50th Anniversary of Vernon R. Alden as President of Ohio University:

“One cannot visit this campus without sensing the feeling of expectation that even higher levels of accomplishment and service will be achieved. The essential elements exist for continued growth,” said Vernon R. Alden during his inaugural address as the 15th President of Ohio University on May 11, 1962. Now 50 years later, Vernon R. Alden still plays an integral role in the University’s continued growth acting as the Honorary Chair of the University Libraries’ Development Committee.
On a cloudy day, May 11, 1962, thirty-eight year old Vernon R. Alden was inaugurated as the 15th President of Ohio University.

“If we are to be a truly great university we must challenge the outstanding student,” Dr. Alden told an audience that was gathered near the Memorial Auditorium. “A climate in which the best minds are stretched and in which superior students aspire to even greater accomplishment will set the tone for the entire university,” he said.

It was the “construction of a substantial new library” that he told the 3,300 attendees was a centerpiece of his vision. Years later, in 1969, that new library opened, and as President Alden was preparing to leave Ohio University, the Board of Trustees announced that the Vernon R. Alden Library was named in his honor.

“Our future demands greatness,” President Alden told his inaugural audience.

In the fifty years since that May, Alden Library has grown to be one of the top 100 research libraries in North America. Its success was realized through the work of successive presidents, librarians, staff, student employees and donors.

Among all the successes of the Alden administration, we like to believe that this library building is one of the most enduring, and the one fifty years later, that still challenges students and sets the “tone for the entire university.”

On behalf of all the librarians, staff, student employees, and Friends of the Libraries, we congratulate President Emeritus Vernon R. Alden on the 50th anniversary of his inauguration, and we thank him for this great library.

Scott Seaman, Dean of Ohio University Libraries
Asylum on the Hill

(Above) Katherine Ziff, author of “Asylum on the Hill: History of a Healing Landscape,” reviews material in Alden Library’s Mahn Center for Archives & Special Collections. Ziff is a counselor at three local area elementary schools.

(Left) Patient records from the Athens Lunatic Asylum Collection.

Ziff speaks passionately about her experience in Alden, “The resources of the Mahn Center were absolutely essential to my research. Not only the archives themselves, [which included] patient records; photographs; the correspondence…; family papers; and other records of the history of the region,” Ziff said, “but also the careful stewardship of the collections, and the support provided by the archivists themselves.”

The Athens Lunatic Asylum collection, the documents and artifacts of an American experiment in the care of those with mental illness, is just one of more than 300 manuscript collections that await scholars and students in Alden Library’s Mahn Center for Archives and Special Collections. Its treasures will likely bring you back time and time again.
Friends of Alden Library

Kirsten Williams
Home: Stafford, VA.

Profession: Credit Union President/CEO.

Last Book Read: “I, Alex Cross” by James Patterson.

Hobbies and Interests: Baseball! I’m an avid Indians fan who occasionally attends the Nationals’ games, since I live outside Washington D.C.

I support the Cleveland Browns during football season. I love my Ohio roots! I also love boating, jigsaw puzzles and bowling in a league with my husband.

Words of Wisdom: I was fortunate to have worked at Alden Library in the circulation department during all four years at Ohio University. My words of wisdom would be to keep an open mind and to accept new and different ideas. Working in the library exposed me to many things I might never have known. It gave me the opportunity to interact with people from a wide variety of cultures and experiences.

Profile: Dedicated and hard-working, yet soft-spoken and kind-hearted.

Memorable Movie: “Out of Africa.”

Current Project: My credit union is undergoing a transformation for future growth by utilizing technology to convert our delivery systems to be more environmentally friendly. Nearly every aspect of our operation was affected, which is causing me to once again keep an open mind. I’m thankful for the support of my dedicated staff!

Favorite Place on Campus: Boyd Beach – as we fondly called it. It was such a nice grassy area behind Boyd Hall where we used to lay in the sun, study and just relax!
It is business as usual in the library, but it is a new kind of business. Alden Library, once solely devoted to reading and research, is now a busy collaborative-learning hub. Space, once reserved for stacks of books, is now slowly being replaced with group study rooms, up-to-date technology and support centers that aid student learning.

But with the increase in the hustle and bustle of library activity, came the decrease in the library’s quiet study. At times, it appeared that students were engaged in a tug-of-war between those who need quiet, and those who need collaboration.
April Laissle, freshman in journalism, works in the fourth floor Very Quiet Area in Alden Library on Wednesday afternoon, November 9, 2011.

Baron Laudermilk, a senior in political science, studies in the fourth floor Very Quiet Area in Alden Library on a Friday afternoon.

So in 2011, the Very Quiet Area was constructed on the fourth floor in Alden Library – a room overlooking the ever-changing trees on the college green.

“It's a peaceful environment that makes it easy to concentrate,” says freshman and honors journalism major April Laissle. “The rest of the library is always so busy, so it's kind of like a sanctuary.”

Thanks to the generous support of donors like you, Alden Library's peaceful environment is a quiet reminder that when students talk, we listen.
MORE THAN WAGES

By Lena Chapin
From checking out books and acting as information technology consultants to organizing rare collections, Ohio University Libraries’ student employees have their hands in everything. As one of the largest student employers on campus, the Libraries simply wouldn’t be the same without its over 200 student workers.

Mazy Hayes, a Ph.D. candidate in interdisciplinary arts, works behind the reference desk on the second floor of Alden Library.
“Just about everywhere you go we have students,” said Shelia Curtis, accounting associate for the Libraries.

“We rely a lot on work study,” said Curtis. “It’s a federal program, so it doesn’t come out of our Libraries’ budget.” According to Curtis, over 100 students who qualify for Federal Work Study (FWS) are employed by the Libraries.

Two of those students are twins, Dan and Chris King, who work in circulation. The seniors from Aurora, Ohio began working in the Libraries their freshman year. Dan, a marketing major, and Chris, pursuing finance, work with tangible resources like movies, books, OhioLINK and room reservations. Over the past four years, the business-driven twins have learned how to use their hard-earned money. “I use [my wages] for a lot of things: paying dues to my fraternity, Pi Kappa Phi, paying bills and it is good to have some spending money,” said Dan.

Students start out making minimum wage, but are eligible for a pay increase each quarter. These wages are utilized for everything from paying tuition to pocket money.

Animesh S. Rathore (’12), a Ph.D. student in mass communication from Ahmedabad in Western India, has worked in the Center for International Collections since 2006. During the past few years, he has utilized his earnings from the library to help fund his graduate field research in Southeast Asia and pay for his education, which his scholarships alone couldn’t cover.

The Libraries also employ students from the Program to Aid Career Exploration (PACE), an internship-like work program that explores students’ career interests, as well as hourly employees and graduate assistantship positions. For many student workers, they get a lot more out of working in the library than wages.
Twins, Dan (left) and Chris King, both seniors, work behind the circulation desk on the fourth floor of Alden Library. Dan is majoring in marketing, while Chris is pursuing a degree in finance.

Jessica Nelson, a junior in geology, is the student assistant to University Archivist and Records Manager Bill Kimok.

Jessica Nelson, a junior geology major from Brewster, Ohio works as an hourly employee in the Mahn Center for Archives and Special Collections.

“I organize papers and collections so they are easier to navigate; I like to say I am the human version of Google,” said Nelson. “I like knowing that I make research easier for others and reading some of the historical documents has really given me a love and appreciation for Ohio University.”

Whether they’re categorizing the archives for research or helping with database searches in the Learning Commons, it is the student employees who make all the difference.

“We couldn’t provide the services we provide without them,” says Bill Kimok, university archivist. “And here at the library, service is what we’re all about.”

Twins, Dan (left) and Chris King, both seniors, work behind the circulation desk on the fourth floor of Alden Library. Dan is majoring in marketing, while Chris is pursuing a degree in finance.
The Dr. Shao You-Bao Overseas Chinese Documentation & Research Center of Ohio University Libraries is tucked away on the first floor of Alden Library. It appears quiet and serene like the Chinese countryside, but it is really an international focal point of activity.

The center actively promotes international exchange and cooperation for Overseas Chinese Studies by developing international databases, directories and electronic resources. The databases can be searched all over the world in multiple languages, so students and researchers here and abroad can have equal access to the information. The center also serves as the secretariat of the World Confederation of Institutes and Libraries for Chinese Overseas Studies (WCILCOS).

Ohio University Libraries is proud to co-sponsor the fifth WCILCOS conference at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada on May 16th-19th, 2012.
In 2000, Ohio University Libraries hosted the first WCILCOS international conference and more recently, has co-organized the conference with different host institutions in Hong Kong, Singapore and Guangzhou.

The return of the conference to North America, with the planned emphasis on presentations related to the Chinese in the Americas, is reflective of the significant role that Chinese immigrants have played in the United States and Canada.

“The Shao Center is one of the few libraries in North America that is trying to preserve the scholarly record of the Chinese in other nations,” says Jeff Ferrier, curator of the Center for International Collections.

When the Shao Center was founded in 1993, other schools were collecting historic materials on China proper, but no one was focusing on the Chinese who had relocated to other countries.

By building collections of books and journals, and seeking to identify, acquire, and preserve manuscripts, archives, and other unique resources documenting the activities of the overseas Chinese, the Shao Center has compiled an incredible amount of information on the influence of Chinese people and Chinese culture world-wide.

“Because of the international conferences and the wide availability of the excellent electronic resources, researchers in the field of Chinese Overseas Studies are very aware of the Shao Center and what we do,” says Ferrier. “It is very fulfilling to know that the impact of the center extends well beyond the walls of Ohio University.”

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### Chinese Populations Worldwide 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Population</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>7.5 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>6.2 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>3.4 million</td>
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<td>Singapore</td>
<td>2.7 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>0.3 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>0.15 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Overseas Compatriot Affair Commission, Taiwan.*
Stan and Ann
Undergraduate Years: Ann and Stan Robinson met through mutual friends in 1969 at the Grosvenor Hall cafeteria. That summer, Ann and her roommate went on a University sponsored German summer work program, and they invited all their friends to meet them in August for a trip on the Eurail trains. Stan joined them, and after Ann’s graduation they married.

Home: Ann and Stan live in Glen Ellyn, IL.

Profession: Stan was in the first lottery for the draft, so he became a helicopter pilot in the Army, went to Vietnam, and eventually became a commercial pilot. He is now a captain at United Airlines. Ann is a retired teacher and school librarian.


Hobbies: Stan is building an experimental aircraft. He recently retired from the Lima Lima Aerobatic Flight Team where he performed in air shows all over the country. He also is studying celestial navigation and enjoys sailing and genealogy. Ann loves reading, gardening, mahjongg, sailing and traveling.

Words of Wisdom: Books and access to information are the backbone of democracy. They are a way to experience more than we otherwise could through the imagination of everyone who has ever had an idea, and who shared it.

Profile: Stan: husband, father, grandfather, aviator and handyman; Ann: wife, mother, grandmother, teacher and friend.

Memorable Movie: Stan’s favorite movie is “Apollo 13.” Ann likes “Gone with the Wind.”

Current Project: Stan and Ann have a lake house in Michigan where they enjoy spending time with their children and grandchildren. Two of their three children and a daughter-in-law also graduated from Ohio University in 1999. Go Bobcats!

Favorite Place on Campus: After forty years, a lot of the campus has changed. Of course, Stan loved the old airport. Chubb Library and the college green were favorite places. Alden Library was being built and finished while Ann and Stan were at Ohio University.
The special collections in the Ohio University Libraries represent an impressive breadth and depth of unique materials that have been acquired and cultivated for nearly two hundred years.
The Donald L. Swaim Collection is one of those collections. It features thousands of hours of audio interviews with authors that were recorded and broadcast by OHIO graduate, Don Swaim. The collection includes the entire run of a radio program called “Book Beat,” a daily feature about books and writers, heard on WCBS-AM in New York from 1982 through 1993. The program was also distributed nationally by the CBS Radio Stations News Service.

“Book Beat” featured the actual voices of over 700 prominent writers that were interviewed by Don at CBS studios in New York. He also edited those sessions and added his own commentary. The list of writers includes Ray Bradbury, Toni Morrison, Joyce Carol Oates and many, many others. While “Book Beat” was a shorter feature, the original interviews were often much longer, and Don’s insightful questioning really brought out the personalities of those he talked to.

When asked about identifying his favorite author, Don replied, “Selecting the most memorable author out of the hundreds I’ve interviewed isn’t as easy as selecting a favorite color. All the writers I’ve spoken to are unique, and often inspiring, in their own ways. How does one choose from, say, John Updike, Norman Mailer, John Irving, Kurt Vonnegut, William Styron, Ray Bradbury, James Jones [or] James Michener? You get the idea.”
Those original full-length interviews and the “Book Beat” shows are stored in both analog (tape) and digital forms in Alden Library thanks to Don’s generosity to his alma mater. A former member of the Ohio University National Alumni Board of Directors, Don has kept in close contact with the University over the years. After his retirement from WCBS, he realized what a treasure trove of historically significant material that he had in his possession. He felt that the recordings would provide rich primary-source material for creative writing students at the University.

Still a very active writer himself, Don formed the Bucks County Writers Workshop near his home in Pennsylvania to help aspiring writers refine their craft. He published two books in 2011, and he was also the recipient of the 2011 Pearl S. Buck National Fiction Award for his short story, “Dearest Friend, Annie.”

You can currently hear the full-length interviews on the website Wiredforbooks.org. The “Book Beat” programs are on Don’s website, http://donswaim.com/bookbeatpodcast.html.

Ohio University alumnus, Don Swaim, interviews well-known travel author, Paul Theroux, for WCBS’ “Book Beat.”

Librarians as Teachers
By Doug Partusch

I don’t know if you’ve noticed, but one of the most important roles of librarians today is that of teacher. Like other teachers, their goal is to help and to show students, faculty, staff and community members how to become self-sufficient in their intellectual and creative pursuits.

Alden Library has over 20 subject librarians who act as liaisons to departments and colleges across campus, and their instruction revolves around finding quality information as a learning outcome. They also work to incorporate new teaching-delivery methods into their library instruction, such as using YouTube, blogs, wikis and general web resources.

“The subject librarians are increasingly spending their time collaborating with teaching faculty in order to develop the most effective information literacy instruction for the students,” says Kelly Broughton, assistant dean for research and education at Alden Library.

With your support, our librarians can continue to teach information skills that can benefit an entire campus of faculty and students.

Today, we are virtually bombarded with information. It is all around us and easily accessible. Now, the challenge is trying to find quality information and using critical analysis to distinguish what information is correct, authoritative and reliable. Keep in mind that these days not all information is “created equal.” This realization and the ability to sort out the “wheat from the chaff” is called “information literacy.”

Our librarians at Alden are actively involved in teaching the skills necessary to find reliable information for their classes and research. In fact, last year they taught over 540 classes that dealt with information literacy. Over half of our entire student body, nearly 12,000 students, participated in those sessions. Library class instruction ranged from first-year dance, to introduction to mechanical engineering, to graduate research seminars in contemporary history.

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With your support, our librarians can continue to teach information skills that can benefit an entire campus of faculty and students.
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