About the cover:
If a phrase can characterize a sound, “Swing and Sway with Sammy Kaye” accurately describes this popular big band leader’s sweet musical persona. Sammy began his musical career in the 1930s as an Ohio University student, and his band, “Sammy and the Ohioans,” was a big hit on campus. By the end of the decade, Sammy had his own weekly radio show that rivaled musical greats such as Benny Goodman and Glenn Miller. The Sammy Kaye collection was originally donated to Alden Library in the late 1980s, but recently it was expanded by Marie Garbarine who donated additional materials so that it is now a complete scholarly collection. It is with deep gratitude that Ohio University Libraries thanks this recent donor.
Our cover for this issue highlights our new additions to Alden Library’s Sammy Kaye collection. Sammy Kaye was a popular 1940s big band leader and a 1932 Ohio University alumnus. His personal archive is a wonderful assembly of original sheet music, rare sound recordings, historic films, manuscripts, programs, posters and memorabilia. It is collections such as Sammy Kaye’s that bring a distinctive identity to Alden Library, and they represent the richness, strength and depth of our holdings. Stewardship and preservation of such collections are major and enduring contributions for research libraries like Alden Library.

It is those same manuscript collections that are the primary source materials for research and scholarship, and they are the raw materials from which books, articles, websites, motion pictures, documentaries and performances originate. But collections such as the Sammy Kaye archive are not just for the academic specialist. Many of our collections are used regularly by undergraduate students for honors tutorial projects, undergraduate theses and research papers. Nearly all of our collections were the generous gifts of donors, and Ohio University is honored to be the stewards of such distinctive resources.

Scott Seaman,
Dean of Ohio University Libraries

From the Dean of the Libraries
Murray Louis and Claudia Gitelman share a hug during the alumni event at the “Alwin Nikolais’ Total Theater of Motion” exhibit in New York City.

LIVE AT LINCOLN CENTER

PHOTOGRAPHY BY PATRICK TRAYLOR
Ohio University Libraries celebrated the 100th anniversary of Alwin Nikolais’ birth by partnering with the New York Public Library on an exhibition called “Alwin Nikolais’ Total Theatre in Motion.” The opening reception in Lincoln Center’s Astor Gallery was held October 27, 2010, and the exhibit ran through January 15, 2011.

Coined the “father of multimedia,” Nikolais’ career spanned 55 years and included everything from choreographing dance and opera, to designing costumes and props, to composing music and creating sets.

The Alwin Nikolais and Murray Louis Dance Collection is housed at the Vernon R. Alden Library in the Robert E. and Jean R. Mahn Center for Archives and Special Collections.

From left) Mike Major, Bill Saviers, Lynn Shostack, Vern Alden, Terry Moore and Ro Fallon.
Scott Ketner, 20, a sophomore, studies German Language and Culture inside the Learning Commons of Alden Library.

Former Ohio University President Vernon R. Alden watches a video display prior to the event.

(From left) Anna and Barbara Strom Thompson speak with Joanne Fallon.

Madeleine Scott, director of the School of Dance, and Lucy Sexton, an alumna of Ohio University’s School of Dance, converse during the event.

Masks that were exhibited during the “Alwin Nikolais’ Total Theater of Motion” at the Lincoln Center in New York City.
This past summer, the Friends of the Libraries of Ohio University collaborated with the Library and Information Science Access Midwest Program to fund a library intern, Mohammed Butt. The program seeks to expose undergraduates to the many facets of libraries and to encourage them to consider librarianship as a career.

Mohammed, a soft-spoken man with a disarming smile, was born in Pakistan, but he immigrated to Connecticut with his family at the age of three. He graduated as an honors student from Danbury High School, and later attended George Washington University where he majored in comparative religion and philosophy.

In June 2010, Mohammed arrived in Athens for his internship with Alden Library. Upon arrival, he was surprised to learn that what he had expected to be a “middle-sized” library was actually quite a large academic one.

He quickly acquainted himself with the collections and the many departments that comprise the library. He found that he especially loved working in three departments—cataloging, special collections and preservation—because all three demanded an eye for detail.

Interestingly, he found similarities between the libraries of Ohio University and Yale University. Speaking from a non-student perspective, he explained that both institutions always welcome researchers from outside their own academic communities—which is not always true elsewhere.

“In the end, a person just wants to seek knowledge,” he said, “and this sharing of knowledge is what allows our society to grow. After all, libraries are the heart of our society.”

In retrospect, Mohammed is grateful for having had the opportunity to work with such a great group of people, saying that he always felt safe, welcome and comfortable.

In fall 2010, Mohammed began his master’s program in library and information science at the University of Illinois. His immediate goals for the future are to “graduate, pay off loans and, in general, be content.”

The Heart of Our Society

By Kate Mason

Intern Mohammed Butt poses in front of Alden Library.

Sherry Dibari
Sherry Dibari

Home: Athens, Ohio.

Profession: High school teacher and school librarian. I’m also a landlord in my spare time and a small businesswoman.


Hobbies: Boating and fishing in Florida. I also love to work on the farm my husband Joe and I own near Jacksonville, Ohio.

Why I Support Alden Library: I support the work of all libraries, and I appreciate the enormous impact that libraries have on children. I think that librarians are wonderful, helpful people.

Profile: I intensely love children, politics, libraries and my country.

Memorable Movie: “The Wizard of Oz.” I’ve always thought it was interesting because it tells a much bigger story. It is a political statement based on the issue of dropping the gold standard. Many of the topics in the movie that are presented are still of concern today.

Current Project: With my husband’s enormous support, I’m helping my brother, who served in Vietnam, regain his health.

Favorite Place on Campus: Chubb Library because I was a student worker there. My job was to keep books in order on the shelves—a shelf reader.

Favorite Place off campus: Esquire Grill.

Former Residence Hall: Lindley Hall.

Lois Gerig is a former board member and chair of the Friends of the Libraries, and she is a strong supporter of the Libraries.
Bob Snuggs

Home: Winchester, Massachusetts.

Profession: Retired after 32 years of domestic and international senior management at Millipore Corp. in Bedford, Mass, and Strasbourg, France. I began my career as a process engineer at Westinghouse Air Arm Division in Baltimore, Md.

Last Books Read: “Robert E. Lee” by Noah Andre Trudeau and “Toast” by Roger Rosenblatt.

Hobbies: Photography, golf, bird watching and family genealogy.

Why I Support Alden Library: As a former chemistry major, I realize the importance of state-of-the-art reference materials. I wanted to make a contribution with a broader impact than I could with a scholarship fund for the chemistry department. I am thrilled that for the past seven years my son Craig’s memorial fund has been able to support the chemistry acquisitions at Alden Library. By the way, on my recent visit to Athens I was blown away by the current technology at the Library and the actual use of the new material by the chemistry department.

Profile: I am a slightly compulsive humanist. My wife says that I am a Renaissance man and a big time techie.

Memorable Movies: “Gone With the Wind” and “Saving Private Ryan.”

Current Project: Exercising, volunteering at Winchester Library and integrating family photos into my genealogy program.

Favorite Place on Campus: Mrs. Whalen’s rooming house on Mulberry Street—great bunch of guys.

Bob Snuggs, a member of the Friends of the Libraries, established the Craig Christopher Snuggs Memorial Endowment for Chemistry Acquisitions.
Friends of Alden Library

Jason Weaver

Home: Madison, Wisconsin.

Profession: CEO, Shoutlet Inc. (2007). As the founder of this organization, my vision was to provide a platform to create, manage and measure highly targeted and engaging social media communications.

In addition to serving as Shoutlet’s chief executive, I am an author and speaker for organizations such as the American Marketing Association, Public Relations Society of America, and American Advertising Federation.

Last Book Read: “ReWork” written by Jason Fried.

Hobbies: Music recording, waterskiing and poker.

Why I support Alden Library: I got my start in technology using the only computer that had Internet access there. A fellow student showed me Yahoo back in 1996, and the rest was history as I shaped my online marketing career from that moment on. Ohio University was truly the foundation for my business success.

Profile: I believe in karma, true love and doing what you love.

Memorable Movie: “The Count of Monte Cristo.”


Favorite Place on Campus: The recording studio at the old TCOM building.

Jason Weaver, an alumnus of Ohio University, donated use of his social media tool, Shoutlet, in 2009 to help the library reach out to its supporters.

Profession: Full time student. I’m a junior political science major with a minor in economics.


Hobbies: I enjoy the outdoors and playing golf, and talking about politics and current events. I am a diehard Cleveland sports fan, and I enjoy Bobcat basketball and football.

Words of Wisdom: I support Alden Library because it supports me. If I have an hour to kill between classes I will often spend it in Alden to work on my course work. The library keeps me on task! As a student, the services and opportunities that Alden Library provides are invaluable to my success at Ohio University.

Why Alden Library is Important to Students: Alden Library is the one resource on campus that is always there for you; no matter the time or day, the library is open. The library is centrally located on campus, and it is an ideal place to meet for group projects and to complete course work.

Profile: I am a hardworking, enthusiastic, people-oriented person.

Memorable Movie: “Rudy.”

Current Project: The library is planning an Alden Open, which will be a miniature golf tournament that will take place inside the library this spring. It will be a fun and unique experience that will benefit the Ohio University Libraries. I will contribute to this project by recruiting teams and informing students about the event.

Favorite Place on Campus: The Alumni Gate.

Kyle Triplett is one of two student trustees on the Ohio University Board of Trustees.
The University Libraries is now partnering with ImPRessions, the student-run public relations firm on Ohio University’s campus. Open to all full-time students, ImPRessions provides its members with real-world, professional experience and focuses on skills that will help students gain insight into the public relations world. But unlike PR firms, it serves its clients free of charge.

ImPRessions is a subsidiary of the Hugh M. Culbertson chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) at OHIO. The group was named the nation’s Most Outstanding Chapter Firm in both 2005 and 2007 by the national PRSSA committee in the annual Teahan chapter awards.

The Libraries’ account, which is one of ImPRessions’ newest clients for the 2010-2011 school year, is led by two account executives, senior Meghan Tinker and junior Nina Bressau, eight account associates and an account supervisor, junior Bethany Scott.

Students involved on the Libraries’ account are working to identify and to develop best practices for the use of social media networking in the Libraries. They will also be collaborating with the Libraries’ public relations team to promote its events, services and resources.

Kelly Broughton, the Assistant Dean for Research and Education Services at the University Libraries says, “We are excited about being selected as a client for ImPRessions this year. Not only will we be receiving a professional level service, we believe as OHIO students, our account team can offer us invaluable advice on how to improve our communication and relationships with their student peers.”

She continues, “We expect to come out of the process with some tangible products and ideas to put into use immediately, and we know that the students will come away with a valuable experience, which will enhance their education and careers.”

The account team is eager to provide the Libraries with keen research and insight into inventive strategies for student and community involvement, to create methods of outreach to alumni and Friends of the Libraries, and to promote the endless opportunities that the Libraries offer to the Ohio University community and beyond.

Kelsey Spellman is a senior in the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism.
Throughout the history of Ohio University Libraries, there have always been individuals who have supported the libraries’ growth. Examples from Ohio’s early history include members of the Athenian Society (1819) and the Philomathean Society (1822). Each society was student-organized and student-supported, and each owned valuable collections of books. These books were used to promote student’s skills in debate, oratory, reading and writing, and literature interpretation. Oftentimes, a highlight of commencement week was attending the societies’ debates. After thriving for over fifty years, the Athenian and Philomathean consolidated in 1878 and jointly donated their sizeable book collections to the University Libraries.

Supporting libraries through gifts continues today, as is the case for Donald and Marian Spencer, who established the Spencer Endowment for African-American Studies in 1992. The late Donald Spencer, the first African-American to serve as chair on the Ohio University Board of Trustees, and his life partner, Marian, worked tirelessly as advocates for voting rights and desegregation.

Their advocacy is still evident in their patronage of the Spencer endowment, which was established to fill the gap between state funding and the real cost of providing high-quality library collections that document African-American history, politics, art, language, literature, music and culture.

Over the past nineteen years, these purchases have enriched the educational experiences and have promoted academic excellence for students, faculty and researchers. The acquisitions range from calypso sound recordings, to books
Patrick Traylor

on the origins of the Dred Scott case, to large microfilm sets such as “The Black Power Movement (part 2): The Papers of Robert F. Williams,” which is currently being used for research by Dr. Ronald Stephens, associate professor and chair of the department of African American Studies.

In February 2009 Dr. Stephens, who developed a personal interest in the topic after interviewing Robert Williams in 1993, requested that Spencer endowment funds purchase the microfilm collection for research on a manuscript that he is writing. More recently, he used that same collection for a published article he wrote for the “Black Diaspora Review” (September 2010).

Dr. Stephens acknowledges the Spencer endowment’s importance by saying, “The value of the endowment is significant [because] it provides support for the purchase of major research collections and other sources that are critical for faculty and students to pursue relevant research topics.”

He echoes the thoughts of many researchers across many years when he adds, “I am truly thankful.”

To contribute to the Donald and Marian Spencer special endowment donate online at www.ohiou.edu/give, or contact Doug Partusch at partusch@ohio.edu.

Dr. Ronald J. Stephens researches in Alden Library by scanning through microfilm.
Did you know that when you turn on an incandescent light bulb, only 10 percent of the electricity is turned into light, and the other 90 percent is wasted as heat? Or that Americans throw away 22 billion plastic bottles every year? And, although Americans account for only 5 percent of the world’s population, we consume 26 percent of the world’s energy? One group that cares about environmental statistics is the Alden Library Sustainability Group. In the spring of 2009, the Ohio University Office of Sustainability did a presentation for the Alden Library staff that began a wave of change and resulted in the creation of a sustainability committee in the library. An intern was hired to begin the efforts of making Alden Library and the Athens community a greener place.

The goal of the green initiative is not just to make the library a greener environment, but it is also to encourage people to make their homes more environmentally friendly. Ron Young, Alden Library’s Facilities Manager and a member of the sustainability committee, says that the purpose of the group is “to make us more mindful of how our choices impact the environment and those around us.” He continues, “A lot of what we do is wasteful, and we have a responsibility to take care of the environment.”
In the fall of 2009, Ben Shender, a recent master’s graduate in geography, was chosen as the intern to begin the task of researching ways to make life in the library more sustainable. He initiated changes such as setting the library printers to print double-sided, which reduces paper usage by approximately 25 percent; establishing a “re-use” area for unwanted office supplies, so that staff can reuse rather than buying more; and expanding recycling centers in the library.

The committee also organized workshops and a film series to remind participants about the detrimental environmental effects that are created by many of our daily habits. Among these are such common practices as leaving the water on while brushing our teeth and leaving the refrigerator door open while pouring a drink. The information sessions included such wide-ranging topics as fair trade, climate change, energy reduction, worm composting and greening dorm rooms, among many others.

One way Alden Library has greatly increased its energy efficiency is through a new form of air conditioning. During the summer, Ohio University’s power plant produces a large surplus of steam. Alden Library now uses that surplus steam in its absorption chiller to cool the building, which removes the need to use coal-based electricity to perform the function.

The Library’s sustainability group is not finished making changes. They have created a master plan full of ideas for the future, such as establishing gardens outside the library to grow local plant species and switching to 100% post-consumer paper.

The health of the environment is everyone’s responsibility. “We can talk the talk,” says Young, “but we also have to walk the walk.”

Students study on the second floor of Alden Library under rows of fluorescent lights, which consume far less energy than traditional incandescent lighting.
A Lasting Impression
By Doug Partusich

Some gifts can be truly transformational. One such gift came to us from our long-time friends Fred and Kazuko Harris of Tokyo, Japan.

While not a graduate of our institution, Fred had a wonderful relationship with Ohio University going back to the 1980s. After growing up in Brooklyn and serving in the Navy during the Korean War, he graduated with honors from The Art Center College.
of Design in Los Angeles. Fred spent most of his professional life in Japan after he received an invitation to return in the mid-1960s to open a design firm. When not running his business, Fred was also a well-known artist who specialized in traditional Japanese watercolor and the fine Japanese art of sumi-e.

In 1994, he and his wife, Kazuko, provided a gift that enabled the library to significantly increase its holdings in fine arts. In addition to donating hundreds of books and items to enhance the University’s ability to teach and to research the art and culture of East and Southeast Asia, they also made a provision for a bequest with Alden Library as beneficiary.

Sadly, on November 1, 2010, Fred lost his battle with leukemia. Both Ohio University and Alden Library have lost a dear friend.

To commemorate the lasting impression left by Fred Harris, Alden Library plans to hang an exhibit of his most recent artwork during spring quarter in the Frederick and Kazuko Fine Arts Library. The Harris’ thoughtful gifts and generous spirit will benefit the students of Ohio University for generations to come.

N ew year, new beginnings. But it is also a time to take stock of what we’ve accomplished. 2010 marked another year of growth in the number of annual supporters to the University Libraries. It was a year of growth in the overall dollars that were donated to help provide services by library professionals. That growth is very important to Alden Library and to the students and faculty of Ohio University. Thank you very much for your support.

When you think about it, philanthropy is a powerful tool. Without the kindness of those alumni and friends who believe that Ohio University benefits greatly from a strong library system, we would never be able to meet the needs of an academically active student body and faculty. Here at Alden Library, it is easy for supporters to see their dollars in action by observing students and faculty using our facilities and interacting with our staff 24 hours a day.
Ohio University Libraries thanks its 2010 donors for their extraordinary support:

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For more information please contact Doug Partusch, Director of Development at 740-593-2683 or partusch@ohio.edu or visit www.library.ohiou.edu/friends

*Donations January - October 2010
2009-2010 Alden Library Annual Statistical Facts:

- 3 million volumes
- 3 million searches using the Libraries' online databases
- 2 million annual visits
- 500,000 books loaned
- 60,000 questions answered
- 8,000 questions by email, text or IM
- 27,000 electronic journals
- 14,000 students who attended library instruction

Contact Information

Gatherings is a publication of the Friends of the Ohio University Libraries. For more information, please contact: Kate Mason, 512 Alden Library, Athens, Ohio 45701

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