

## FRIENDS CORNER

SOUTHERN OREGON UNIVERSITY  
FRIENDS OF HANNON LIBRARY

David Eliassen will serve for a second year as president of the Friends of Hannon Library (FHL) Board. The other board members for 2005–2006 are Michael Ainsworth, Judi Drais, Judy Frank, Lawson Inada, Kaye Kroman, Susan Reid, Dennis Schoedl, and Ruby Whalley.

Last year, the Friends of Hannon Library changed the format of the annual meeting from a dinner to a very successful wine event, which was held on April 14, 2005. Associate Professor of Geography Greg Jones and Dr. Will Brown presented the keynote: "The History and Future of Wine Production in Southern Oregon." The format for the 2006 annual meeting has not been set. The FHL Board encourages members to share their preferences.

The Friends have set the roster for the 2005–2006 Library Lecture Series. Please note that times for these free lectures have been changed to the afternoon. All lectures will be held in the Meese Meeting Room (LIB 305) at 4 p.m. Mark your calendars!

OCTOBER 20, 2005

Dennis Smith, "A Story in Search of its Genre"

NOVEMBER 17, 2005

Bob Smith, "The Strange Personal Life of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle"

JANUARY 19, 2006

Anne and Keith Chambers, "Rising Water, Sinking Culture: Challenges Facing a Pacific Atoll Nation"

MARCH 9, 2006

Connie Battaille, "Oddities of Oregon History"



The SOU Friends of Hannon Library is a membership organization that was established in 1975. The Friends are committed to improving the Hannon Library collections and sponsoring the Library Lecture Series on a variety of interesting and timely topics.

Member benefits include library checkout privileges, participation in a series of evening talks, the opportunity to associate with fellow bibliophiles, and the satisfaction of supporting Hannon Library. Call 541-552-6835 for information about upcoming events or to become a Friends member.

*BookMarks* is published by the Lenn and Dixie Hannon Library.

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*BookMarks* is available from Hannon Library's Web site at [www.sou.edu/library/newsletter](http://www.sou.edu/library/newsletter).

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## THE FIRST WORD

by Teresa Montgomery, Interim Director

WELCOME BACK to the beginning of the school year. With Sue Burkholder's retirement, I am stepping into the role of interim director of Hannon Library. I came to Southern in 1988 as the cataloging, automation, and visual and performing arts librarian. I have remained involved in all of these areas as my responsibilities have evolved over the years. Over the course of the next two years, Hannon Library faculty and staff will be engaged in a conversation with our University community about the future directions of library services and will seek a new library director. I will be helping to guide that conversation.

The high point of this past spring was the dedication of the Lenn and Dixie Hannon Library on May 19, 2005. The highlight for me was Michael Gorman's talk on the library's place in the university and larger society. As I read his remarks, which are reprinted in this newsletter, I am struck again by his insights on the role of libraries as "mysterious and powerful places in which lives can be changed."

Over the course of the summer, we have all been charmed by mosaic artist Robert Stout, who has been installing the beautiful new mosaic, "Resonance & Dispersion," in the library's rotunda entrance. He has graciously interrupted his work to answer questions and talk with passersby. By the time this newsletter reaches you, the mosaic should be completed, and Robert will have returned to his home in Ravenna, Italy.

I invite you to visit and spend time in Hannon Library, marvel over the mosaic, and, especially, attend our series of Year of the Library talks and performances celebrating our new building. Although this is the last official term for the Year of the Library, we are planning to sponsor more events in winter and spring terms.

## RESONANCE & DISPERSION: MOSAIC INSTALLED IN LIBRARY ROTUNDA

INSTALLATION OF THE STUNNING MOSAIC that paves the library's rotunda entrance was completed this summer. Entitled "Resonance & Dispersion," the twenty-eight-foot-diameter mosaic was constructed in Ravenna, Italy, by the American husband-and-wife team of Robert Stout and Stephanie Jurs. The mosaic is made of ceramic porcelain tile and glass *smalti* (Italian for enamels).

"Resonance & Dispersion" is a mix of images taken from astrophysics, fluid mechanics, meteorology, and ancient Mediterranean motifs. The looping curves around the perimeter represent wind patterns on the earth's surface; the central spiral motif is from an astrophysics computer model of a spiral-arm galaxy formation; the lines fanning out around the circumference are patterned after fluid mechanics principles; and classical design elements are evident in the border motif. According to mosaicist Stout, inspiration for the piece comes not just from science and scientific imagery, but from the rhythm and content of poetry, the composition of music, American quilts, folk art, Persian rugs, and—naturally—Roman and Greek mosaics.

This project was funded, in part, by the Oregon Arts Commission. The State Legislature passed Oregon's Percent for Art law in 1975, which sets aside one percent of the direct construction funds for new or remodeled state facilities for the commissioning and acquisition of public art. Stout believes the library is a repository of information—a blending of disciplines and worlds of thought—and it is appropriate that this Percent for the Arts mosaic provide a visual representation of the wealth of information stored inside.

After Stout and Jurs learned their mosaic proposal was selected, they spent eight months in Italy executing the idea. This summer, Stout and Jurs flew to Ashland with sons Willie (seventeen) and Leo (fourteen) to install the mosaic. The meticulous process took about six weeks. The mosaicists have been residents of Ravenna, Italy, for ten years, learning traditional mosaic techniques and immersing their sons in an artistically rich culture.

According to Stout, mosaic is a slow medium, lending itself to patterned, complicated imagery. Similar to quilts, mosaics are labor-intensive, functional, and can be beautifully enduring. "I hope it endures. I hope they enjoy it," Stout says of the mosaic. "I hope they feel it is well-made and rich and a pleasure for their eyes." Library patrons are already responding enthusiastically.

In addition to "Resonance & Dispersion," there are other significant new artworks in the library. "ALPHABET," by Portland-based artist Mel Katz, consists of forty-four anodized aluminum plates installed on the three-story wall of the west reading room. Groupings of expressionistic landscape paintings, "Good House I, II, and III," by James Lavador of eastern Oregon, grace the fireplace alcoves on each level. Raymond Saunders, a major figure in contemporary art, donated his painting "Marks Not Knowing Why," following a campus exhibition at the Schneider Museum of Art. It now hangs in the main stairwell.



Robert Stout with "Resonance & Dispersion." PHOTO BY RORY N. FINNEY



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## LIBRARY NEWS

### COSTUME ON DISPLAY IN HANNON LIBRARY

THE SECOND-FLOOR EXHIBIT CASE near Special Collections features a costume and prop from the 2004–2005 production of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* by the SOU Department of Theatre Arts. The play was directed by Scott Kaiser of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival (OSF), with scenic design by Craig Hudson, costume design by Etai Alves, and lighting design by Michael Sanfill. Hannon Library plans to continue featuring exhibits of costumes and props from OSF and the SOU Theatre Department.

### GALLERY EXHIBIT OPENS

THE HANNON LIBRARY ART GALLERY is exhibiting a collection of prints by Ashland artist Gregory Martin. Utilizing photography, illustration, and collage, "Pretty Ugly" interprets the emotional content present in the rural-urban interface. The exhibit will run through November 11.

Located on the third floor, the Hannon Library Gallery features a changing series of exhibits of artwork created by students, faculty, and community artists. The state-of-the-art modular wall system and upright pedestals allow for many configurations of gallery space. SOU senior Caleb Peterson is serving as director and preparator this year.

### SUMMIT GROWS TO THIRTY-THREE MEMBER LIBRARIES

LANE COMMUNITY COLLEGE (LCC) is the thirty-third library to join the Orbis-Cascade Alliance. LCC's database of more than 57,000 volumes will be added to Summit, the Orbis-Cascade Alliance's union catalog, bringing total holdings to 26 million books, sound recordings, films, and more. The Orbis-Cascade Alliance serves more than 200,000 full-time students at private and public colleges and universities throughout Washington and Oregon.

Although distances between Orbis-Cascade member libraries can exceed 500 miles, faculty and students easily access the unified catalog and utilize Summit's popular self-service materials. At peak times, Summit delivers more than 35,000 books each month with a courier program that provides daily pick-up and delivery of materials. To access Summit, visit <http://summit.orbiscascade.org>.

### LIBRARY ACQUIRES SIGNIFICANT COLLECTIONS

IN RECENT MONTHS, Hannon Library has received an impressive assortment of significant collections. SOU Professor Emeritus Ernest Ettlich contributed his personal library of 1,200 books relating to communication, rhetoric, political science, and philosophy. Craig Comstock of Ashland gave Hannon Library 600 books on ecology, literature, philosophy, religion, and other topics. Bruce Duncan of Talent donated 130 books, broadsides, and historic maps, ►

## A UNIVERSITY IS A LIBRARY SURROUNDED BY SOME OTHER BUILDINGS

REMARKS AT THE DEDICATION OF THE SOU LENN AND DIXIE HANNON LIBRARY, THURSDAY, MAY 10, 2005

BY MICHAEL GORMAN, DEAN OF LIBRARY SERVICES, CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

I AM PLEASED and honored to be here addressing this distinguished gathering on this auspicious occasion. Auspices are, as you all know, favorable indications of future good fortune, and how can we doubt that the future of this university has been brightened and improved by this most important addition? I believe Ashland is the second-most Shakespearian place on earth, and it is surely appropriate to begin with the line from *The Tempest* in which Prospero, Duke of Milan, discounts his high rank in saying, "My library was dukedom large enough." All libraries do, indeed, encompass worlds. A library recognizes only one aristocracy—that of the mind—disdaining all other distinctions between people. In a library, a dustman is as good as a duke and an undergraduate as a president when they are interacting with the profound and the ephemeral—with the fads of the moment and the wisdom of the ages.

The distinguished Southern historian Shelby Foote once observed that a university is a library with some other buildings gathered around it. This observation points to the power and importance of libraries as both centers of communities and physical manifestations of their highest aspirations. Also, thinking of Shelby Foote's remark, it is worth noting here that university libraries predate most of the parts of the university we know today. In fact, departmental libraries of the kind found in our great universities existed before the departments they serve. The predecessors of departments were groups of faculty who shared collections of books on topics of mutual interest. The existence of libraries from the very beginning and formation of universities points to a central fact of the importance of libraries and their position in the world of learning.

There are three ways in which human beings learn. They learn from experience and have been doing so since the emergence of the very first human beings. They learn by interaction with people who are wiser and more knowledgeable than they—teachers, rabbis, shamans, etcetera—and have been doing so since human beings first started to communi-

cate in words. Lastly, but by no means least, they learn from interaction with the human record—those aggregations of texts, images, and symbols that are the collective memory of humankind. Literacy matters because of reasonable, practical societal concerns—the illiterate have little control over their lives and little prospect of living fully realized lives in modern societies—but is important in even deeper ways. Literacy is the way in which we gain access to the vast accumulation we call the human record; it is the way in which we transcend space and time and learn from teachers long-dead and thinkers in remote places we will never visit in person.

The great Italian writer and thinker Umberto Eco has pointed out that the history of human communication can be divided into three categories. The first is animal—the elaborate and unique apparatus of the human brain. The sorrow of this animal memory is that all the memories and knowledge accumulated in a life die with the individual, unless they are communicated and those communications are preserved. The second is vegetable—the memories of human beings recorded on papyrus (made from reeds) and paper (made from wood, bark, cotton, straw, and many other fibrous vegetable materials), each of which has proven to be capable of preserving knowledge over millennia. The third, and the most chronologically interesting, is mineral. Everyone knows of the earliest records being incised on clay tablets or on stone (obelisks, stelae, monuments, etcetera), but few reflect that we now store substantial chunks of the human record on silicon chips in computers and other mineral carriers (such as CDs) and that the apparatuses used to communicate those parts of the human record are entirely mineral. An interesting feature of Eco's analysis is that the least permanent of the three forms of memory—the animal—is the one without which the other forms of memory are useless. A human brain is needed to tell human hands to drive a pen across paper, to incise stones, and to manipulate a computer keyboard. The texts, images, and sounds that constitute the

human record with which libraries are concerned are the products of human brains and can be the extension of human lives—years, decades, and centuries into the future—if they are preserved for future generations.

Thomas Carlyle wrote that, with the invention of writing many millennia ago, "the age of miracles" began. Something written down can communicate knowledge and wisdom to generations yet to be born and to people in distant places. In the right format, the written word never dies. When we learn from experience or from a teacher, that knowledge dies with us or with the teacher if it is not written and collected to be communicated to posterity. People of the great monotheistic religions of the world are often known as the People of the Book (it is significant that the word "Bible" is derived from the Greek for "book," the word "Talmud" from a Hebrew word meaning "to learn," and the word "Koran" is derived from an Arabic word meaning "to read"), but they would more properly be known as the People of the Text. It is texts themselves that are transcendently important, not the vehicles by which those texts are communicated. A text is true and valuable or even sacred whether it is read in manuscript, in a book, or on a computer screen, but we should always bear in mind that those vehicles matter if they affect the onward transmission of texts.

The sometimes-trivial debates about books and computers do reflect a genuine concern, not about which is better for reading texts, but about the question of the preservation and onward transmission of the human record. The late Hans Wellisch pointed out that each development in human communication was more extensive and less durable than its predecessors. Words carved on stone conquer time but do not conquer space. Email messages conquer space—they can be transmitted to Paris, France, or Paris, Illinois, in an instant—but they do not conquer time. (One of the great philosophical questions of our time is, "Does an email message exist if it is deleted unread?") The book—the Western printed codex—is both universal and durable. Libraries have always welcomed new means of reading and viewing and have always incorporated them into their collections and programs. There are challenges—financial and in terms of preservation—that we face in dealing with electronic technology, but there are also great benefits, and I am confident that the Hannon Library and all the libraries

in Oregon, in the USA, and in the world will, each in their own way, deal with those challenges and prosper in using those benefits.

Most of us have warm, almost sentimental, feelings about libraries, and those feelings are justified. The autobiographies of successful people are littered with references to childhood and young adulthood happiness in libraries and thanks to librarians who opened their eyes to the world of reading. We should not mistake this warm glow for the whole truth, which is that libraries are mysterious and powerful places in which lives can be changed. It can be dangerous to enter the infinite labyrinths of texts and of library catalogues. You can lose your way and find things of which you have never even dreamed. You can spend hours in a library and become unconscious of the passing of time and then leave a different person from when you came in. That power and mystery lie in the texts and images the library makes accessible to you—the vast river of words and pictures that make up our collective memory and the accumulated wisdom, knowledge, information of the ages.

This library is as imbued with that power and mystery every bit as much as are the great national libraries and research libraries of the world. Had John Donne been a librarian, he would surely have written, "No library is an island," because all libraries are connected to all others as manifestations of the noble mission of the preservation and onward transmission of the human record. To the individual library user, however, any library, large or small, can be as magic an island as Prospero's and though, like the actors in *The Tempest*, we are such stuff as dreams are made on and our little lives are rounded with a sleep, our libraries endure—places of learning, magic, mystery, knowledge, wisdom, and pleasure; institutions that endure to enrich and change the lives of generations yet to be. Thank you.

- This abridged version of Michael Gorman's dedication remarks was reprinted with his generous permission.
- i. Shakespeare, William. *The Tempest*. I, ii.
  - ii. Eco, Umberto. "Vegetal and mineral memory." Lecture given at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, 1 November, 2003. Reported in *Al-Ahram Weekly*, no. 665 (20–26 November, 2003).
  - iii. Carlyle, Thomas. *The Hero as Man of Letters*, May 1840.
  - iv. Biblion.
  - v. Lamadh.
  - vi. Qara'a.
  - vii. Wellisch, Hans. "Aere perennius?" In *Crossroads: Proceedings of the First National Conference of the Library and Information Technology Association*, edited by Michael Gorman. Chicago: ALA, 1984. pp. 22–33.
  - viii. Shakespeare, William. Op. cit. IV, i.

► mostly about the Civil War and U.S. history. Dr. Michael L. Hays of Ashland made another donation (151 books), adding to previous gifts (1,400 books) about Shakespeare, literature, history, and philosophy. Ria and Adrian Maaskant of Tehachapi, California, gave the library fifty-nine boxes of books, primarily literature and religion titles, from the estate of Judith Katzmark. Suzanne and Thomas Pelzel of Ashland gifted the library 265 art and art history titles. Dr. Gerald Powell of Ashland gave Hannon Library fifty books on pediatrics. The Scovill family of Jacksonville donated eighty-seven music books and scores from the estate of Linda Ball Scovill.

Historian Jeff LaLande gave Hannon Library two valuable books for Special Collections: *The Great War, A Neutral's Indictment: One Hundred Cartoons* by Louis Raemaekers (London, 1916) and Baldwin's and Thomas' *A New and Complete Gazetteer of the United States* (Philadelphia, 1854). Drs. Tim and Fran Orrok of Ashland donated a complete thirty-one-volume set of the 1961 printing of the *Oxford English Dictionary*.

Hannon Library's notable collection of viticulture and enology books continues to grow. Kim Ramey, daughter of Vern Ramey, donated the remainder of her father's specialized wine library (we acquired the bulk of the Ramey Collection in 2003, thanks to Dr. Will Brown). These valuable texts have been placed in Special Collections. Wine book dealer Gail Unzelman gave the library thirty-five wine books and brochures to add to the growing collection. Dr. Will Brown continues to add to the wine collection, with a recent donation of seventy books and journals.

### SOUTHERN OREGON DIGITAL ARCHIVES UPDATE

[HTTP://SODA.SOU.EDU](http://soda.sou.edu)

Most Recent Six-Month Statistics  
Full-text regional documents in SODA database as of June 30, 2005.....1,751

Usage (January–June) 2005  
Visits..... 12,540  
Unique visitors .....5,735  
Average visits a day .....69  
Visitors (North America) ..... 11,709  
Visitors (other regions).....831

Most-downloaded file: *A Bibliography of Klamath Mountains Geology: California and Oregon*, compiled by William P. Irwin (United States Geological Survey, 1995)

