Friends of the Libraries Newsletter, December 2016

Carrie Anderson (Editor)
Old Dominion University, c3anders@odu.edu

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Norfolk folk legend hosting folk-life institute at ODU

For more than five decades, Bob Zentz has been at the heart of the traditional music scene in Hampton Roads. To ensure that “folk” remains at the heart of “Norfolk,” Zentz is establishing the Ramblin’ Conrad’s Folklife Institute that will be hosted by Old Dominion University (ODU) Libraries in the Diehn Composer’s Room.

The Institute will bring folk legends from around the world to ODU for once-in-a-lifetime master classes as well as a free evening concert. Bob Zentz will be the honored guest at the first installation of the Institute on Dec. 15 to honor the 50th anniversary of meeting Ramblin’ Conrad and establishing his iconic store. The Institute will return during the spring and bring performers such as The Blue Ridge Buddies and Caroline Paton to Norfolk.

In addition to establishing the Institute, Zentz will also be donating his archive to the ODU Libraries.

Zentz has a long history with Old Dominion University, dating back to his own college days where he spent two of his freshman years at the University. In the 1970s and 80s, Zentz was a regular figure around ODU where he taught Rainbow Program community courses and ran the Old Dominion Folk Festival, which was held on campus every Columbus Day weekend.

“For the local area and the city of Norfolk, I really truly believe having a resource for people interested in these songs, having something in the neighborhood is an important thing,” said Zentz.

Zentz’s folklife collection will be donated in several stages, beginning with print and manuscript pieces. Later phases are expected to include concerts recorded at Ramblin’ Conrad’s Guitar Shop & Folklore Center, the hub for all things folk in Hampton Roads from 1972-1995; pictures; artwork; artifacts; and thousands of LPs and other audio media chronicling the last half century of folk music from around the world.

“Bob Zentz and Ramblin’ Conrad’s are great examples of the quality and diversity of the art scene in Hampton Roads. I am excited and honored that Bob is donating his archives to ODU,” said Old Dominion University Librarian George Fowler.

Bob Zentz’ collection will augment Old Dominion University Libraries’ existing and growing archives around Hampton Roads arts, such as the collections of the Virginia Symphony, Virginia Stage Company, John Duffy, and Peter Mark.

For more information about the Bob Zentz folklife collection, please contact Jessica Ritchie, head of Special Collections and University Archives, at jhritchi@odu.edu.
Dear Friends,

As we prepare for our annual winter break, let’s take a moment to look back at 2016. It was another eventful year, in the Libraries and out. I am overjoyed to report that we have hired Leo Lo as the Associate University Librarian for Services and Shixing Wen as the Associate University Librarian for Resources. They both started on August 10, and have already made an impact in the Libraries. Carrie and Junfang, our other two recent hires, are also doing great things in the Libraries. Add to these four the already impressive work of everyone else in the Libraries (even with four new vacancies), and the result is an amazing end to quite a year!

As those of you who live in Virginia already likely know, there is projected to be a significant budget shortfall in the Commonwealth. We hope to find out today how those impacts may affect ODU, but we likely won’t know the full effect until the spring. We are preparing for up to a 7.5% cut, which is what the Governor originally indicated would be expected of all higher education institutions, and will be happily surprised if the results are less than that amount.

However, understanding the precarious situation higher education is in regarding state funding, one of the Libraries’ 2017 initiatives will be in seeking additional funding opportunities. I was pleased with the Friends fundraising event with Dr. Larry Sabato, and look forward to working with them on building on their efforts to make 2017 even more successful.

Much of my tenure as University Librarian has been in what I like to call “planning to plan” efforts. Two specific efforts are developing a plan to reorganize our awesome librarians and staff in a way that will better facilitate the work of the Libraries as well as a space plan to better align the physical facilities to meet the needs of the ODU community. I expect to be able to report on actions being accomplished throughout 2017 based on these original guiding efforts.

As always, if you have questions, concerns, or suggestions for me or the University Libraries, please feel free to contact me. I am ever happy to talk with others who share my passion for Old Dominion University Libraries.

Finally, please allow me this opportunity to share a personal accomplishment. On November 22, I successfully defended my dissertation titled, “The essence of the library at a public research university as seen through key constituents’ lived experiences.” It will be made available in ODU Digital Commons as soon as it goes through the proper protocols.

I wish you all a joyful holiday season and a safe, yet festive, new year!

Sincerely,
George

Happy Fall,

The Friends of the ODU Libraries are flush with the success of our first major fundraising effort. Dr. Larry Sabato held a rapt audience of over 200 on October 13, mere weeks before the election. Our efforts were supported by many sponsors, including the Homsher Lecture Fund, the Honors College, ODU Student Engagement and Enrollment Services, the Center for High Impact Practices, the Friends of the ODU Libraries Board, the Department of Arts and Letters, Dr. G. William Whitehurst, and the Department of Political Science and Geography.

Although Sabato’s Crystal Ball’s prediction was incorrect, the information that was shared was fascinating. Many attendees expressed the desire to see more such events in the future and their experience has resulted in their becoming members.

We have embarked on a second fundraising effort this year. We will be working with Acadia, a producer of campus history books, to produce and sell a book comprised of captioned university photos. The book will be a soft-cover book of mostly images and captions collected and written by the Old Dominion University Archivist, Steve Bookman. This will be a wonderful memento for everyone in the university family and should be ready to sell by graduation.

Have a wonderful holiday season and watch for information on our upcoming events in the new year.

Sincerely,
Sue Doviak
President, Friends of the ODU Libraries

Thank you to this edition’s contributors: Carrie Anderson, Suzanne Emmons, Elizabeth Houge, Kurt Reitz, and all the Libraries Staff who submitted information about their presentations.
Save The Date!

- **January 5, 2017**
  Ramblin' Conrad's Folklife Institute (RCFI): The Blue Ridge Buddies

- **January 20, 2017**
  Inauguration Party

- **February 4, 2017**
  Allan Blank concert and reception

- **February 8, 2017**
  RCFI: Sparky & Rhonda Rucker

- **March 8, 2017**
  RCFI: Allan Reid

- **April 4, 2017**
  RCFI: Caroline Paton

- **April 9-15, 2017**
  National Library Week

- **April 13, 2017**
  Annual Poetry Slam

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**Political Analyst Larry Sabato Explores 2016 Presidential Election at ODU**

The Friends of the Old Dominion University Libraries brought award-winning political analyst Larry Sabato and his Crystal Ball to Old Dominion University Oct. 13 to present his predictions for what will happen in the Nov. 8 presidential election.

Sabato, director of the Center for Politics at the University of Virginia and a Norfolk native, said he was excited to speak in his hometown. His enthusiasm was contagious.

"I was impressed that he was able to integrate his sense of humor in light of the gravity of this election," said Norfolk resident Dali Shih.

G. William "Bill" Whitehurst, former Congressman and Old Dominion's Kaufman Lecturer for Public Affairs, introduced Sabato by remembering their friendship and praising his prediction record.

"When I was serving (in Congress), the Democrats controlled the House, that's just what they had always done. Larry told me that in 10 years the Republicans would be in control. Ten years later, I was a believer and have been ever since," said Whitehurst.

Sabato's insightful address explained the candidates' different paths to victory, as well as the different issues facing each of the candidates.

Following Sabato's address, a panel of Old Dominion University political science faculty answered audience questions. The panel was moderated by Cathy Lewis, host of WHRV 89.5's "HearSay with Cathy Lewis."

In closing the night, Sabato reminded the crowd that, at the end of the day, these were just his best guesses at what would happen and that there could be some surprises come election day.

"Remember, the man who lives by the crystal ball will eat a lot of glass," he said. "Try not to get too mad at me if I'm completely off."
LSO hosts successful book sale

The Libraries’ Staff Organization (LSO) put on the annual University Libraries Book Sale Nov. 2-4. The book sale was one day shorter this year but that didn’t dampen the sales total. The sale brought in more than $2,500 that will be used to recognize student workers at the end of the fall semester. “I want to thank everyone who volunteered in support of the Library Book sale. I believe it was an amazing three days of really great work,” said Kurt Reitz who organized the Book Sale on behalf of the LSO. Be on the lookout for the announcement of next year’s sale dates as we would love to have volunteers from the Friends of the Libraries!

Clockwise from left: Kurt Reitz organizes book displays during the LSO Book Sale; Students and community members browse books on subjects ranging from popular fiction to science text books; A student takes a closer look at a book; The book sale drew in crowds all three days of the sale; Students browsed books on breaks between classes.
Libraries represent!

As always, the Old Dominion University Libraries’ staff have been busy representing all the great things that have been going on in the Libraries in conferences near and far.

- **Miriam Bridges, Joleen McInnis, Rachel Stott, and Lucinda Rush** presented at the Virginia Library Association Conference in Hot Springs, VA on Oct. 27, 2016. Their presentation explored how layering information in instruction materials maximizes the instruction time by allowing users to absorb information at several different levels at the same time. They used a variety of active learning techniques during the presentation to demonstrate how this works.

- **Maddie Dietrich and Elizabeth Hogue** were invited to present for the Atlantic Chapter of the Music Library Association at the College of William and Mary on Oct. 22, 2016. They presented on the ways in which they’ve worked together to promote the music archive collection housed in the Diehn Composers Room and some of the successes they’ve had and challenges they’ve faced along the way.

- **Steve Bookman** presented at the Faculty Summer Institute with **Karen Vaughan** and **Jessica Ritchie** on how to incorporate primary source material into classes, specifically on topics related to diversity. He also presented at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference in Richmond on converting a finding aid easily from a spreadsheet into ArchivesSpace, one of the collection management systems for special collections and archives.

- **Jessica Ritchie** also served as a panelist at the American Library Association conference in Orlando, Fl. The panel was entitled “Serving up the Subversive: Working with Controversial Materials.” Additionally, she led a workshop at the Spring 2016 Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference: “A Crash Course in Understanding and Describing. Sheet Music”

- **Leo Lo** presented at the ARL Library Assessment Conference in Arlington, Va. and the Australia Library & Information Association National Conference. His presentation was on what kinds of job negotiations happen in libraries and how comfortable people are negotiating job offers in the library setting.

- **Rob Tench** did a poster presentation at the Charleston Conference in Charleston, SC on the self-directed training program pilot that was conducted prior to the implementation of the Libraries’ new self-directed training program.
Learning Commons Celebrates 5th Anniversary

The Learning Commons @ Perry Library celebrated its 5th anniversary on September 6, 2016. Students, faculty, and staff were invited to “Join Us for Cake”, and to find out more about services offered in the Learning Commons by the University Libraries and its partners. During the event, 37 new tutoring appointments were made with the Peer Educator Program and 200 students attended the event!

As part of the anniversary celebration, there was also a reception and presentation for Learning Commons’ partners, as well as an exhibit displayed in the Learning Commons. The exhibit highlighted renovations to Perry Library since the 1970’s, as well as changes made over the last five years related to hours, services, technology, and equipment, in response to student feedback.

Special Collections Show Their Stuff

Athletics at ODU: June-September 2016
To help celebrate Homecoming 2016, this exhibit included photographs, yearbooks, and athletic publications from the University Archives to show the history of Athletics at ODU. Some of the sports involved include football, men’s and women’s basketball, sailing, baseball, and soccer.

Harry Potter Exhibit: July 2016
To help publicize the release of “Harry Potter and the Cursed Child,” ODU Libraries teamed up with the ODU Bookstore for an exhibit featuring books about the “Harry Potter” phenomenon, books on subjects related to Hogwarts (magic, dragons, etc.), and Harry Potter memorabilia.

Learning Commons 5th Anniversary: Fall 2016
To help celebrate the 5th Anniversary of the Learning Commons, the Learning Commons and University Archives teamed up for this exhibit using photographs from the ODU Libraries and University Archives. The first case featured photographs of Perry Library through its major renovations, from the original structure in 1976, to the Learning Commons renovation. The second case featured items/services requested by students that the Libraries provided.

Sam Switzer Collection: October 2016
Special Collections had a short-term display featuring photographs, letters, artifacts, and other material from the papers of Sam Switzer, who served in Northern France and Germany in WWI. His papers are housed in Special Collections.

It’s All Greek to Me: October-December 2016
Using material from the University Archives, this exhibit showcases the history of student social organizations from 1930 to the present. It shows the evolution of social organizations from local fraternities and sororities, to nationally affiliated Greek letter chapters. Some of the items included a scrapbook and plaque from Phi Kappa Tau, photographs of fraternity/sorority members, and several fraternity/sorority publications.

Bookshelf Exhibits Enhance Student Learning
This past fall, Learning Commons @ Perry Library featured three book exhibitions:

- Tim Seibles, professor of English at Old Dominion University, was appointed poet laureate of Virginia. To honor this achievement the libraries created an exhibit featuring his works of poetry.
- A collection of banned books in conjunction with the ALA’s Banned Books Week: Celebrating the Freedom to Read. Typically held in the last week of September, this exhibit highlighted the value of free and open access to information.
- We finished the year off with a collection of materials that addressed political issues as well as the Nov. 8th election.
Concert event to honor Richmond composer Allan Blank

A concert event to celebrate Richmond composer Allan Blank’s endowment gift to the Old Dominion University Libraries is scheduled for Saturday, February 4, 2017 from 5-7pm at Chandler Recital Hall in the F. Ludwig Diehn Performing Arts Center. The concert will incorporate the talents of the Old Dominion University music faculty and students as well as professional musicians from the local music community to showcase Blank’s works. A light reception is planned after the concert in the atrium area of Chandler Recital Hall.

A New York native, Blank had 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 the 1983 George Eastman Competition, Blank won first place for his "Duo for Bassoon and Piano." He received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts in support of his one-act opera, "The Magic Bonbons." Blank received three commissions from the Virginia Music Teachers Association in 1979, 1988, 1991, and two commissions to write music for the Virginia Shakespeare Festival in Williamsburg.

Prior to his tenure at Virginia Commonwealth University, from 1978 to 1996, Blank was a violinist with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra from 1950-52. He received his master's degree from the University of Minnesota in 1950 and his bachelor's from Washington Square College in 1948. Blank also studied at the Juilliard School of Music and the High School of Music and Art, where he developed an interest in conducting and composition. Allan Blank died November 12, 2013 in Bon Air, Va.

Andrey Kasparov, associate professor of music at Old Dominion University and a highly respected composer and pianist, has will be coordinating the music and musicians for the concert program. The concert will be recorded and a copy held in the Old Dominion University Music Special Collections.

The Old Dominion University Libraries anticipates that this event will be of interest to the ODU community and the music communities of Hampton Roads and Richmond. It will also serve as a crossroads event that combines the interests of the local music community of two major arts areas of Virginia with Old Dominion University Libraries.

Happy New Year from the Old Dominion University Libraries!
Become a Friend of the Libraries!

Encourage your friends to support the Old Dominion University Libraries! Share this membership form with them and they can mail it with payment to the address indicated below; or you may bring it to the Circulation Desk in the Patricia W. and J. Douglas Perry Library for immediate membership. Membership also makes an excellent holiday gift! For more information, please call Carrie Anderson at 757-683-4146, or e-mail at c3anders@odu.edu

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