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## Friends of the Libraries Newsletter, September 2016

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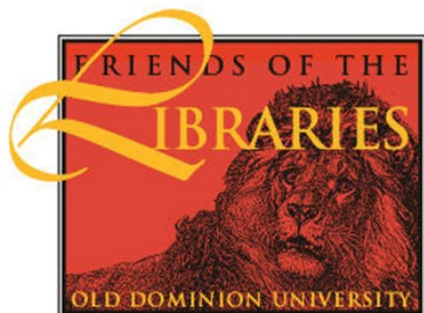
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September 2016

# Newsletter

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## FOL FUNDRAISER FEATURING LARRY SABATO SET FOR OCT. 13

Larry Sabato, renowned political mind and founder of the University of Virginia Center for Politics and Sabato's Crystal Ball, will speak at Old Dominion University in October. This Friends of ODU Libraries' Fundraiser is sure to be a hot ticket, as Sabato is famous for correctly predicting presidential elections since the Center's inception in 2004—but this election cycle has been anything but predictable!



Mr. Sabato will speak in the Big Blue Room at the TED Constant Center. A discussion moderated by ODU faculty members will follow. Tickets will go on sale in late July. Cost will be \$28, or \$10 for students. FOL will co-host a series of events running up to Oct. 13, as well. Stay tuned for more information, and follow us on Facebook at: [facebook.com/ODUFOL](https://facebook.com/ODUFOL)

## Save The Date!

- **August 31**  
2nd Annual State of the Libraries Address
- **September 8, 2016**  
5th Year Anniversary of the Learning Commons @ Perry Library
- **September TBA**  
Stump Speech Contest
- **Fall TBA**  
Young Republicans and Young Democrats Debate
- **October 13, 2016**  
Larry Sabato's Crystal Ball & Faculty-Led Discussion
- **November 3, 2016**  
Political Science Faculty Discussion Panel
- **January 20, 2017**  
Inauguration Party



George Fowler  
University Librarian

Dear Friends, Summer is officially here, with at least a couple days that will feel like it! Thinking of summer reminds me of a question I am frequently asked—am I enjoying the break from the

students. Often, my response is that I notice that there are far fewer students and faculty navigating around campus and in the Libraries, but I couldn't call it a break. The Libraries are in the middle of too many significant projects to call this a break.

I will take this opportunity to thank the Friends of the Libraries for purchasing new furniture for the staff room in Perry Library. The previous furniture was over 20 years old and needed to be replaced. The new furniture is just one, highly visible way in which the Friends organization supports the Libraries. Thank you!

As with my last letter, I am excited to report two new hires. Starting June 27, is Carrie Anderson, the Libraries' first Communications Coordinator. On July 25, Junfang Zhang will start as the Head of the Systems Development department. We also finished the process for hiring our two new Associate University Librarians. We're pleased to report that Leo Lo accepted the position of Associate University Librarian for Information Services and Shixing Wen accepted the position of Associate University Librarian for Resources.

I am excited to work with our new Provost, Dr. Augustine (Austin) Agho, who started at ODU on June 1 on his and our major initiatives. Further, with transitions in the leadership of the Batten College of Engineering and Technology and the College of Arts and Letters, this is an exciting time for academics at ODU, and I expect the Libraries to be an essential partner throughout the process.

Later in this newsletter, you will learn the results of the alumni survey we conducted, but I want to update you on action we already took in response

to it—an Alumni Open House in the Libraries, which was a partnership among the Libraries, the Friends of the Libraries, and the Alumni Association. This was an opportunity to share who the Libraries are today, what we can provide to alumni, and to further conversations about how we can better serve our alumni in continuing to be successful after graduation. We were pleased to have approximately 40 alumni attend when it was the first sunny Sunday in several weeks and during Harborfest, so there were definitely alternatives to our event.

Finally, do not forget about the Friends fundraising event on Thursday, October 13—Dr. Larry Sabato's Crystal Ball. This promises to be a lively, yet informative event for seasoned and first-time voters, alike. I hope to see you there.

As you can see, a lot is happening in and around the Libraries, and now is a great time for you to become more engaged in our future. Please contact us to get involved directly in making these exciting opportunities real!

Sincerely,  
George

Greetings,

The Friends of the ODU Libraries have had a very productive summer and are looking to an exiting fall. In June, in response to the many responses we received from our survey data, we held our first library open house for alumni. Staff provided tours of the library, a sampling of digital offerings and updates on the many services your library provides. Over refreshments we had the opportunity to chat further with attendees about their impressions of what is offered and what they desire.

The feedback from this event was so positive that we will be offering a second open house in the spring semester, along with an event "Relax and Recharge with the Libraries" during Homecoming week-

end. We hope to see many of you there.

Our fundraiser with Dr. Larry Sabato from the University of Virginia's Center for Politics will be held on Thursday, October 13. Information on purchasing tickets can be found in this issue. Coming just weeks before the election, we can all look forward to his insight on one of the most unprecedented political cycles in history.

On a sad note, Fern McDougall, recently retired library administrative assistant, passed away earlier this month. Among her many other duties, she was responsible for membership and newsletter communications. Upon her retirement, the Friends of the Libraries established a gift in her honor. Anyone wishing to contribute to this fund can make a donation

online marked in memory of Fern McDougall.

The campus is bustling with preparations for the new semester. Students are moving back to campus and the libraries are preparing to receive them. Within weeks the library will be filled with groups in study rooms, working at computers and enjoying coffee and bagels. We hope you will visit this exciting center of learning soon,

Sue Doviak  
President  
Friends of the Libraries

# Allan Blank Endowment Enhances Libraries' Collections

The Libraries have recently been enriched with a generous endowment by the Allan and Margot Blank Foundation. The Foundation was created by Allan Blank, an award-winning composer and resident of Richmond, Virginia, and it primarily supports chamber groups, choral groups, and soloists that perform contemporary music, and artistic organizations that exhibit regional artists. The Libraries' endowment will provide critical support of music special collections in the Diehn Composers Room, as well as promote activities that honor Mr. Blank's legacy of creating and performing contemporary music.

Allan Blank was born on December 27, 1925. He was a prolific composer with over 60 published works, including opera, orchestra and chamber music. Mr. Blank wrote for all instruments, and his curiosity about new ideas often inspired him to compose for unusual combinations of instruments. A native New Yorker, Mr. Blank trained at venues including the Juilliard School of Music; the Tanglewood Music Center; and Columbia University, where he completed a teachers certification program. He had been a violinist with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra,

the Gershwin Concert Orchestra and the National Orchestral Training Association before moving to Richmond where he taught music composition at Virginia Commonwealth University from 1978-1996. At the time of his death on November 13, 2013 he held the title of Professor Emeritus with VCU. He was predeceased by his beloved wife of 50 years, Margot Blank, an accomplished painter, photographer, and printmaker.

During his career, Mr. Blank received numerous awards, grants and commissions. He was awarded a grant from the Virginia Commission of the Arts for his "Concerto for Clarinet & String Orchestra" in 1990, and in 1989 he won the Lind Solo Competition. Blank received the Eric Satie Mostly Tonal Award for his string trio "Fantasy on Cantillation Motives" and won the Annual Choral Competition Contest sponsored by the Chautauqua Chamber Singers for his "Poor Richard's Almanack" in 1988.

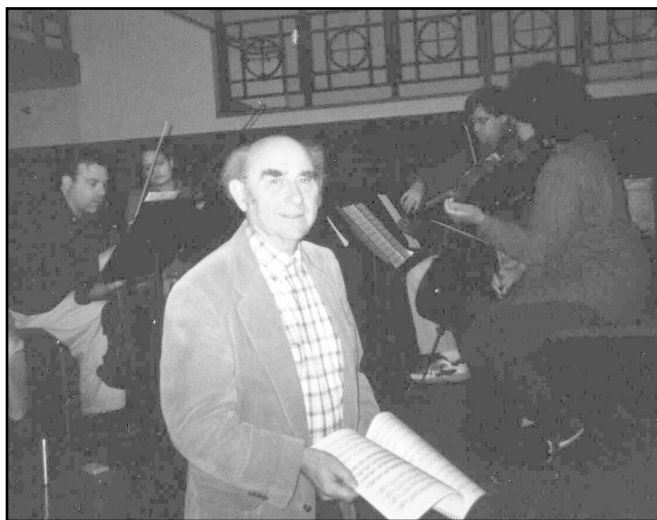
In addition to his contributions as a composer and teacher, Mr. Blank was committed to supporting local organizations that feature regional musicians and composers. From 2000 to 2010, he contributed many

donations of archival materials to the ODU Libraries' Diehn Composers Room, including photographs, notebooks, compositions, sketches, recordings and correspondence. His compositions have been featured in a number of concerts at ODU, and his archival materials have been displayed in several exhibits by the Libraries.

The endowment by the Allan and Margot Blank Foundation has greatly enhanced the Libraries' ability to acquire, preserve, and provide access to collections highlighting contemporary composers and musicians in the region and beyond. The Libraries are honored to receive such generous support.

More information about Allan Blank and the Diehn Composers Room can be found on the Old Dominion University Libraries' web site at: <http://guides.lib.odu.edu/musiccollections>.

The exhibit "*Fill in the Blank: Works Selected from the Allan Blank Papers Collection*," is currently on display in the Diehn Composers Room.



*Photos of Allan Blank from the ODU Libraries' Special Collections and University Archives.*



# ODU Libraries Alumni Open House

ODU Libraries, in partnership with the Alumni Relations Office, held their first Alumni Open House on Sunday, June 12.

More than 40 people attended the event, which featured food; library tours; information tables for Friends of ODU Libraries, the Alumni Office, and the Branch Libraries; special exhibits in Special Collections & University Archives; demonstrations of

the ODU Digital Collections; and highlights of ODU Libraries' research and professional development activities.

Results from the spring FOL Alumni Survey were also on display [*read more on page 1*], and two basic FoL Memberships were raffled. The response was very positive, and the alumni in attendance indicated they would enjoy more events at ODU Libraries.



*Clockwise from top left: Alumni relax in the soft seating area of the Learning Commons @ Perry Library; Health Sciences Librarian Joleen McInnis gears up for a tour; University Librarian George Fowler chats with alumni; Clare Houseman recruits new FoL members*



## Remembering Fern McDougal

Fern Marshall Lederle McDougal, 64, passed away early on the morning of Sunday, August 7, 2016. She was born September 5, 1951, in Norfolk, VA and spent her youth in Algonquin Park.

She was predeceased by her grandparents, Edward Lee Marshall, Veatrice Owens Marshall Windsor, Dr. Peter John Lederle and Elsie Oaks Lederle. She was also predeceased by her father, John Hirst Lederle. She is survived by her mother, Jean Marshall Lederle Lindsay; her cousin, Louis C. Page, III (Charlene) and many cousins.

She was a graduate of Granby High School, attended Centre College and graduated from Old Dominion University where she worked in the administration offices of the Library for many years. She was a member of MENSA, HACE, STYLE, Emmaus, and Zion Grace United Methodist Church, where she served in several leadership positions.

# 2016 Alumni Survey

This spring, ODU Libraries and FOL partnered with the Office of Alumni Relations on campus to survey alumni about their experiences with ODU Libraries post-graduation. The Libraries plan to follow-up with alumni in various ways in the future to address the information discovered in the survey.

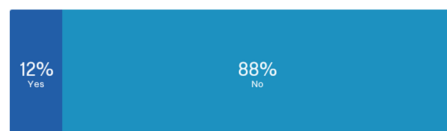
More than 1,000 alumni responded, giving us feedback about how they do—or would like to—use and engage with the ODU Libraries. Special programs, exhibits featuring alumni, insight into the Libraries' workings and increased access to resources were just a few of the topics that sparked excitement. Here are a few other highlights:

- 19.2% of respondents had used

ODU Libraries within the past year, while 60.6% had not used ODU Libraries since graduation.

- A Special Collections & University Archives Open House was the engagement opportunity most people said they would be interested in (24.9%), followed by Special Collections Roadshows (23%), and Learning more about the Libraries' operations (22%).

**Are you aware that ODU alumni receive one year of free borrowing privileges after graduation?**



### Top 5 Services Alumni Most Likely to Use if Offered



Access to online resources  
from home



### Expanded borrowing privileges



Events & exhibits featuring ODU  
faculty, students & alumni

Interlibrary Loan & Document  
Delivery


Updates about news & events  
at ODU Libraries

## How can ODU Libraries better serve alumni?



# Libraries Represent!

The ODU Libraries were represented at several conferences this spring. **Topher Lawton, Ashley Brewer, and James Rhoades** presented at the Maryland & Delaware Library Association Conference in Ocean City, MD. Their presentation was titled *Utilizing Scenario Planning to Shape a Strategic Plan.*



From left: James Rhoades, Ashley Brewer,



*From left: James Rhoades, Ashley Brewer,  
and Topher Lawton*

They shared their experiences in leading the scenario planning process that the ODU Libraries conducted in summer 2014, using the American Research Libraries 2030 scenarios.

**Lucinda Rush** presented at The Innovative Library Classroom

conference at Radford University. Her presentation was titled *The Biggest Lies on the Internet: Using Real Life Examples to Help Students Master Information Literacy Concepts*. She shared her ideas for using examples of short-circuits in the information cycle to teach students about the messy process of conducting research, experience research as inquiry, and participate in scholarly conversations.

**Joleen McInnis** presented at the SUNY Library Association Conference in Binghamton, NY. Along with her former colleague at Sojourner Truth Library at SUNY New Paltz, she shared her experiences in transforming three service desks to one shared service desk, from the planning to the implementation phases, and everything in-between.

**Corrie Marsh** gave a half-day workshop at the NASIG Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on June 8. “Creating an Institutional Repository: Elements for Success” was an interactive approach to best practices for capturing digital humanities and e-Science projects, multimedia, digital exhibits, events, and journal management, as well as marking and public relations activities for campus interaction.

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## FoL Staff Appreciation Ceremony and Reception



The Friends of ODU Libraries hosted their annual Staff Appreciation Awards Ceremony and Reception on Thursday, May 19.

**Periodicals Assistant Irina Abramova** [top, center] was named Classified Staff Member of the Year. **Instructional Services Librarian Rachel Stott** [bottom, center] was named Librarian of the Year. Following tradition, friends and family were invited to celebrate with the award recipients.

Food and fun was enjoyed by all!

## NEW FURNITURE IN STAFF LOUNGE

The Friends of ODU Libraries generously donated the funds for new couches and chairs in the Perry Library Staff Lounge. The new furniture is a big upgrade from the worn, outdated set, and it gives employees a more comfortable place for lunch, breaks, stress-free events, and other celebrations.

Thanks, Friends!





## Spring Highlights at ODU Libraries

### Annual Poetry Slam Draws Large Crowd

In celebration of National Library Week and National Poetry Month, the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Poetry Slam was held at the Learning Commons @ Perry Library on April 14, 2016. The annual Poetry Slam is a collaborative effort between the University Libraries and the MFA program faculty member Remica Bingham-Rischer and her students. This year we had 14 contestants and over 80 audience members. Contestants presented their original poetry and were judged by a panel of four judges who were selected from the audience. Our emcee was Robbie Ciara, who stated, "It's always an event that gathers a lot of excitement. Whether you are a writer or not, the slam is always an enjoyable and entertaining time." This year's winners were Matthew St. Clair, Aurthur Odango, and Julia Wagner.



*Top three finishers, Aurthur Odango, Matthew St. Clair, and Julia Wagner with emcee Robbie Ciara (left).*

### National Library Week Events a Success

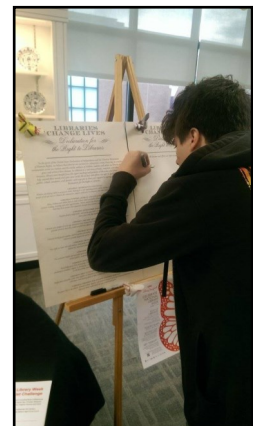
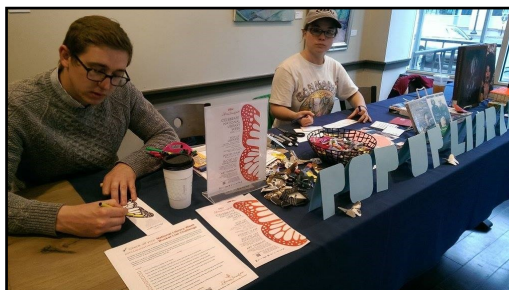
This year National Library Week was observed by Old Dominion University Libraries from April 10 to April 16. The 2016 theme was "Libraries Transform," which highlights the transformative nature of libraries. ODU Libraries hosted several events designed to spotlight how the three campus libraries transform faculty, staff and students of ODU.

At National Library Week welcome tables, over 200 students, staff, and faculty signed the American Library Association Declaration for the Right to Libraries. Students also de-stressed at

art therapy tables, coloring specially made ODU Libraries posters and bookmarks. Pop-Up-Libraries popped up at different campus locations such as Borjo Coffeehouse, Webb Center and the Children's Learning & Research Center. The Pop-Up-Libraries allowed visitors to check out books, pick up library swag and sign-up for the National Library Week Bucket List Challenge. Over 25 students entered the bucket list challenge completing special library tasks such as taking a picture of the ODU85 exhibit or saying hello to their subject librarian. Thanks

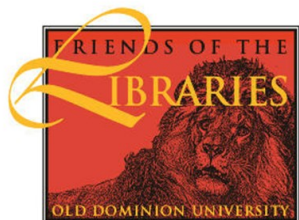
to the generosity of many local businesses and organizations, contest winners won prizes such as tickets to the Virginia International Tattoo, family memberships to Chrysler Museum, and gift certificates to Pita Pit, Baker's Crust, Borjo Coffeehouse and more.

National Library Week is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association. Each April the contributions of libraries and librarians are celebrated and the importance of libraries are promoted.



*From left: Pop-Up Library at Borjo Coffeehouse; a future Monarch colors at the de-stress station in Perry Library; a student signs the ALA Declaration for the Right to Libraries at the Art Library.*





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