Friends of the Libraries Newsletter, April 2015

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“Mindscapes of Religious Violence”
Thursday, April 9th at 7 pm
Room 1310-1311
Learning Commons @ Perry Library

Explore this riveting and relevant topic with ODU Professor Finley-Croswhite, as she considers the geographies of oppression generated by religious violence—from the Catholic Massacre of Huguenots at Vassy, to the death camp at Auschwitz-Birkenau. Dr. Finley-Croswhite will bring to the discussion memories of her own childhood as a Protestant minister’s daughter.

The event is free and open to the public, but seating is limited.

RSVP 683.4141 or email njustice@odu.edu

Annette Finley-Croswhite

In Memoriam: Past President, Friends of the Libraries - Mary Daniel

Mary Daniel and her husband lived a well-travelled life in 63 years together. One highlight: she worked with Richard Leakey, organizing his branch of the Kenya National Library with a Master’s Degree in library science at the University of Tennessee.

Mary had been on the Friends board for one year, but had never served in an office when Donna Koch called her in 2001 to ask if she would serve as President of the Friends of the Library. She said: “What followed fueled my enthusiasm. I made new friendships, and became a strong supporter of a library that worked as an efficient system. My first term ... was very much a learning experience. Highlights were the guidance and friendship of University Librarian Jean Major; the support of past president Martha Rollins; and the cooperation and able assistance of the Friends of the Library Staff Liaison, Fern McDougal.” Mary was re-elected and served for four years.

She died January 11 at home in Norfolk surrounded by her beloved husband, Joseph C. Daniel, and family.

Professor John Dixon Hunt’s lecture “Design is of things not yet appearing” — Gardens & Landscapes on Paper was held in March at the University Theatre on Hampton Boulevard. The lecture was sponsored by the ODU Art Department. You can view a display of Dr. Hunt’s published works from the ODU Libraries’ collection in Hofheimer Art Library.
Dear Friends,

As I write this, I am anticipating this will be the first full week of work in four weeks. For Old Dominion University Libraries, 2015 has started like a lion, though I don’t think it has any plans to end like a lamb. Not only did Ann Pettingill, Associate University Librarian for Information Services announce her retirement for July 2015, but ODU’s Provost, Carol Simpson, also announced that she will be stepping back into the faculty ranks in July 2015. Further on the personnel side, the Libraries are currently recruiting for a Scholarly Communication and Collection Development Librarian and a University Archivist.

On an operational note, the Libraries completed our 20-month future planning process, with a long list of tasks to accomplish in 2015. These tasks include focused actions such as initiating an Institutional Repository for ODU and broader concepts such as re-envisioning the organizational structure of the Libraries to fit a mid-21st century research library. Stay tuned to future newsletters for more information!

This will be an exciting year for ODU and the Libraries, and we invite you and your friends (a friend of the Libraries’ Friends is also a friend to the Libraries) to become engaged with us to ensure we remain an excellent resource for ODU and the ODU community.

Regards,
George J. Fowler, Interim University Librarian

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**Friends of the ODU Libraries 2015 Lecture Series**

**Celebrating the Armed Forces and the ODU Libraries**

**"Naval Station Norfolk: A Historical Perspective"**

In March, Captain Robert E. Clark, a highly decorated Naval officer, an ODU graduate (‘89), and the second speaker in the Friends lecture series discussed the history and importance of the Naval Station Norfolk where he is commander.

He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering Technology here and was commissioned through the Naval ROTC Unit Hampton Roads Battalion.

His career spans multiple tours and leadership roles on numerous vessels. His success has largely depended on continuing education and sharing his knowledge.

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**Friends of the ODU Libraries lecture series events are free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served following the lectures. Please RSVP at 683-4141 or email fmcdouga@odu.edu.**
Dear Friends,

When I reflect on my career as a librarian, I think about all of the wonderful “patrons” I had the pleasure of helping, the dedicated and often times underappreciated library staff members in each of the libraries where I worked, and the sheer joy and comfort of having access to the many freely available resources in the library. My career as a librarian spanned 44+ years, with a pre-career as a page or shelver in the Virginia Beach Public Library System and concluded as the library director of the Joint Forces Staff College.

One of my memories is about hunting for a research topic at the University of Michigan’s Rackham graduate school library. The floor levels did not match the elevator levels, due to various building additions. Somehow finding myself on one of these not-so-obvious floors, I ran across a series of documents on dialects in Appalachia. What a find! Just browsing these shelves led me to discover a world that I never knew about, and found completely spellbinding.

What are your library memories?

Send us a paragraph or two! We would love to publish your stories in upcoming newsletters.

Best wishes for a happy spring!

Gail Nicula, Ph.D.

President,
Friends of the ODU Libraries

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NEW FRIENDS ON BOARD

Dr. Jody K. Howard—Associate Professor and Graduate Program Director in the Darden College of Education—says “Libraries are so important today regardless of whether they are designated as public, school, academic or special. As information professionals, we need to make certain we connect our students and patrons with the information they need so that they can create the knowledge that will help them fulfill their destinies as human beings...I am honored to be a member of the Friends of the ODU Libraries and know that this organization will support the information needs of the ODU community.”

Jody received a B.A. in English at Metropolitan State College (’71), a Masters of Science Ed. in School Libraries at the University of Colorado at Boulder (’75), a Master of Library Science at the University of Denver (’81) and her Ph.D. in Library and Information Management (’08) at Emporia State University. She was Director of the Palmer School of Library and Information Science and Associate Dean of the College of Education, Information and Technology, Long Island University. Her interests are organizational culture, leadership, schools, and information organizations.

Dr. George Mailhafer—Associate Professor of Health Sciences—sees a direct connection between ODU as research institute and Libraries role. “The big drive in medicine, nursing and allied health,” he says “is evidence-based practice. For many years health care was provided based on anecdotal evidence, with research often not presented with random clinical trials of sufficient size to warrant conclusions. At least in physical therapy, now we emphasize the importance of evidence-based practice in our curriculum. Our profession is trying to catch up on the research to support this approach and the textbooks are including that. I’d say that our library is top notch in our field. Our students often cite it as outstanding.”

George has a B.S. in Physical Therapy from SUNY Health Center (’73); an M.S. in Education/Physical Therapy (’77) from the University of Kentucky; and a Ph.D. in Urban Services from ODU (’92). He has been Chairman of the Virginia Board of Physical Therapy and past president of the Virginia Physical Therapy Association. He joins the Friends Board in the same spirit of service.

Dr. David Metzger—Dean of the Honors College and Professor of English—came to ODU in 1993 after teaching at Montana State University. He earned a B.A. in English and French and an M.A. in English at Emporia State University (KS), an M.A. in Jewish Studies from Hebrew College (Boston), and a Ph.D. in Rhetoric and Composition (classics minor) at the University of Missouri. He has written and edited four books, over 40 single-authored articles and book chapters and is currently working on a monograph Transcendent Persuasion: essays on the internal rhetoric of classic Jewish texts. He has held numerous posts including Interim Dean of Academic Enhancement; Chair of English, Founding GPD for the PhD in English, Founding Academic Director for the Institute for Jewish Studies and Interfaith Understanding, and Founding Director of Writing Tutorial Services (now The Writing Center). Among his many service positions, David is the Vice President of Klal Rhetorica, an international academic organization devoted to promoting the field of Jewish discourse studies. He is active in the English department,. teaching classes and directing doctoral dissertations.
The ODU Libraries celebrated Women’s History Month with exhibits in the Perry Library and the Hofheimer Art Library.

In “Weaving the Stories of Women’s Lives,” Perry Library celebrates the 40th anniversary of the ODU Women’s Caucus, a group that was formed on campus in the 1960s and 1970s. The exhibit uses materials from the University Archives to showcase the early years and issues the Caucus continues to address in building a woman-friendly campus. Also in Perry Library is a book display featuring women faculty authors and other books about women’s issues.

The Hofheimer Art Library in the Barry Arts Building continues their exhibit which features four contemporary African-American Women Artists: Kara Walker, Betye Saar, Alison Saar and Lorna Simpson. This display will be available from February - May.

Celebrating Friends’ 20 Years with Dr. Hailstork Lecture Series Kickoff

On October 25, 1994, a group met in Webb Center’s Elizabeth River Room to initiate the Friends of the Old Dominion University Library. University President James V. Koch noted, “There is nothing more important to the future of the university” than the university library. He then spoke of the great financial duress being experienced by libraries because of escalating costs of books and journals. Dolly Hinton, steering committee chair, anticipated agenda topics: raising funds, recruiting volunteers, holding a reception to honor library staff, presenting programs related to books and learning, and publicity for the library. This meeting was preceded by six months’ groundwork of a steering committee made up of 14 faculty, staff, and community residents; the group prepared a draft constitution and by-laws, membership levels, a dues schedule and a structure for the Friends organization.

The constitution and by-laws were approved at the first annual meeting, held in conjunction with the author dinner on April 12, 1995, and the first election of board officers was held on June 13, 1995. Dolly Hinton was elected president. Committees were designated—Membership, Program, Publicity, and Service. By the end of its first year, the Friends of the Old Dominion University Library had a membership of 125.

“A Recollection of Friends”
from a 2005 letter by Jean A. Major, University Librarian Emeritus

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Library spaces over time:

1931: 200 books housed in the Old Larchmont Elementary School (or, the new Norfolk Division building).
1936: New Administration Building includes a library on the first floor (single room for 60 users, 1,945 volumes)
1959: Hughes Library (49th and Hampton)
1976: University Library in new building on 45th St
1982: Elise N. Hofheimer Art Library in Fine Arts Building
1997: Diehn Composers Room in Diehn Fine & Performing Arts Building
1998: University Library renovated and expanded, named Perry Library in 1999
2011: Renovated and expanded to include Learning Commons

(Thanks to Karen Vaughan, our new Digital Initiatives Librarian, for this look at the development of ODU Libraries.)

1959: Progress for the Library at Old Dominion....

The old Hughes Hall that preceded the Patricia W. and J. Douglas Perry Library was built where the houses on the left faced 48th Street.

Libraries as Institutional Repository

ODU Libraries will be implementing and managing a campus-wide institutional repository. It will be a place to preserve, promote, and provide access to the intellectual output of the University. Materials created by faculty, students, and administrative units include theses and dissertations, journal articles, unpublished reports and working papers, presentations, datasets, newsletters, strategic plans, and multimedia materials. With open access availability, these materials will reach scholars and others worldwide, thus increasing Old Dominion University’s national and international reputation for research excellence.

It sounds grand, but there is a lot of work ahead. While the repository product has been selected and purchased, it needs a name and a design and then an efficient workflow for ingesting materials. ODU Yearbooks may be the first items in the repository.

Karen Vaughan will be managing the repository, with oversight by the Digital Initiatives Team (Pete Bruce, Leanne Hillery, Valentina Nebblitt-Jones, Jessica Ritchie, Kathleen Smith). Stay tuned for many updates on their progress.
Russell Stanger  *(from ODU news)*

The founding conductor of the Virginia Symphony Orchestra, and namesake of Old Dominion University's Russell Stanger String Quartet, died January 7, in Norfolk.

He was an internationally noted composer and conductor. His accomplishments included: conducting the Boston Pops and serving as a guest conductor with some of the leading North American and European orchestras, such as the Philadelphia Orchestra, New York Philharmonic and London Philharmonic. He conducted for Benny Goodman, Isaac Stern, Ella Fitzgerald and famed cellist Yo-Yo Ma.

Stanger came to Virginia in 1966 to conduct the Norfolk Symphony (now the Virginia Symphony); a post he held until 1980, when he became conductor laureate.

At ODU, Stanger was named an advisor to the F. Ludwig Diehn Fund under the purview of the Hampton Roads Community Foundation. Stanger donated his archives of photographs, recordings, music notations, original scores and other memorabilia, including letters from Leonard Bernstein, to ODU's F. Ludwig Diehn Composers Room in 2009. He was awarded an honorary doctorate degree from Old Dominion and the University named the Russell Stanger String Quartet in his honor.

A celebration of life service was held in the Chandler Recital Hall of the Diehn Center for the Performing Arts.

Elizabeth Vihnanek's husband, David Vihnanek, passed away in February after a long illness. Elizabeth was Head of Reference here from 2006-2008.

**Teresa Parker-Bellamy**

We regret to report the passing on January 7th of Teresa Parker-Bellamy after a long illness. Teresa worked for the University Libraries as a Library Assistant in Bibliographic Services for several years. She left to get her library degree and worked at Regent University Law Library as Head of Bibliographic Services.

We are sad to report that Crystal Willis lost her father, Wilbur Isaac Gilmore, on January 29th. Crystal is an Electronic Resources Assistant at Perry Library.

**New Libraries Staff**

Maddie Dietrich has accepted the position of Diehn Composers Room Supervisor. Ms. Dietrich has a Master of Music degree in performance (bass) and music history and recently completed her MLIS at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee where she worked in the Music and Curriculum collection at the Golda Meir Library. Her interests include digital copyright, preservation, and analysis of historical music recordings. Her experience includes playing with regional symphony orchestras, big bands and community theater groups. She begin in February.

Remar Alburo began in the Learning Commons @ Perry Library in March. He has an Associate of Science degree in Social Science and is currently pursuing his Bachelor of Arts in English. Previously he served in the United States Army from 2003-2012 and is also a former employee of Norfolk International Airport under the Department of Homeland Security.
Departing Employees

Ann Pettingill will retire from the University Libraries at the end of June. Ann was the Serials Librarian from 1983-1987. She left the area and returned to become Head of the Reference Dept-Research Services in 1991. She became Associate University Librarian for Information Services in 2005.

Bill Edwards-Bodmer, Reference Training and Technology specialist, recently took a job at the Slover Library, Norfolk’s newest public library located downtown.

In February, Stefan "Steve" Vecerdea left the Learning Commons at Perry Library to become Assistant Operations Manager with The Port of Virginia. Prior to his position with us, Steve worked here as a student assistant in Microforms since 2011.

Lucinda Rush (Education Reference Librarian) was selected to receive an Early-career Librarian Scholarship to attend the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) biannual conference in Portland, OR in late March. Lucy also attended a pre-conference program on the topic of Developing Research Questions, Methods and Habits of Mind.

In 1959, house wreckers demolish old houses on 48th Street to make way for the Hughes Library, part of the College of W&M in Norfolk. Get the big picture on page 5.

Before there was a Hughes Library...

Staff Education & Leadership

In February, Elizabeth Hogue (Instruction and Music Collections Services Librarian) represented ODU Libraries as a panelist at the Music Library Association’s Annual Conference in Denver, Colorado where she discussed the origins, acquisition, philosophy and use of the Diehn Composers Room’s Contemporary Music Research collection and the New Music Performance Collection. This is significant because there are only a handful of special music collections that aim to preserve contemporary music. (Two others at the conference: the Grawemeyer Collection at the University of Louisville and the John Cage Notations Collection at Northwestern University.)

Tony Justice & David Pope at Virginia Data Boot Camp led by Science Reference Services Librarian in

In February, Tony Justice & David Pope at Virginia Data Boot Camp led by Science Reference Services Librarian in
April
9th (Thur) at 7 pm Learning Commons at Perry Library conference room. FOL lecture series speaker: Annette Finley-Croswhite, Professor of History, on “Mindscapes of violence: A personal, complex, and always troubling journey to comprehend religious violence” RSVP to 683-4141
13th -- Poetry Slam in Learning Commons @ Perry Library

September
(Date and time TBD)
Celebrating Art and the ODU Libraries. FoL Lecture Series speaker: Peter Eudenbach, sculptor and conceptual artist.

October
(Date and time TBD)
Learning Commons @ Perry Library. Celebrating the Sciences and the ODU Libraries. FoL Lecture Series speaker: Dr. David, Burdige, Oceanography. “Writing books in the sciences; giving new meaning to ‘publish or perish’”

November
6th (Friday)
Learning Commons @ Perry Library. Celebrating Philosophy and the ODU Libraries. FoL Lecture Series speaker: Dr. Dylan Wittkower, “The Itarwebs: Made of Cats, Akshully”

Old Dominion University’s Three Libraries
1. Patricia W. and J. Douglas Perry Library
2. F. Ludwig Diehn Composers Room in the Diehn Fine & Performing Arts Bldg
3. Elise N. Hofheimer Art Library in the Barry Arts Bldg

For ODU events: http://www.odu.edu/calendar

2015 Libraries Calendar
FOL Lecture series is free & open to the public.
Please RSVP to 683-4141 to reserve a seat.
In high school, I wasn't on any athletic teams. But I was the captain of the debate team. Football and baseball players spend their practice time on the field. Basketball players gather in the gym. Debaters spend their free time in the library, and that's where you'd find me on Saturdays in the mid-1970s, researching treatises to get dynamite quotations to demolish my adversaries up and down the East Coast.

I soon learned that one of the best sources for seemingly authoritative quotes was government documents; people with wonderful prefixes to their names (such as "Senator" or "Congressman") would say the goofiest things, and you could quote them with a straight face. It was easy pickings, assuming you could find a government-docs depository with all the hearing transcripts.

For me, growing up in southeastern Virginia, the nearest government-docs depository was at Old Dominion University in Norfolk. They kept the documents on the fourth floor of the library, and the government-docs librarian there was wonderful. If you were to ask an ordinary librarian for help in locating a given treatise, you might get a slightly arched eyebrow, and a gesture: "It's over on aisle four." At that point, the average librarian would resume ignoring you. But this middle-aged lady was different; ask her the same question, and she'd get up out of her chair, saying, "That's over on aisle four; c'mon," and walk with you. She'd pull the exact document off the shelf, hand it to you, and say, "If you're interested in this, there's another one you should see, over on aisle six; I'll be right back."

Wow, I thought. This is the most helpful human I've ever met.

I never forgot that lady. Years later, I remembered well how wonderful it felt to have her treat me like visiting nobility, even though I was just a skinny, nameless high-school kid in jeans and tennis shoes. I wished in retrospect that I could acknowledge her in some way, but I never learned her name.

As testament to her kindness, I decided that I should treat other people like that. I made sure that everyone in my office knew that they could always come in and ask me anything they wanted, and they'd always get a kind reception and the best help I could give them.

How did I convey that message? Easy; I got a desk sign engraved, and set it up on my desk. It contained the same two words that I saw on a sign on that librarian's desk; words that made an indelible impression. That sign rests on my desk even today, facing the door so that it's the first thing anyone sees when entering my office:

"Please disturb."

About two years ago, I drove my daughter to flute-choir rehearsal at ODU, then wondered what I'd do to kill time for an hour and a half. My mind turned to that nameless librarian, the one who had been so kind to me 35 years earlier. It occurred to me that I might go to the library and ask someone about her, to see if anyone remembered her. I didn't know it at the time, but a miracle was about to occur.

I approached the main help desk at the Library and described to the man there my long-ago benefactor, explained the reason why she meant so much to me, and asked if he had any idea who she was. To my astonishment, the man immediately replied, "You're talking about Audrey Amerski."

At last; after 35 years, I had a name. But the miracle continued to unfold.

She retired a few years ago," he added. "She's got to be in her 80s by now, but I'm pretty sure that she still lives around here. Let me see if I can get her phone number."

He pulled out a phone book and began to hunt through the A listings. As I stood there, stunned at my good fortune, another thought occurred to me. "This guy is doing just what she would have done," I mused. He could have given me some
bare-bones information, and told me to look her up myself. But he was going the extra mile, just as she had done for me back in the 1970s.

"Here it is. Do you want me to write down the number for you?"

I thanked him and walked out to my car, holding the precious slip of paper, and carefully dialed the number. To my delight, after two or three rings, a female voice answered,

"Hello?"

"Good morning; is this Audrey Amerski?"

"Yes."

"Ma’am, I want to thank you."

I explained to her who I was, and how I remembered her. I reminded her of her kindness to a nameless teenage boy in jeans and tennis shoes who was interested in government documents. I told her about how she had unknowingly influenced my life, and capped it off by telling her that, like her (and indeed, in her honor), I had a sign on my desk that read, "Please Disturb."

We talked about life and libraries and people. It was one of the greatest afternoons of my life, and when I ended the call after wishing her well, I got the sense that the conversation had meant as much to her as it had to me.

I’ll never stop being grateful to Audrey Amerski, and I’ll never stop encouraging people to "Please Disturb" me if they need help with something. This lady helped to shape my life in a way that she never knew until I described it to her. She helped me to become the kind of person that people feel comfortable consulting for help. She made me better. I cannot imagine how to repay a debt of that magnitude.

Each of you has had an Audrey Amerski -- probably several -- over the course of your life; someone who did something for you, not because of any personal gain, but just because you needed the help. In many cases, you can’t repay your original "creditor." So pass it on. Be an Audrey yourself, and help someone, not because it benefits you, but because he or she needs it. And if you still can, let your Audrey know what he or she meant to you.

Thank you, Audrey. Thank you for making me a better person.

Audrey Amerski was Old Dominion University Libraries’ department head for Government Publications. Helen Ho, who works in that unit now, remembers her as someone who couldn’t sit still. Kathryn Boone worked with her for 10 years and says Miss Amerski retired from ODU Libraries in 1995, moved to St. Louis for a time to be with family, then returned to the area.

Steve Emmert has lived most of his life in Virginia. He graduated from Great Bridge High School in Chesapeake, and attended Richmond College, a division of the University of Richmond, where he received a Bachelors of Arts in Economics in 1979, graduating magna cum laude. In 1982 he received a Juris Doctor Degree from the University of Virginia School of Law. Mr. Emmert is probably best known in the Virginia legal community as the founder and publisher of the website Virginia Appellate News & Analysis (www.virginia-appeals.com). In 2009, the Virginia Beach Bar Association awarded Mr. Emmert its Joseph L Lyle, Jr. Award for Professionalism. Mr. Emmert is an attorney in private practice now: http://www.sykesbourdon.com/profile_emmert.asp