available, at tables and in carrels, and equipment offered includes 8-10 iMac computers (spaced well apart), scanners, printers, and copiers. Art has one of the few color printer/copiers accessible on campus. The group study rooms in Science may be reserved by single users only. Many science textbooks required for course work are available for in-library use, at an open table across from the service desk.

The Conservatory Library remains closed for in-person use but offers circulation services at the Circ@Central outpost, located just inside the Professor Street entrance at the Conservatory pond. Request items using OBIS and pick up items during the posted hours. View the Conservatory Library welcome videos, including one for Special Collections, to learn more. All of the Libraries’ tutorials are linked from “Research Tools” on the website.

**Accessing Resources and Services in a Time of COVID**

All library hours are posted on the website and include hours for online Chat, research appointments and help in addition to in-person transactions. Library staff are also available by email and phone for consultation about resources, questions about facilities, use of the Archives and Special Collections, and instruction sessions for classes, either virtually or in-person. Explore the FAQ and video tutorials to learn more!

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**ARLIS and VRA Hold Joint Meeting at Oberlin College**

The regional chapters of the Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS-NA) and the Visual Resources Association (VRA) gathered for a joint meeting in Oberlin College’s StudiOC on Friday, October 25, 2019. Hosted by Barbara Prior, Head, Clarence Ward Art Library, and Heath Patten, Curator, Visual Resources, the meeting brought together over twenty-six art librarians and visual resources curators from various institutions of Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky, Western Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. The attendees’ breakfast was sponsored by the Libraries.

Early-arriving participants were treated to a pre-conference tour of the Frank Lloyd Wright House on October 24, led by Walker Shadle, Curatorial Assistant, Allen Memorial Art Museum.

Organized under the theme of collaboration, during the morning sessions of the conference attendees learned about some of the collaborative opportunities and projects undertaken by Prior and Patten. This was followed by lightning round talks from members of both chapters.

The conference’s keynote speaker was Jen Johnson, Library Consultant, Digital Public Library of America Digitization, State Library of Ohio, who spoke about The Ohio Digital Network, Ohio’s service hub for the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA), which is working to make digital collections from all Ohio Digital Network Cultural Heritage Institutions freely accessible to the world.

During the afternoon attendees toured the Allen Memorial Art Museum, where Andrea Gyorody, Ellen Johnson ’33 Assistant Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, and Matt Rarey, Assistant Professor of Art History, gave an overview of the museum’s collection and a gallery talk on the Afterlives of the Black Atlantic exhibit.
Pandemic Preparedness

For the Libraries, rearranging and moving furniture is extremely common and calls for planning, creativity, and mindfulness of functionality within the space for patrons and staff alike. During the pandemic, this typical type of planning took on an entirely new set of emergency processes and protocols. Once President Ambar announced that classes would begin in the fall, the Libraries Leadership Team marshaled out a phased plan for reopening the libraries. The modifications that had to be made, with regard to de-densifying not only people but equipment and furniture within these common lively public spaces, were critical.

Hours of operation had to be considered along with the laser focus of keeping everyone healthy and safe, while following the guidelines of the state, the CDC, and the institution as it relates to COVID-19 preparedness for educational institutions. Reference interactions and research requests were moved to virtual platforms immediately. Furniture and computers were removed or made inaccessible in the Academic Commons and Azariah’s Café, along with rugs and soft seating. Access to the upper floors of Terrell was restricted to library staff. All of the libraries were supplied with signage, window clings, and stanchions for clearer traffic flow. Plexiglas barriers were customized for our service desks and staff spaces, and sanitation stations were distributed to the libraries. See “How Do I?” on page 10 for details of the service models for the Art, Conservatory and Science libraries.

The work of overhauling the Libraries’ website began in 2018 with the Web Working Group (WWG), including Michael McFarlin, Emerging Technologies and Systems Librarian; Heath Patten, Visual Resources Curator; Greg Solow, Conservatory Library Circulation Coordinator; and Elizabeth Sullivan, Assessment and User Experience Librarian. The WWG conducted focus groups, analyzed web data, and ultimately recommended contracting with The FORM Group, a Cleveland-based web and digital design firm, to develop the new site. McFarlin, Sullivan, and the Libraries’ Head of Collections and Discovery, Tim Keller, coordinated the launch of the site with FORM and are now responsible as the web team administering the site.

Libraries Unveil New Website

https://libraries.oberlin.edu
Honoring a History-making Pioneer in Librarianship: The Virginia Proctor Powell Florence (OC 1919) Scholarship

Last year, Director of Libraries Alexia Hudson-Ward worked with the Friends Council to establish and co-sponsor the Virginia Proctor Powell Florence (OC 1919) Friends of the Oberlin College Libraries Graduate Library School Scholarship. Thanks to an anonymous donation of $70,000 the scholarship has been endowed and provides support for Oberlin graduates who are people of color and are interested in pursuing graduate studies in librarianship and archives.

Virginia Proctor Powell Florence graduated from Oberlin College in 1919 with an English degree. She was the first African American woman in the United States to receive a degree in library science when she graduated from the Carnegie Library School (now the University of Pittsburgh School of Computing and Information Science) in 1923. In 1981, the University of Pittsburgh honored her with a Special Award for Outstanding Professional Service and in 2004, the University posthumously honored her with a plaque in the lobby of their Information Sciences Building. The American Library Association included her in its list, “100 of the most important leaders we had in the 20th century” (American Libraries, December, 1999).

Jennifer Loubriel ’14 was the first recipient of the scholarship in the fall of 2019 (see Perspectives, Fall 2019). “Virginia paved the way for me and so many other African American women to enter into and thrive in the field,” said Hudson-Ward, who also received a Master of Library and Information Science from the University of Pittsburgh. “I walked past her image in graduate school and here at Oberlin every day. I constantly thought to myself that I wanted to further honor her as a legendary pioneer. I am so excited that there is now a permanent scholarship recognizing this incredible historical figure and that the Friends and anonymous donors partnered with me to celebrate her life in the centennial year of her graduation from Oberlin.”

“Seat at the Table” Exhibition in Philadelphia features Oberlin alumna Mary Church Terrell (OC 1884, MA 1886, HON 1948)

The College Archives provided three digital images of Mary Church Terrell for the exhibition Seat at the Table that will be on display at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia from December 31, 2020 through June 30, 2021. The planning committee chose to feature Terrell in their exhibition given her leadership in African American and women’s rights, and her efforts in the suffrage movement. An estimated 90,000 individuals each month are expected to view the exhibition.

This interactive exhibition is part of Women 100: A National Celebration of American Women, led by Drexel University’s Vision 2020—a national nonpartisan women’s equality coalition taking action to achieve economic, political, and social equality for women. Alexia Hudson-Ward serves on the Vision 2020 National Leadership Circle.
The Libraries and the Friends Co-Sponsor Toni Morrison Documentary Film Screening

On Saturday, November 16, 2019, a celebration of the life and legacy of the late Toni Morrison, American writer, book editor, college professor, and native of Lorain, Ohio, was held at the Burrows Theater of the Apollo Theater in Oberlin with a free public screening of the film *The Foreigner’s Home - Toni Morrison at the Louvre*, and a post-screening panel discussion. This event was co-sponsored by Oberlin College Libraries, Friends of the Oberlin College Libraries, the Toni Morrison Society, and the Department of Cinema Studies. The event logistics were led by Heath Patten, Visual Resources Curator, with coordination assistance by Eboni Johnson, Outreach and Programming Librarian. Community attendees traveled from various parts of Lorain and Cuyahoga County to attend the event.

The film explores Toni Morrison’s artistic and intellectual vision through “The Foreigner’s Home,” her 2006 exhibition at the Louvre. Through exclusive footage of Morrison in dialogue with artists, along with extensive archival footage, music, and photographs, the film presents a series of candid and incisive exchanges about race, identity, “foreignness,” and art’s redemptive power.

The post-screening panel discussion participants were (photographed left to right with Alexia Hudson-Ward): Peter Swendsen ’99, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Associate Professor of Computer Music and Digital Arts, and Co-Chair for Musical Studies; Geoff Pingree, Professor of Cinema Studies and English, Co-Director, Apollo Outreach Initiative, and Co-Director, Apollo Center for Media Education and Production; Rian Brown-Orso, Associate Professor of Cinema Studies, Co-Director, Apollo Outreach Initiative, and Co-Director, Apollo Center for Media Education and Production; Meredith Gadsby, Associate Professor of Africana Studies and Comparative American Studies, President, Associate of Caribbean Women Writers and Scholars, and faculty liaison, Toni Morrison Society; and Jay Ashby, Associate Professor of Jazz Studies, and Teacher of Jazz Composition and Trombone.

Following the panel discussion, a reception hosted by the Friends of the Oberlin College Libraries was held in the Richard D. Baron ’64 Art Gallery.
Memorial Death Mask Purchased for Special Collections

Special Collections added a large plaster “death mask” to its holdings in September. The image on this unique piece memorializes The Rev. John G. Mitchell, who attended Oberlin College from 1853 to 1858. The mask is set into a celebratory plaque and fixed in a shadowbox for public view.

Mitchell, an African American, was one of the founders of Wilberforce University in Ohio, America’s oldest private historically Black college. He served as the second dean of Payne Theological Seminary at Wilberforce University from 1893 until his death in 1900.

Ed Vermue, Head, Special Collections and Preservation, remarked “artifacts such as this are no stranger to Special Collections: it is not just texts, but also other forms of media that carry a powerful semantic charge. This artifact is intended for the growing collection of embodied memorabilia and will be used along with other forms of early media to support the teaching of nineteenth-century literature by Associate Professor of English and Comparative American Studies Danielle Skeehan.”

Skeehan stated “We will be discussing the death mask in my media and critical making class, "Pens and Needles: Early American Media and Identity." In a unit on the media of death and memory, we will be thinking about the embodied nature of nineteenth-century mourning practices. Death masks, along with mourning jewelry, stationery, prints, needlework, and other practices, emphasized a physical connection with the dead and served as a way to remember, grieve, and memorialize those who have been lost.”

Above: Tiny Ref Desk Concert, “Horn Hanukkah” featured Roland Pandolfi’s horn studio. Photo credit Michael Hartman
Below: Obertones performing a Tiny Ref Desk Concert in the Conservatory Library during Parents & Family weekend. Photo credit Deborah Campana

Above: Latinx Music Union Tiny Ref Desk Concert in the Conservatory Library. Photo credit Deborah Campana
Below: Students dancing to the final piece in the Latinx Music Union Tiny Ref Desk Concert. Celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month. Photo credit Deborah Campana
Staff Publications, Presentations, and Professional Activity


Alexia Hudson-Ward, Director of Libraries; Ken Grossi, College Archivist; Caitlin Merikallio ’20; Liz Schultz, Executive Director of the Oberlin Heritage Center; Gina Perez, Professor of Comparative American Studies; and Meredith Gadsby, Associate Professor of Africana Studies and Comparative American Studies. Presentations, “The Oberlin Sanctuary Project,” Cleveland Public Library – Langston Hughes Branch, February 2020.


Ed Vermue, Head, Special Collections and Preservation, currently serves as an invited reviewer on the Lang Fellowship Selection Committee for The M. C. Lang Fellowship in Book History, Bibliography, and Humanities Teaching with Historical Sources, offered by the Rare Book School, University of Virginia.

Winter Term 2020 Projects, facilitated by Ken Grossi, Heath Patten and Ed Vermue

VOTES FOR WOMEN
On February 27-28, 2020 Oberlin College hosted the symposium Intersections: Recovering the Genius of Shirley Graham Du Bois. Shirley Graham graduated from Oberlin College with a bachelor's in 1934 and a master's in 1935. Oberlin served as a catalyst for an incredible career that included serving as a composer, playwright, biographer, nation builder, and activist. She was one of the first African American women to stage an opera in the United States and one of the earliest Black women musicologists. The symposium conveners were Tamika Nunley, Assistant Professor of History, and Fredara Hadley, Juilliard School of Music Graduate Studies Professor (formerly an Oberlin Conservatory Visiting Assistant Professor of Ethnomusicology).

On the first day of the symposium, a plaque honoring Shirley Graham Du Bois was unveiled in its permanent location in the Conservatory Library at an event hosted by Deborah Campana, Head of the Conservatory Library. The plaque is a replica to the one presented by Alexia Hudson-Ward, Director of Libraries (representing President Carmen Twillie Ambar) to the W.E.B. Du Bois Centre in Accra, Ghana on July 3, 2018. Following the ceremony and a luncheon, an afternoon session included welcoming remarks, a keynote lecture, and performances held in Stull Hall.

The second day of the symposium, held at StudiOC and the Hotel at Oberlin, featured sessions related to the intellectual artistry of Shirley Graham Du Bois, the history of African American women's intellectual activism, and Shirley Graham Du Bois's Oberlin experience. A lunch lecture and a closing presentation, performance, and reception were also scheduled for the second day.

Participants in the two-day symposium included President Carmen Twillie Ambar; Deans William Quillen and David Kamitsuka; Megan Mitchell, Oberlin College Libraries Coordinator for Academic Engagement and Digital Initiatives; faculty, staff, and students; and guest speakers and performers. The event was sponsored by the Gertrude B. Lemle Teaching Center, StudiOC, a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, the Dean of the Conservatory, the Oberlin College History Department, Oberlin College Libraries, the Oberlin College Africana Studies Department, and the Oberlin College Theater Department.

The Libraries Co-sponsored Shirley Graham Du Bois Symposium

The Libraries and the National Park Service Partner to Promote Terrell as Leading Suffragist

The Libraries is partnering with the National Parks Services to promote Mary Church Terrell’s (OC 1884, MA 1888, HON 1948) leadership in the suffrage movement. The program is entitled “20 Suffragists To Know for 2020” and is highlighted in all of the parks and on the NPS.gov website. The National Park Service is also linking to the Libraries’ Mary Church Terrell digital exhibition on their website.

www.nps.gov/subjects/womenshistory/20-for-2020.htm
The Libraries Receives Gift of American Glass Advertising Paperweights in Honor of Class of 2020

During the fall semester of 2019 the Oberlin College Libraries received from Allen Scheuch the generous gift of his American glass advertising paperweights collection. Mr. Scheuch donated the gift in honor of Oberlin Class of 2020, of which his son, Richard “Schuyler” Scheuch, is a member.

Consisting of about 400 “milk glass” (opaque white glass) or “milk glass appearance” (baked enamel) backed paperweights that date from the time period of 1890 to 1920, the collection offers students examples of antique American graphic design, product advertisement, and sales methods. Subject matter of the paperweights’ advertisements ranges from early stoves and farm machinery to fashion and household items. A monetary gift for the collection’s cataloging, storage, and preservation was also received from Mr. Scheuch.

This collection is a wonderful addition to the Libraries’ material culture holdings. It will serve as a wonderful resource for late-nineteenth-century to early-twentieth-century advertising graphics and font styles for students using the Letterpress Studio, also located on Mary Church Terrell Main Library’s second level. It will complement the Special Collection’s Victorian stock trade card collection, and the Robert Biggert ’62 stock trade card and American and European poster stamp collections, which date from 1880-1940 and are housed in the Clarence Ward Art Library.

The Allen Scheuch American Glass Advertising Paperweights Collection will be permanently installed on the second level of Terrell Main Library during spring 2020.

Memories of Jazz Memorabilia Collecting: Reflections of an Oberlin Conservatory Library Donor

By David Rosenstein

Jazz is the only major art form in the United States where you can, on a weeknight, in a small club, for 10–20 bucks, go hear and meet the greatest practitioners in the world. For 40 years, between sets or after the shows, I’d ask musicians to autograph a book, photo, or program, maybe buy them a drink, and, if really lucky, chat. Since I was in my 20s these have been the kind of experiences I have had, mostly in Los Angeles and sometimes in New York, to compile the core of my extensive collection of signed memorabilia including books, pictures, album covers, programs, posters, and even cocktail napkins.

I never intended to create a “collection”. The fact that I am the founder and president of a successful medium-sized business (about 100 employees) has given me the freedom and income to pursue my passion. I just wanted to be as close as possible to the music and its creators. My connection to the music is individual, idiosyncratic, and private. Getting items autographed was an intimate and private interaction between the musician and myself that heightened and deepened my connection to the player and genre.

The idea of having pictures taken with the musicians, interacting with other “collectors” or promoting / discussing my “collection” publicly never crossed my mind. The “collection” grew incrementally and it wasn’t until I began going through it a few years ago that I fully realized how much material I had compiled. Some of the special items in my collection like the Sun Ra Arkestra piece were purchased through reputable dealers like my friend Jeff Gold’s Record Mecca in Los Angeles.

The experience that really launched me into gathering jazz materials and autographs had to do with Art Pepper. I always loved his music and the fact that he was from Los Angeles, in neighborhoods that I know, deepened my connection with him and his sound. I heard Pepper play at the Pilgrimage Theater (the name was changed to the Ford Theater in 1976) and a few other places around Los Angeles in the late ’60s and early ’70s. Pepper’s magnificent autobiography Straight Life: The Story of Art Pepper came out in 1979 and I was able to get him to autograph it. (Years later I wrote to his wife Laurie and she signed a book plate for me to include in my copy.) Like many fans who collect autographs, I can’t fully explain the powerful meaning they have but I sure felt that with Art Pepper’s signature.

I do know that the most important factor of creating the collection was using the photo, book, or album as a respectful gateway to making a personal connection with the musician and music. Today, the physical documents are less significant than the memories of how they were attained as a bridge to a deepened experience of listening to the music that I love.

Donating the vast majority of the collection to the Oberlin Conservatory Library to care for and share will heighten the impact of the music for students in their fine jazz conservatory as well as other jazz aficionados.
Staff Changes in the Libraries

Associate Director and Head of Public Services
Tracy E. Sutherland joined the Libraries on February 3, 2020 as Assistant Director and Head of Public Services, replacing Allison Gallaher, who retired in December of 2018. She was most recently the Head of User Services at Vassar College and has held other roles at Eastern Connecticut College, Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine in St. Kitts West Indies, and Amherst College. Sutherland holds an MLS from Simmons University and a BA in Dance Studies from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. A native Ohioan, she is the proud pet mom of two dogs – Mamba Sue and Stewart Little Dog. Sutherland now also serves as Interim Co-Director of the Libraries.

Special Collections Librarian and Curator of the James and Susan Neumann Jazz Collection
Crystal Willer holds a master’s degree in library and information science with a concentration in archives from the University of Wisconsin, Madison; a master of fine arts in poetry from Washington University, St. Louis; and a bachelor of arts in English literature with honors in creative writing from Lewis & Clark College, Portland, OR.

Wller was initially hired in 2018 in the Conservatory Library special collections. Prior to that, she worked at the Wisconsin Historical Society and UW-Madison's Special Collections Department and Robinson Map Library. She interned at the Robert L. Parkinson Library and Research Center's Circus World Museum, Baraboo, WI, the Hoocak Language Division, Mauston, and the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. While a senior fellow in poetry at Washington University, she also taught poetry and writing workshops. Her work has been published in Spoon River Poetry Review and the Columbia Poetry Review, among other publications.

Archives and Special Collections Intern
Riza Miklowski started working as the Archives and Special Collections Intern in November 2019. She enjoys processing collections, writing finding guides, and creating records for the Archives’ digital collections. Miklowski is also documenting and photographing the Allen Scheuch Collection of antique glass advertising paperweights. She previously worked at the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center in Wilberforce, Ohio where she curated exhibits and cataloged the museum collections.

She worked at the Baldwin Wallace University Archives digitizing archival collections. Miklowski earned a Bachelor of Arts in History and a Bachelor of Arts in Public History from Baldwin Wallace University. She recently graduated with her Master of Arts in History with a Public History concentration from Wright State University. She enjoys sewing and knitting, reading, and spending time with her two dogs.

Staff Retirement
Lois Kane retired in October following a 46-year career in the Oberlin Conservatory Library. Her first job in the library included typing up a final master of the catalogers’ proofs, that she would later photocopy for card sets, and ordering card sets from LC as needed. She also typed filing headings onto the sets for interfiling them into the card catalogs, and was responsible for removing card sets to perform corrections and revisions. She was even then a virtuoso typist and commanded our only IBM “Executive” model typewriter, whose specialized features and spacing tricks were advanced and known only by a select few! “White-out” was not permitted; perfection needed to be attained using an electric eraser. She also typed Oberlin-created cataloging onto special cards to submit to the National Union Catalog.

When the practice changed to online cataloging and ordering of cards, Lois found herself with free time. Lois enjoys keeping busy, so Jack Knapp, her then-supervisor, began teaching her to catalog score materials, and she was a scores cataloger for many years. Because she was a quick study, Knapp asked her to learn recordings cataloging. A recordings backlog had started to develop, and Lois was tasked with working through those recordings.

(continued on next page)
Lois was an excellent trainer, supervisor, and record keeper for a large number of students over many years. She also was responsible for processing discs in our large, separate, ethnomusicological collection. Of all the materials she cataloged, she favored the ethno recordings. She enjoyed learning new things from this collection and increasing her understanding of the evolution of music. Despite limitations in being able to quantify the number of recordings Lois cataloged, Rebecca Belford, Conservatory Library Technical Services Librarian, found Lois’s initials on well over 30,000 records, many of which have found their way into catalogs near and far. According to Belford, “all of these support discovery and use of our collection here at Oberlin and throughout the WorldCat universe.”

In retirement, Lois is settling into her new home and enjoying spending more time with family. She always has a book nearby, and says, “I’ve been so busy that I have no empty spaces to fill, just a general: Eat, pray, love (good book, by the way).”

In Memoriam

Jane Drennan, former library assistant, passed away October 21, 2019, just a few weeks shy of her 95th birthday. Jane began work in 1976 as a circulation department assistant in the main library and moved to the acquisitions department in 1982. Her work in the main library also included periodicals assistant and cataloging assistant until she left in 1995 for a position in the Office of the Registrar. Jane’s obituary in the Plain Dealer (Nov. 1, 2019) noted that Jane was an avid reader in her retirement years, and that she enjoyed animals and birdwatching among other activities.

Nathan A. “Mike” Haverstock died after a brief illness on January 19, 2020, at the Vermont Veterans Home in Bennington, Vermont. He was 88 years old. Mike served as secretary of the Friends of the Oberlin College Libraries Council for several years. Mike and Mary Haverstock spent many years in Oberlin. They were married for 57 years. Mike attended the Shattuck Military Academy in Faribault, Minnesota, and graduated from Harvard College in 1953, with a degree in Classics. He served in the United States Army before he began a writing and editing career. He held positions at the Library of Congress, The Saturday Evening Post, and the Organization of American States. He authored a number of books, including Give Us This Day: The Story of Sister Dulce, the Angel of Bahia; The Alliance for Progress: Key to Latin America’s Development; Fifty Years at the Front: The Life of War Correspondent Frederick Palmer; Brazil: The Making of a Nation; and Friends of the Library.

The Friends of the Oberlin College Libraries provide significant support for special acquisitions and programs that help the libraries fulfill their mission 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 libraries.

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Please return this form with your membership contribution to:
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Please make checks payable to Oberlin College. Friends contributions are tax-deductible. Or donate online: oberlin.edu/library/give

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Exhibitions

**Milt Hinton Traveling Exhibition**  
January 10–March 1, Andrews Library, College of Wooster

**Mary Church Terrell Traveling Exhibition**  
January 27–April 3, Howard County Library System, Central Branch, 10375 Little Patuxent Parkway, Columbia, Maryland

**Oberlin Sanctuary Project Traveling Exhibition**  
February, Cleveland Public Library – Langston Hughes Branch, 10200 Superior Avenue, Cleveland

**Subjects of Freedom: Archives Against Slavery, ca. 1790-1980**  
February 10–February 28, Academic Commons, Terrell Main Library

**Seat at the Table Interactive Exhibition**  
Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, Philadelphia, December 31–June 30, 2021. This interactive exhibition will feature images of Mary Church Terrell from the Oberlin College Archives.

**Women as Victims, Women as Activists – History of Opioids and Women**  
March 4–March 15, Academic Commons, Terrell Main Library

**Oberlin's Women: A Legacy of Leadership and Activism**  
March 4–March 15, Academic Commons, Terrell Main Library. Link to this new digital exhibit from "Exhibitions" at the top of every page of the Libraries website.

Lectures and Other Events

**Tiny Reference Desk Noon Concerts**  
February 20–Celebrating with the Oberlin College Black Musicians’ Guild; March 13–Suffrage Through Song

**Intersections: Recovering the Genius of Shirley Graham Du Bois Symposium**  
February 27–28, the Conservatory Library, Stull Hall, and Studio OC and the Hotel at Oberlin

**Tainted: Anti-Suffragism and Race Politics in the Crusade for Women's Votes**  
National Women's History Museum Panel co-sponsored by the Oberlin College Department of History, Tuesday, March 10, Hallock Auditorium, 4:30–6 p.m.

* A look back at programming before the pandemic lockdown.

Virtual Friends Event

**Erica Armstrong Dunbar**, award-winning historian, author, and professor at Rutgers University, gave a presentation related to her recent book *She Came to Slay: The Life and Times of Harriet Tubman*.  
November 7, 2020. Photo credit: Whitney Thomas