Friends of the Libraries Newsletter, December 2015

Rachel Stott (Editor)
Old Dominion University, rlu@odu.edu

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The Friends of the Old Dominion University Libraries Present:

**Sabato’s Crystal Ball**

Featuring Dr. Larry J. Sabato  
Founder and Director of the University of Virginia Center for Politics  
& Robert Kent Gooch Professor of Politics at UVA

Wednesday, January 13, 2016 | 7 p.m.  
Old Dominion University | Webb Center’s North Café

Tickets Available at oduartstix.universitytickets.com  
& the Box Office at University Theatre | 4600 Hampton Blvd., Norfolk, VA

The Friends of ODU Libraries— in conjunction with the Homsher Family Lecture Series Endowment at ODU and ODU’s Political Science Department—are happy to present an evening with Dr. Larry Sabato.

Dr. Sabato directs the Center for Politics’ Crystal Ball website, a leader in accurately predicting elections since its inception. Most of us have never experienced the beginning of a presidential campaign quite like this one. Whether you’re an average voter or a political junkie, you will enjoy hearing Dr. Sabato’s thoughts as he helps sort things for us on both sides of the aisle.
Dear Friends,

WOW! The last three months have been a whirlwind for the Libraries! The “eye of the storm” was the decision to replace the Libraries’ Integrated Library System—III’s Sierra—with the Alma from Ex Libris. The decision came after an almost-year-long investigation. The Libraries will implement the new system in the first half of 2016. Needless to say, 2016 will be an exciting year, too!

In deciding to replace our ILS, we reviewed the rest of our projects that are in progress or planned for next year. We have to proceed with several of the high-impact projects, such as developing a Master Plan for the Libraries’ space, evaluating the Libraries’ organization, and dramatically increasing the Libraries’ fundraising. This will all be easier when we have our six current vacancies filled, but that, as they say, is still a work in progress.

Though I have no update on the vacancies in the Libraries, I am pleased to report that ODU has selected the next Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs—Dr. Augustine (Austin) O. Agho. Dr. Agho is coming from Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis and will start on June 1, 2016.

Finally, I have been pleased by the Friends of the Libraries’ efforts in promoting the Libraries and ODU faculty through their events in 2015. If you were unable to attend, you missed some inspiring and informative presentations! In 2016, the Friends are hosting UVA’s Dr. Larry Sabato on January 13 to share his insights on the 2016 Presidential election.

As always, stay tuned for future exciting updates! Or, better yet...contact us to get involved directly in making these exciting opportunities real!

Sincerely,

George

LibQUAL Survey Draws Positive Numbers, Shows Library-User Trends

The LibQUAL, Highlight Your Libraries survey was administered over a three-week period earlier this semester. 827 surveys were successfully completed by students, faculty, and staff, and 50 participants won $20 in Monarch Plus points. We held several promotional events throughout the process, sent targeted email invitations, and advertised the survey on social media, on digital displays throughout campus, and on flyers.

The University Libraries are currently analyzing the data collected. General trends noticed so far are that overall, our constituents are pleased with the services and resources we offer and a few areas for improvement have emerged. Undergraduates want more space and more quiet areas, while faculty are more concerned with ease of access to electronic resources and availability of resources needed for their research. Faculty and graduate students mentioned several of our librarians by name for their instruction and research services and are very pleased with Interlibrary Loan.

“I think this went very well,” says Megan Smith, Training & Technology Specialist for University Libraries and head of the LibQUAL taskforce. “We’ve never done a survey of this scale for the Libraries, so we had some challenges to face during this new experience, but we learned a lot during the process. We’ve gotten very good feedback, and we’re already seeing ways in which the Libraries are working to address the concerns the survey brought to light.”

We will hold a Town Hall in early February and everyone on campus will be invited to learn more about the survey results and share their ideas and concerns. Thanks to all who participated in the survey!
Greetings,

The Friends of the ODU libraries sponsored a wonderful series of events this year showcasing the many areas of University and library expertise. We kicked off with a lecture and musical performance by our gifted composer-in-residence Adolphus Hailstork and ended with a fascinating tour of ODU’s special collections and university archives. Jessica Richie, Head of University Archives and Special Collections, shared some of the vast treasures stored within her department and the extensive collections that have been digitized.

ODU owns a bible from 1550, old diaries, early maps of the U.S. (one showing California as an island) and other fascinating historical relics. We also have internationally sought digital treasures such as the school desegregation papers, the archives of local politicians, and of course the collection of University yearbooks, a project that your membership fees helped to underwrite. If you have not explored the myriad opportunities this department has to offer, look online to see what you have been missing.

Our emphasis for the coming year will be on the upcoming presidential election. We are kicking off our year with our major fundraiser, a January 13 lecture by political pundit Larry Sabato. This renowned commentator and UVA professor writes a blog titled Larry Sabato’s Crystal Ball. He will share his analysis of the upcoming presidential election season in a year that has defied the odds in so many ways. I hope many of you will be able to join us in January. Tickets can be purchased online and information is available on our web site. We will also be working with the Department of Political Science to offer talks on other aspects of the election.

We wish you and yours a Happy Holiday season. I would like to remind you that memberships to the ODU Libraries and tickets to our fundraiser make wonderful holiday gifts.

Sue Doviak
President, Friends of the ODU Libraries

A Fond Farewell: Dr. Helen Yura-Petro, Lifetime Member of FoL

Dr. Helen Yura-Petro, 86, passed away October 12, 2015, after a brave battle against breast cancer. She is survived by her beloved husband, Joseph Petro, her brothers and sisters, Mrs. Eugene (Joan) Yura, Joseph Yura, Anne Hester, Michael Yura and Margaret Gililland, as well as four stepchildren, Joseph Petro, John Petro, Judy Buchanan and Jerry Petro, spouses, grandchildren, nieces and nephew.

Helen began her distinguished nursing career in 1950 at Sacred Heart Hospital, Allentown, PA. She received her BS in Nursing Education from the University of Dayton and an MS in Nursing and Ph.D in Higher Education from the Catholic University of America, Washington, DC. In 1964 she joined the faculty of CUA, Teaching psychiatric and mental health nursing. While there, she collaborated with Mary B. Walsh on the book The Nursing Process which was selected as book of the year in 1975 by the American Journal of Nursing. She also coauthored Nursing Leadership and Human Needs and the Nursing Process. Helen later held a position at the National League for Nursing, tasked with accrediting colleges and universities with highest standards of nursing education.

Her career eventually brought her to Norfolk, VA where she found both the love of her live, Joseph Petro, and the position of Graduate Program Director at Old Dominion University. At ODU, she devoted herself to the vision leaders in today’s nursing profession while expanding the scope and quality of nursing care. Through the years Helen received numerous awards, honors and honorary degrees. She was honored at the end of her career with the designation of Eminent Professor Emeritus. She loved growing orchids, home baking and sharing her Slovak heritage.

She was a member of Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, and Sigma Theta Pau. In lieu of flowers, Memorial donations may be made to Birthright, DePaul Hospital, 150 Kingsley Lane, Norfolk, VA 23505. H.D. Oliver Funeral Apts, Norfolk chapel is handling arrangements. Online condolences may be sent to the family at hdoliver.com

The University Libraries' annual book sale—held October 28-31, with a special preview night for FOL members on October 27—was a huge success!

For the first time in the book sale’s history, we accepted credit card payments, which boosted overall sales.

A big thank you goes out to all of the FOL members and library staff who volunteered to help out with this year’s sale.

L-R: ODU Libraries staff Kurt Reitz, Rob Tench, and Kathryn Boone prepare for the Annual Book Sale. Photo: ODU Libraries

FERN MCDougAL Retires

Fern McDougal, Executive Assistant to the University Librarian, retired from Old Dominion University Libraries in November. Fern started at ODU in October 1985 as an Executive Assistant. She has worked with five University Librarians, including Dr. Cynthia Duncan, Linda Farynak, Dr. Jean Major, Virginia O’Herron, and George Fowler. During her time at ODU, she was active with Hourly and Classified Employees Association (HACE) and served as support for the Friends of ODU Libraries since the organization’s inception. We wish her a very happy retirement and thank her for her many contributions to ODU.
Welcome to Old Dominion University Libraries!
New Employees Join Libraries’ Family

Ruth DeCarmo

Ruth (Ruthie) DeCarmo joins ODU Libraries as our new Business Office Specialist. Ruthie is learning a great deal about the world of University finance and has found the ODU staff to be welcoming and resourceful. Previous to ODU, she worked as the part-time administrative assistant for the Tidewater Community College (TCC) Chesapeake campus library. In addition to her clerical duties at TCC, she staffed the circulation desk, assisted with reference, and helped students with basic computer, software, and internet questions.

Ruthie has been married for 32 years to the love of her life, David. They have three daughters and three granddaughters. In her free time, she likes to participate in local craft shows and events, assisted by her husband.

Ruthie makes several different types of crafts; her favorite being guitar pick jewelry. These were a big hit as prizes during the Libraries’ Feed Your Brains zombie event in October. Ruthie donated some of these guitar pick jewelry pieces to be placed as a prize in the Student Government Association’s Prize Wheel activity.

In 2010, Ruthie returned to college part-time after 28 years. She likes to refer to herself as a “seasoned” college student. Ruthie has recently completed her associate degree in Social Science, and has begun working toward a second associate degree. She hopes to complete her Bachelor and Master degrees at ODU. Her favorite classes have included anatomy and physiology, pathology, and pharmacology. Ruthie decided to take this semester off, having just started a new position. She is looking forward to returning to classes in the near future.

Ruthie is exceptionally impressed with the encouragement and support the ODU management staff offers to all employees in the continuation of their education. Whether you are 18 or 80, she encourage everyone to continue a path of life-long learning. “It does not matter if you are taking a class to complete a degree, expand your horizons, or just for the fun of it,” she says. “Our minds need mental stimulation just as our bodies require exercise. What better way to accomplish this then committing to life-long learning.”

Steven Bookman

As the recently hired University Archivist at ODU, it is Steve Bookman’s job to collect and promote ODU’s stories such as ODU’s 85th Anniversary. In recognition of ODU’s 85th Anniversary, Steve created a special exhibit of photos and books on display in Special Collections. While researching the exhibit, Steve found a unique historical document regarding possible names for the newly founded University. Names such as Larchmont University and University of Southern Virginia were some of the most popular names voted on by students and faculty. Finding and promoting the university’s historical gems is an important and rewarding part of the job.

Steve is committed to providing outreach to the University community and letting them know about the historical gems that can be found in Special Collections. Another goal as University Archivist is to provide outreach to the University’s colleges, departments, and administrative offices informing them about the benefits of transferring items to the University Archives. Additionally, outreach to student organizations, sororities, and fraternities is very important, as students should be aware they can preserve their own sense of history.

Before coming to ODU, Steve worked as a University Archives Specialist at the College of William and Mary. In 2007, Steve received his MLS with a concentration in Archives and Records Management from the University of Maryland at College Park.

When not working, Steve’s hobbies include collecting coins, completing crossword puzzles in ink, walking around campus, and singing with the Williamsburg Choral Guild—a local choir specializing in classical music.
FOL Fall Lecture Series

In case you missed it...

Peter Eudenbach, Associate Professor of Art at ODU | September 17, 2015
Professor Eudenbach discussed his research about libraries and their mission to continue the dissemination of knowledge and the exploration of ideas, set to the backdrop of his 2012 art exhibit, *To Arrive Where We Started*.

Photo: petereudenbach.com/bio

David J. Burdige, Professor and Eminent Scholar of Ocean, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at ODU | October 22, 2015
Dr. Burdige, an internationally known expert in marine geochemistry, presented *Writing Books in the Sciences: Giving New Meaning to “Publish or Perish*, addressing research in the sciences and how libraries support faculty in publishing efforts.

Photo: odu.edu/news

Dr. Dylan Wittkower, Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies at ODU | November 6, 2015
Dr. Wittkower focused on the intersection of digital humanities, libraries, and the Internet, in his talk, *The Intarwebs: Made of Cats, Akshully*, which plays on the ever-popular cat memes found online.

Photo: odu.edu

Jessica Ritchie, Head of Special Collections and University Archives at ODU | December 2, 2015
Jessica Ritchie provided an intimate look into processing and archives University records and other special collections items, and the role the University Libraries plays in supporting and preserving both ODU and local community history.

Photo: ODU Libraries
On November 24, students from ODU’s Music Department performed works by Richmond, Virginia, composer Allan Blank during the annual Student Concert, held in the Ludwig Diehn Composers Room. The concert, organized by Mike Hall, featured works from the Allan Blank Papers Collection in memory and tribute to the composer, who died in November 2013.

Photos: John Toomey

The 3rd Annual Zombies event was held in the Learning Commons @ Perry Library on Oct. 26. Students enjoyed zombie-themed information literacy games, books, and a brain cake created by Aramark Dining Services.

Editor: Rachel Stott (may be reached at rlux@odu.edu)
Contributors: Sue Doviak, George Fowler, Miriam Bridges, Maddie Dietrich, Elizabeth Hogue, Kathy Nguyen, Lucinda Rush