Introducing Tom Hyry, New Director of UCLA Library Special Collections

The UCLA Library is delighted to welcome Tom Hyry as our new director of special collections. He comes to us from Yale University Library, where he directed the manuscript unit in the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Tom’s position is actually a new one at the UCLA Library. Five separate special collections – the Louise M. Darling Biomedical Library History and Special Collections for the Sciences, Center for Oral History Research, Performing Arts Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library Department of Special Collections, and the University Archives – are being integrated into a single special collections department, under his leadership.

“Although I’ve been on the job for only a very short time, I have been dazzled by the depth and breadth of our collections and impressed by the level of the services we provide to our researchers,” said Tom. “I very much look forward to working with my new colleagues to carry out the administrative integration of our special collections so that we can build upon our existing strengths and develop new collections and services.”

Prior to directing the manuscript unit at Yale, Tom spent nine years in the university’s manuscripts and archives department, where he began as an entry-level archivist and finished as the head of arrangement and description. His accomplishments include acquiring several prestigious collections; creating, with others, the department’s digital image database; providing instruction for students on using primary sources; organizing exhibits; and developing grants.

Tom earned a master’s degree in information and library studies from the University of Michigan and a bachelor’s degree in history from Carleton College.

At UCLA, Hyry will manage the process of integrating all of the UCLA Library’s special collections. Among his responsibilities are developing and managing collections; conducting strategic and space planning; overseeing research and instructional services for undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and visiting researchers; planning and implementing public program activities, including exhibits, lectures, symposia, and conferences that showcase the use of UCLA Library special collections; and donor relations and fundraising.

Tom is married to Jennifer Weintraub, also a librarian, who will be joining our Digital Library Program. The couple has two daughters, five-year-old Ruth and nine-month-old Helen.

“My family and I are very excited about our new adventure of moving across the country,” Tom concluded. “And we’re going to enjoy getting to know a fabulous new city!”
Gerald and Barbara Weiner

The home of artist Barbara Weiner and collector Gerald Weiner is filled with their passions – art, books, and manuscripts. Situated on the shore of Lake Michigan, the Weiners’ home feels like a library and art museum combined in one warm setting. Barbara’s oil paintings and ceramics are artfully displayed, while Jerry’s manuscripts fill bookshelves and closets in a much less artful way.

When Jerry began collecting Ethiopic manuscripts in 2003, he was initially interested only in Ethiopic Jewish manuscripts but couldn’t find any for sale. He then discovered Ethiopian Christian illustrated books in an art gallery in Santa Fe and fell in love with their beauty. Of all of his acquisitions, the biggest surprise came when he found that he had purchased a book belonging to King Menelik II (1844-1913), the founder of the modern Ethiopian state. It is now back in Ethiopia in the Ankober museum, a gift to the people of Ethiopia from the Weiner family.

But that was only one book, and when Jerry’s extensive collection threatened to take over much of the house, he began to think about finding a permanent home where the manuscripts would be utilized as much for their research value as for their beauty. Only a handful of institutions in the United States have significant Ethiopian collections, but UCLA is one of them.

Jerry came to campus to learn more about the UCLA Library’s holdings and the academic programs that would value the research opportunities offered by the collection – and he liked what he saw. He also recognized that UCLA is situated in a diverse city with a significant Ethiopian population, who would also appreciate the value of the collection. Librarians, faculty, and community members were delighted to welcome Jerry and spent an entire day sharing with him all the benefits of making the UCLA Library the new home for his collection.

Jerry decided that very day to donate his collection to the UCLA Library Department of Special Collections. His extensive collection will enable us to become the leading repository in North America for Ethiopic manuscripts, surpassing the Library of Congress and Princeton University.

This remarkable collection will enhance the teaching of and research into Ethiopian languages, history, and culture at UCLA and will enable the campus to return to its former prominence as a world leader in Ethiopian studies. The Weiner collection will attract new faculty, graduate students, related collections, and funding to UCLA and will also serve as a catalyst for exhibits, lectures, conferences, public programs, and community initiatives.
Jerry and Barbara recently learned of another event that will likely deepen their connection to UCLA: their grandson Max, the child of their daughter Rachel and her husband, Matt, will be attending the UCLA Lab School starting this fall. With the Weiners’ other daughter, Sara, living in New Jersey with her husband, Eric, and children Julia, Lily, and Ryan, the Weiners’ frequent-flier miles among Chicago, L.A., and New Jersey accumulate almost as quickly as Jerry’s book collection!

When the Weiners are home in Chicago, they keep busy with volunteer commitments and art: Jerry as a glass blower, and Barbara as a literacy volunteer, and both are involved with numerous Jewish charities. And Jerry still works as a senior vice president at Morgan Stanley in Chicago, where his success in the investment business over the last forty years has made their art-, manuscript-, and book-filled lives possible.

Of all the books Jerry has collected, the most important to him emotionally is Seven Pillars of Wisdom by T. E. Lawrence, produced in a limited edition of 175. As a student spending his junior year abroad at the University of Vienna, he went to a lecture at the British Consulate on Lawrence, at which this limited edition, which features exquisite artwork, was passed around. Jerry dreamed of owning that book for more than forty years; he finally acquired it, and it is the only book with which he will never part.

Library Associates Corner

The UCLA Library Associates annual giving program is an association of dedicated supporters who recognize that the Library is at the heart of UCLA’s entire academic enterprise. Each academic year, a series of activities and events are held to engage our Library Associates members.

Food Fundamentals from Los Angeles’ Foremost Food Expert

Evan Kleiman, host of “Good Food” on KCRW-FM and owner of Angeli Caffe, discussed her cookbook library and highlighted some of the rare cookbooks in UCLA Library special collections at a recent Discovery Workshop. Kleiman noted that her library, in addition to a varied assortment of cookbooks, includes culinary-inspired memoirs such as those by Ludwig Bemelmans. She delighted guests with personal anecdotes about her experiences with food, cooking, and starting a cookbook library. This event attracted the largest audience of any Library Associates event, with almost ninety attendees.

Remembering the Buffalo Soldiers of World War II

Ivan J. Houston, a World War II veteran and past chairman/CEO of Golden State Mutual Life Insurance, discussed his recent book, Black Warriors: The Buffalo Soldiers of World War II, at a Library Associates event late last year. Houston’s book chronicles his experiences in the first all-black combat infantry regiment, the Buffalo Soldiers, on which Spike Lee’s film Miracle at St Anna was based. Several members of the Los Angeles chapter of the Buffalo Soldiers, Ninth and Tenth Cavalry, who fought in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War, also attended.

The great-grandson of former slaves and free African Americans, Houston described his efforts in breaking through the Nazis’ infamous 170-mile Gothic Line and defeating the Germans. For his service, he received the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman’s Badge, and three Battle Stars. Houston also discussed the origin of the name “Buffalo Soldiers,” explaining that the term came into use after the Civil War, when African American soldiers were sent to the West to fight in the Indian wars. Native Americans referred to them as “buffalo soldiers” because they thought the soldiers were as brave as buffalos and because the soldiers wore buffalo hides for warmth in cold weather.

Library Associates Go Green

In an effort to reduce the environmental impact and costs of print mailings, the UCLA Library is asking friends and donors to provide their email address for e-communications about Library Associates events and news. If you would like to register your email address, please visit <http://www.library.ucla.edu/development/green.cfm>.
From the University Librarian

Dear Friends and Supporters of the UCLA Library:

Amidst all the bleak budget news are some wonderful updates about what we have been able to accomplish despite our challenges.

I am delighted to announce that we have recently acquired our nine-millionth volume for the UCLA Library, and it is a stunner. Edward Ruscha’s On the Road, published by Gagosian Gallery and Steidl, is one of the most beautiful artists’ books I’ve seen.

This new acquisition connects perfectly with our noteworthy artists’ book collection as well as our significant collection of Beat literature, which Gerald and Barbara Weiner (see donor profile on page two) recently enhanced by donating a first edition of Allen Ginsberg’s landmark work Howl. It was produced in mimeograph format in an edition of approximately twenty-five prior to the publication of Howl and Other Poems by City Lights in 1956.

Reaching nine million volumes is quite an accomplishment and indicates that, despite reductions in our overall budget, including our acquisitions budget, we remain one of the top ten academic research libraries in North America, as well as the youngest institution in that elite group. One reason for our continued presence among these prestigious institutions is the unwavering support of our donors and friends. Your contributions are critical to our ability to maintain— and develop — collections and provide staffing to support services during times of diminished funding.

A case in point is the remarkable success we had recently with our annual telefund-raising campaign. We surpassed our goal of $40,000 for this campaign by nearly twenty percent, raising close to $48,000. We also continue to receive support through our direct mail campaigns, which are moving online to save costs, as well as from our Powell Society members and major gift donors. We were one of the few organizations on campus to see growth in our annual fund support during down economic times, and we thank you sincerely for your ongoing, generous support.

My other exciting news is that the renovation of the first floor of the Charles E. Young Research Library has begun. Construction crews have built temporary walls to create a passageway from the front doors to the circulation desk and elevators, while behind the walls, spaces have been cleared of shelving and partitions, and construction is beginning. To walk through this empty space is a thrill, when I think that what will emerge will transform the library.

This renovation provides an unprecedented opportunity to move the Research Library to the leading edge of scholarship in the digital age. A phase-one budget of $18,000,000 will return the major public spaces of the building, designed by renowned Los Angeles architect A. Quincy Jones, to their original glory and make them a twenty-first-century research, information, teaching, and learning center. We offer many naming opportunities for these new and innovative spaces, and I encourage you to contact me if you want to add your name to this exciting project or would like more information about the renovation.

The budget situation remains challenging, there are glimmers of hope for the 2010-11 fiscal year, though much remains unknown at this point. To keep up with the most recent news on this topic, please follow my blog at <http://blogs.library.ucla.edu/universitylibrarian>.

In closing, let me reiterate my gratitude for your support of the UCLA Library, and I hope to see you here one day soon.

Gary E. Strong
University Librarian

Giving Opportunities

THE UCLA LIBRARY ASSOCIATES

Support from the UCLA Library Associates ensures that critical needs, from special-opportunity acquisitions to information literacy programs, are addressed. Discretionary funds available to the university librarian will make a significant impact on the quality, innovative resources and services that the UCLA Library is able to offer.

HONOR WITH BOOKS

Honor with Books allows donors to pay tribute to a special person by placing a bookplate in his or her honor in a newly purchased book in the subject area of the donor’s choice. This $100 gift supports a critical acquisitions need while honoring a loved one, friend, special teacher, or colleague in perpetuity.

COLLECTION ENDOWMENT INITIATIVE

The Collection Endowment Initiative provides critically needed funds to acquire, preserve, and make accessible library materials in a particular subject area of interest. Collection endowments begin at $50,000, and the Library invites donors to make a single gift or to build an endowed fund over several years. Special bookplates reflecting the interests of the philanthropist are designed in consultation with the donor and affixed to each item added to Library collections that was made possible by his or her generosity.

MAKING A BEQUEST

In writing a will or living trust, donors can specify that they would like their estate to benefit the UCLA Library. In recognition of alumni, friends, faculty, and staff who have chosen to benefit the university through planned giving, they are welcomed as members of the prestigious First Century Society. Planned gifts include gifts through wills, living trusts, charitable trusts, charitable gift annuities, retirement plans, or other estate planning arrangements.

If you would like to receive more information about these or other options to support the UCLA Library, please contact Amy Smith, executive director of UCLA Library Development, by telephone at 310.206.8551 or by email at <amys@library.ucla.edu>. Or visit the Web site at <http://www.library.ucla.edu/development>.
Riverside activist Penny Newman was asked to leave her church because a campaign she was waging against a toxic waste dump in town made other church members uncomfortable. Those members included the family that owned the dump.

Early on, TreePeople founder Andy Lipkis wondered why he was having trouble retaining volunteers for reforestation efforts. The U.S. Forest Service, it turned out, was treating the do-gooders like the labor force they were used to working with – prison inmates.

While being sworn in as an early member of California’s Air Resources Board in 1972, Gladys Meade thumbed her nose at the dress code instituted by then-Gov. Ronald Reagan and wore a pantsuit.

While it’s popular to be green these days, the pioneers of the Southern California environmental movement can still recall the early trials and tribulations of being ahead of a wave of environmental consciousness that would eventually sweep the nation. And they are talking about it in a new series of oral histories.

“Environmental Activism in Los Angeles” features twenty-five in-depth oral histories with local environmentalists, half of which were unveiled on Thursday, April 22, on Earth Day. Their accounts are posted online both as written transcripts and digital recordings at the UCLA Library Center for Oral History Research, accessible at <http://oralhistory.library.ucla.edu>.

With an exclusive focus on Southern California’s homegrown environmental groups and leaders, the series is believed to be the first collection of oral histories of a regional environmental movement.

“Southern California has the largest, most comprehensive environmental movement in the U.S., and it’s tackled some of the country’s thorniest environmental problems using some of the most sophisticated approaches in environmental activism,” said Jane Collings, the producer of the series and the principal editor at the center. “The Los Angeles environmental movement is really distinctive, and its story needed to be told.”

The following is excerpted from an April 20 story in UCLA Today. To read the full story, go to <http://www.today.ucla.edu/portal/ut/untold-stories-of-early-environmentalists-157186.aspx>.
“Quarantined...Polluted Water” sign with children playing in the sand behind it on Cabrillo Beach, 1973. UCLA Library Los Angeles Times Photographic Archive

Exhibits in the Library

**What’s in the Arts Library Cage?**

**Selected Titles in Architecture and Allied Arts**

Arts Library

*Through June*

**Netherlandic Studies**

Powell Library Rotunda

*Through July*

**United Farm Worker Prints**

Charles E. Young Research Library

Study Commons

*Through June*

**Archives Alive: Student Discoveries in the Center for Primary Research and Training**

Charles E. Young Research Library

Department of Special Collections

*Through July*