It’s been “Lights! Camera! Action!” at the UO Libraries this past spring, thanks to a wonderful gift of papers from famed filmmaker and UO graduate James Ivory.

Ivory—whose two most well-known films, Howards End (1992) and Room with a View (1986), each won three Academy Awards—grew up in Klamath Falls, where his father owned a lumber company. He began his studies at the UO as an architecture student, with the intention of preparing for a career as a set designer; later he became a fine arts major, graduating in 1951.

Ivory went on to become a major figure in contemporary cinema, establishing a partnership with well-known producer Ismail Merchant and novelist-screenwriter Ruth Prawer Jhabvala, which led to the formation of the production company Merchant Ivory. The company has released nearly forty films that have earned thirty Academy Award nominations. Ivory’s latest film, Le Divorce, was released this summer.

As a filmmaker, Ivory collected thousands of fascinating and historically important documents during filming and production of his movies, including production files, screenplays, photographs, and other material. When the UO Libraries suggested that its special collections department could serve as an ideal home for his papers, Ivory happily agreed. He organized and identified enough material to fill twenty-six boxes and shipped them to their new residence at the UO. Ivory personally labeled many of the documents to provide some history and background, offering an ultimate insider’s view of the filmmakers’ trade.

“These papers are a treasure trove for film historians and students of film,” says Linda Long, manuscripts librarian at the UO. “They offer an incredible through-the-lens look at...
As the beautiful months of summer draw to a close on the University of Oregon campus, we take some time at the UO Libraries to reflect on what we’ve accomplished in the recent past and prepare for what is to come in the near future.

During the past year, we successfully launched the Oregon Card Program, which provides free borrowing privileges at the UO Libraries to any Oregon citizen eighteen years of age or older. We issued 2,250 cards to public borrowers this year, compared to only 300 in the previous year.

We celebrated the announcement of the eventual doubling of accessible items in our online catalog through the merger of the Orbis and Cascade consortia databases (see page 4). We offered a diverse set of library-sponsored events and exhibits that kept the UO Libraries on the cultural map, culminating in a reception and exhibit celebrating an extraordinary gift of papers from renowned filmmaker James Ivory (see front page). And, at the long-standing request of Mr. and Mrs. Henry W. Van Duyn, we staged our annual reception and exhibit celebrating an extraordinary gift of papers from renowned filmmaker James Ivory. Entitled “Continued from front: James Ivory Gift”, the exhibit in Knight Library displayed many fascinating documents, including photos, sketchbooks, scripts, business records, and correspondence with family, friends, and major film stars with whom Ivory has worked, such as Tom Cruise, Judi Dench, Emma Thompson, John Lithgow, Christopher Reeve, and Vanessa Redgrave.

But we don’t get to rest and reflect for long. This fall’s enrollment will be larger than ever, at 20,500 students, up more than 500 from fall 2002; and we’ll continue to provide the best possible service to meet this increasing demand.

Currently, we’re working on a major upgrade of the library-run online course administration and delivery system, which was used by 17,371 UO students last year. We recently launched a program to loan laptop computers to students and have recently become part of a statewide online reference service that will serve students, faculty members, and residents in our region.

Additional planned services include expansion of our digital collections and participation in a new national program that assesses information literacy skills. These and other service improvements and upgrades planned for the coming year will be a major challenge in a time of shrinking budgets, but we look forward to the fall with great anticipation. Many thanks for your continued support of the UO Libraries. I hope you have an enjoyable autumn, wherever you are!

Deborah A. Carver
Philip H. Knight University Librarian

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO MAKE A GIFT OR BEQUEST TO THE UO LIBRARIES, PLEASE CONTACT LISA MANOTTI, DIRECTOR, LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT: (541) 346-1823, LMANOTTI@DARKWING.UOREGON.EDU.
Corrigan-Solari Endowment Recognizes Outstanding Library Faculty

Colleen Bell, library instruction coordinator, and Robert Felsing, East Asian bibliographer, are the recipients of the 2002 Richard and Mary Corrigan Solari Library Faculty Fellowship Award. The award is given each year to reward deserving library faculty members for their noteworthy contributions to the university, the region, and the international community of scholars, as well as to support the recipients’ continued professional development.

The awards, made possible by the Richard and Mary Corrigan Solari Endowment Fund, carry with them $3,000 in professional development funding, and the recipients’ names are inscribed on a plaque housed in the Knight Library.

ROBERT FELSING
Felsing heads the UO Libraries’ e-Asia project, a nationally recognized digital collection of important scholarly resources. As East Asian bibliographer, he selects materials for inclusion in Knight Library’s East Asian Collection and serves as a liaison to the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures and the Asian Studies Program.

Felsing holds an M.A. in Asian studies, a Ph.D. in Chinese history, and an M.L.S. degree. His areas of expertise include Asian studies, Asian languages and computing networks, and the Internet.

Some students emerged from Knight Library at dawn bleary eyed and mind benumbed. Others said they were “stoked” that the library was open around the clock. Some fell asleep while studying, and realized something was different when no one woke them up at closing time—because there wasn’t a closing time. Still others thought the 24/7 Program was “the greatest thing since the Internet.” One student even took a break from studying to practice a bit of tai chi in the early morning silence of the library stacks.

Such was the variety of student response to the Knight Library’s first-ever around-the-clock opening during dead week and finals week this spring. Thousands of happy but test-anxious students took advantage of the trial program to finish class papers and study for their all-important finals, which, in some cases, would make the difference between graduating or not graduating.

Last winter, after a library task force studied the feasibility of keeping Knight Library open around the clock, University Librarian Deborah Carver gave the go-ahead for a full-scale 24/7 Program during dead week and finals week of spring term. “For years we had heard requests from students for a 24/7 Program,” says Carver, “but we weren’t sure what the usage and costs would be if we offered such a program. This spring, we decided to take the chance to get some real data.”

Patron counts and user surveys taken during the program documented the popularity of the initiative. During the ten days of having open doors round-the-clock from June 2 to June 12, as many as 4,000 students used the library during the early morning and extended weekend hours when Knight Library normally would have been closed.

To keep operating costs down, only the most critical services—photocopiers, computers, and printers—were available during extended hours. Nevertheless, users rated their satisfaction with the program at 4.7 out of 5.0, where 5.0 was “very satisfied.”

Anne Leavitt, vice president for student affairs and dean of students, says the efforts of the UO Libraries to serve students’ needs spoke volumes about the university’s commitment to high-quality education: “The 24/7 Program during dead week and finals week sent a terrific message to students about the importance of their education and the recognition of their need for a safe, secure environment in which to complete their course work and study for final exams. It indicated to our students that students matter, that academics matter, and that the UO Libraries’ facilities and programs are standing by to help students be successful.”

Shirien Chappel, head of access services for the UO Libraries, oversaw the committee that made arrangements for security, stuff scheduling, publicity, and other program components. “During the planning and execution of the initiative, we learned a great deal about the complexity of running a major research library twenty-four hours per day,” Chappel notes. “We are pleased that so many UO students responded enthusiastically to our efforts.”

Despite near-universal praise from students for helping them meet their study needs during this crucial time, there was one frequent minor complaint: “Where’s the coffee?”
CAS Gift Expands Libraries, E-Journal Collection

Thanks to a gift from the UO College of Arts and Sciences, faculty members and students using the UO Libraries now have far more electronic journal titles at their fingertips.

The gift has been used to subscribe to the complete offerings of Project Muse, an e-journal subscription database offering online access to full-text articles in more than 200 electronic journals from thirty scholarly publishers. The UO Libraries had previously subscribed to only about fifty of the titles.

Last spring, the College of Arts and Sciences generously matched a $25,000 gift to the UO Libraries from UO head football coach Mike Bellotti and his wife Colleen. The UO Department of Intercollegiate Athletics also matched the gift, allowing the UO Libraries to create a new endowment fund and to immediately expand its holdings of electronic journals.

Project Muse, a comprehensive collection of electronic journals from Johns Hopkins Press, is a popular library resource for accessing e-journals. The Project Muse journal titles cover the fields of literature and criticism, history, the visual and performing arts, cultural studies, education, political science, gender studies, economics, and many others.

University Librarian Deborah Carver says the decision to expand coverage in the area of electronic journals was based on demand. “The Project Muse collection is used very heavily now, and I expect use to increase significantly now that we have the additional titles,” she explains. “We are grateful to CAS for helping us take full advantage of this resource.”

For information on contributing to the Bellotti Family Fund, contact Lisa Manotti, director, library development: (541) 346-1823, lmanotti@darkwing.uoregon.edu.

UO Libraries Book Sale Lures Readers

The chance to buy high-quality used books at cut-rate prices brought hordes of book lovers from every walk of life to the UO Libraries Book Sale in the Knight Library on June 5–6. The human bookworms showed up in record numbers, buying more than $11,900 worth of donated books, according to Faye Chadwell, head of collection development and acquisitions. Most of the books sold are donated by individuals and are duplicates of the libraries’ current holdings. All proceeds from the sale are used to acquire new material for the UO Libraries’ collections.

The event is staged periodically and is truly a community affair. Library staff members pitch in to assist with the substantial work of transporting, sorting, displaying, and selling the thousands of books put up for sale. Avid readers from the university and general community benefit by being able to build their personal libraries in dozens of different subject areas.

For more information on donating your books to the UO Libraries, contact Lisa Levitt, collection development and acquisitions assistant: (541) 346-3096, levitt@darkwing.uoregon.edu.

Orbis Cascade Alliance Doubles Access

Students, faculty members, and others using the UO Libraries will soon enjoy access to more than twice the number of items formerly available, thanks to the merger of two successful academic library consortia. In November 2002, the twenty-member Orbis library consortium, founded in Oregon in 1993, and the six-member Cascade consortium, founded in Washington in 1995, agreed to create the Orbis Cascade Alliance.

The merger will result in a new online catalog containing records for more than 22 million books, sound recordings, films, maps, and more. When fully completed, the new database will serve faculty, staff, and the equivalent of more than 174,000 full-time students enrolled at the University of Oregon and twenty-five other member colleges, universities, and community colleges. A courier service will handle pickup and delivery of requested items among all the member libraries.

The merger will expand access to specialized library collections, strengthen cooperative purchasing efforts, and bring shared expertise to the purchase of databases, electronic journals, electronic books, and other digital library materials.

“We are delighted to be part of this collaborative effort,” says university librarian Deb Carver, “Doubling the number of resources in the consortia database will offer a new level of diversity in research and study opportunities for our faculty and students.”

John Helmer, executive director of the Orbis Cascade Alliance, says this merged consortium “is an outstanding example of the impact made possible when private and public institutions collaborate on a regional basis. Libraries are natural collaborators as well as early adopters of the best that informational technology has to offer. Working together, we are building on collaborative success to bring a broader base of print and electronic resources to faculty and students in the Northwest.”

The original Orbis consortium of Oregon libraries was founded in 1993 through a generous donation from the Meyer Memorial Trust. The UO played a lead role in establishing the consortium, providing technical services and the management union catalog, and continues to play a central role as the consortium’s host and fiscal agent.

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