

Oviatt Friends

Tartan Day Marks Opening of Scottish Exhibit

To the skirl of bagpipes and the cadence of a kilt-bedecked band, the lassies danced. As they twirled in synchrony across the library lawn, their feet beat a generations-old pattern and their hands traced an ancient aerial design. Thus, did a Scottish Highland fling initiate a celebration of National Tartan Day on April 6 at the Oviatt Library.

Though they certainly looked the part, the dancers and musicians might not be Scottish at all, but members of the award winning Highlander Marching Band and Dance Guard of Granada Hills High School under the direction of Al Nelson, the school's Chair of Music. The local youth group's lively performance of Scottish melodies and traditional dances served as a dramatic backdrop to the opening of the Library's month-long display entitled "Scottish Influence on America."

As the exhibit made clear, the influence of the Scots is woven deeply into the fabric of America, for many of the country's founding fathers were of Scottish ancestry. After fleeing poverty and political oppression, Scotland's people became America's teachers, politicians, industrialists, inventors, naturalists and artists. Among those highlighted in the Library's display were such Scottish-American titans as Andrew Carnegie, Alexander Graham Bell and John Muir.

Prominently on display was a copy of the most important of all Scottish documents, "The

Declaration of Arbroath." Written in 1320, this plea that the Pope recognize Scotland's independence later became the foundation for the American

Declaration of Independence, a not-too-surprising development since more than half of America's founding fathers were of Scottish decent. Also exhibited were replicas of the "Stone of Scone" on which Scottish kings had been crowned since time immemorial and the Scottish Coronation Throne, in reality a simple wooden chair. Recently returned to Scotland after a 700-year hiatus in London's Westminster Abby, the original stone and throne are now proudly ensconced with other Scottish

royal regalia in Edinburgh Castle.

Tartan Day derives its name from the traditional cloth, woven from yarns of many colors in a pattern of squares, rectangles and lines, out of which the

Scots make kilts, scarves, hats, ties and vests. The tartan of each clan—a group sharing the same or similar surname—has a unique pattern and is officially listed in "The Scottish Tartans World Register." Even the state of California now has its own official tar-

tan thanks to J. Howard Standing, president of the Saint Andrews Society of Los Angeles, who with Thomas Ferguson designed and registered it.

The Saint Andrews Society, an educational and charitable association dedicated to celebrating the contributions of Scots worldwide, provided many of the materials on display. Wearing traditional kilts of

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Tartan Day article continued

their clans, at the opening ceremony Standing and the group's vice-president, John E. Lowry, offered both a bit of history of Tartan Day and an invitation to visit the Seaside Highland Games in Ventura. At the Games, held each October, attendees can learn about Scotland's people, products, history and customs, participate in Scottish country dancing and highland step dancing, and watch pipe band competitions, Scottish heavy athletics, and the workings of Drummond ranch dogs. For the gastronomically adventurous the event also offers an opportunity to sample haggis, a traditional Scottish pudding made from sheep or calf entrails cooked in an animal's stomach.



Bruce McDonald, Instructional Technology

Specialist for the Library, spearheaded the event and was responsible for organizing the ceremonial festivities and arranging for the display of Scottish memorabilia. Penny van Bogaert of the Saint Andrews Society designed and arranged the displays and Robert Cates, Historian of the Los Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club, loaned the materials about John Muir. "The help we got from these folks was exceptional," says McDonald. "Even before they knew what was involved, all were

willing to help out. I can't thank them enough." Says Library Dean Sue Curzon, "The intent of the Library's exhibition is to shed a bit of light on the contributions of our Scottish predecessors. I am extremely grateful to all those who made the celebration and exhibit possible." -jd

Oviatt Library Celebrates Mozart

In commemoration of the 250th anniversary of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's birth, this spring the Oviatt Library staged a week of the musical master's works. Highlighting the celebration was a noontime concert featuring the University's Samuel L. Goldberg and Sons Honors String Quartet and a special guest performance by the CSUN Guitar Quartet.



The string quartet played portions of two of Mozart's better known pieces—Quartet in D minor and *Eine Kleine Nactmusik*, Serenade in G major—and the guitar quartet performed Divertimento No. 1 in D.

Antonio Calvo, Music and Media Librarian, introduced the group and Anne Lee, Master's candidate in music theory, offered an analysis of the music. During intermission, the appreciative audience of students, faculty, and visitors socialized around complimentary confections.

This was the string quartet's first performance under its new name, which honors the Goldberg Foundation, a generous supporter of the CSUN Symphony Orchestra. Edgar Sandoval and Crystal Alforque played first and second violins, respectively, with Quyen Nguyen on the viola and Yoo Jung

Chang on cello rounding out the group; the students' coach is Professor Diane Roscetti. On the guitars were Tom Connell, James Poppleton, Richard Magallanes, and Noah Smolian; Dr. Ron Purcell, Professor Emeritus of Music, coaches the group.

In addition to the concert, performances of many of Mozart's works were broadcast on the University's Video Network for viewing campus-wide. Among the showings were a studio production of *The Marriage of Figaro* with the Vienna Philharmonic; a Peter Sellars' production of *Così fan tutte* (Women are Like That); a filmed version of *The Magic Flute* directed by Ingmar Bergman; and *Amadeus*, the Oscar-winning film of Mozart's life. Several of Mozart's compositions were on view as well, as were books about the artist's life, all from the Library's Special Collections.



The weeklong extravaganza, May 1 - 5, was conceived and hosted by the Library's Music and Media Center under the direction of Calvo. In organizing the event, Calvo was assisted by several members of the center's staff, among them Dean Arnold, Rueyling Tsay, Pat Hollenbeck and Maria Valenzuela. -jd



Florence Ferman

Artist Florence Ferman Honored

Those who attended the reception feting renowned professional artist Florence Ferman were treated to an eye-popping array of her artistic creations. Prominently on exhibit in the Oviatt Library's C.K. and Teresa Tseng Gallery was a gorgeous assortment of uniquely glazed ceramics—pots, bottles, dishes, and vases of stoneware, earthenware and porcelain—their unconventional forms, stunning colors and eye-arresting patterns visually confirming the artist's mastery of the medium.

According to Ferman, her career pathway to near-cult status in the art world was never really planned. As a student at San Fernando Valley State College her initial career goal was uncertain. "Early on I took chemistry and I found it exciting. I later took a ceramics class by accident and because I found myself motivated I continued." She completed her degree in Applied Art in 1963, before SFVSC became California State University, Northridge. But Ferman acknowledges that her early exposure to the sciences forever influenced her. Says she, "I see my glazes as living chemistry. I was a product of the Great Depression. It was not possible to pursue a degree in Biochemistry, but my interest in molecular science has been of inestimable value in formulating glazes."

Once launched on her artistic trajectory, Ferman's progression was neither linear nor limited. As her career took off, she found herself following myriad byways as she explored and mastered first one medium, then another. "The variety excites me," she says. "I have a great curiosity and I'm always learning." Indeed, her constant attack of new media and the expertise she developed in each were abundantly in evidence among her many *objects d'art* on display for the gala.

Though ceramics is her forte and her creations in that medium are extraordinary, equally awe-inspiring is the diverse assortment of this multi-talented woman's works in other media. On display for the reception was an eclectic assortment of her sketch-

es, paintings, and etchings; wood blocks and prints; miniature metallic sculptures; sterling silver boxes, jewelry and diminutive utensils; wooden plaques, bowls and trays; silver point drawings; even needle-point. Ferman was particularly pleased with her success with silver point, a medium few artists attempt, let alone master. Commenting on the trials with her premier silver point work, a depiction of a watch's inner workings, she acknowledged that "It's very difficult to do, but a lot of fun. It's a challenge because you can't really see what you are doing until the silver oxidizes and turns dark."

Although she revels in her work—she regards herself a "thing maker" no matter what others may call her—Ferman views her artistic endeavors as

more than the creation of beautiful objects. She also sees her craft as an important part of the social fabric and a potential behavioral modifier. Citing an example she had seen in an art gallery—dog feces sandwiched between bread slices on top of a pedestal—she notes that "Whereas some portray the ugly as art, I prefer the beautiful. The cult of ugliness teaches children to behave in an ugly manner. Beauty, on the other

hand, teaches children to be wholesome. I've dedicated myself to defining goodness by beauty."

The February 26 reception attracted an attentive crowd of more than a hundred Ferman devotees, long-time friends, University administrators, faculty, and family. Says Cindy

Ventuleth, Library Development officer, "The reception was held both to recognize Florence's artistic accomplishments and to unveil the art collection that she has donated to the Oviatt Library's Special Collections." Of the donation, Library Dean Sue Curzon says, "Florence has given the University a truly extraordinary gift. Every one of her marvelous pieces is a joy to the eye. Over the coming years various portions of the collection will periodically be displayed for the enjoyment of all the Library's patrons."



-jd

The Making of the Book

Mention the word "library" and a second word, "book," almost automatically comes to mind. Indeed, a library without books seems a logical impossibility, for books are a library's *raison d'être*. How fitting, then, that this spring the Oviatt

Library pay tribute to its "coin of the realm" with an exhibit depicting *The Making of the Book: Five Centuries of Hand Bookbinding*.

Housed in the Tseng Family Gallery, the exhibit's focal point is a series of classic works illustrative of the evolution of bookbinding and decorative styles over the centuries. Gallery visitors will see book coverings ranging from the simple—for example, a 15th century Ethiopian manuscript encased by wooden boards wrapped in goatskin, or a 13th century Latin Vulgate bible with paste-board covers—to the luxurious—a leather-bound Armenian bible elaborately decorated with rounded nails and silver crosses, and a Persian ethics manuscript with a florally decorated lacquered binding. Most are from the Library's Special Collections, but a few are on loan.

Providing a visual counterpoint to the ancient tomes the exhibition also includes an eclectic assortment of creations by modern-day hand book

crafters, all of them members of the Guild of Book Workers. Among these unique creations are carousel books with windowed pages providing views of insects, flowers and the like; a

natures." Elsewhere Mark Kirchner demonstrated the painstaking art of decorating, or "finishing," a book's cover with gold leaf and Robert Gohstand used a "foil stamper" to emboss

a gold-leaf logo of the event on leather bookmarks that were offered to attendees as souvenirs.

Keynote speaker at the opening festivities

was internationally acclaimed bookbinder Tini Miura, some of whose books are on exhibit. In her remarks Miura told of her childhood attraction to books, her plans as a young adult to become a book illustrator, and how those plans were waylaid when she became smitten with the art of bookbinding. With studios in Japan and California, this award-winning designer's talents for making limited edition book covers are much in demand worldwide.

Genesis of the exhibition was a collaborative endeavor involving both Library and Guild personnel, but in his welcoming statement Gohstand, current president of the Guild's California chapter identified Tony Gardner, the Library's Curator of Special Collections, as the prime mover. "Tony was the exhibit's 'play-



Book with Magic Formulas
Sumatra: Early 19th century



The Lord's Prayer in Seven Languages.
World's smallest letterpress book.
Binder/ Artist Tini Miura



Full leather binding by Tini Miura

miniature book constructed entirely of giveaway stickers from McDonalds restaurants; and a stunning set of elegant books by master binder Tini Miura, each book's leather cover tooled in gold and overlain with colored metal.

Many tools used by book-



Robert Gohstand, Tini Miura, Tony Gardner

makers are also on display and at the exhibition's April 27 opening, Guild members from the California chapter showed how some are used. With a sewing frame, Alice Vaughan illustrated techniques for lacing together a book's pages, or "sig-

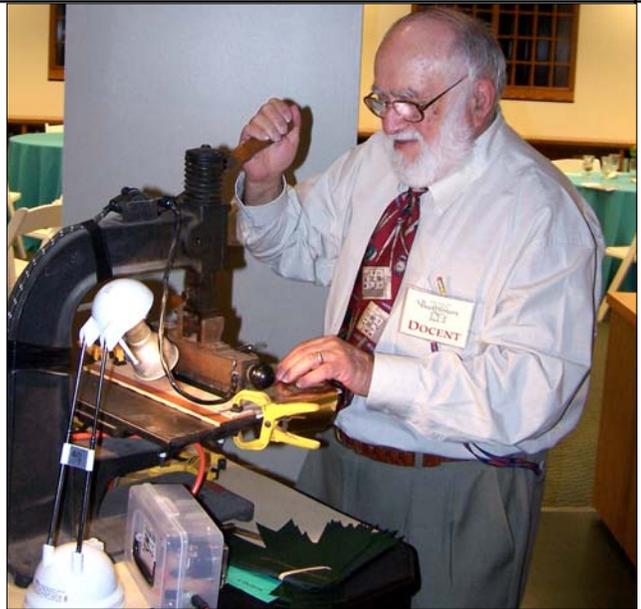
wright.' The Guild and I were simply the supporting cast." Commenting on their efforts, Sue Curzon, Library Dean, acknowledged that "Both Tony and Bob have worked extremely hard to put this exhibit together and they've done a magnificent job. Because of their efforts library visitors can't help but better appreciate what goes into the making of a book."

Gardner's interest in books is long-standing and professional. A specialist in book history and care, he oversees the maintenance of several thousand specialized books, many of them centuries old, in the Library's Special Collections. Though a long-time lover of books, Gohstand's involvement in bookbinding began fortuitously when as Professor of Geography he found his investigations of Russian history impacted by the flooding of a Moscow library. Seeking help in rescuing waterlogged books he turned to the Guild and soon found himself engrossed in its work. "Bookbinding has opened a way to use whatever creativity I have. I've made a lot of friends in the Guild and am always learning from them."

Guild membership is open to all with an interest in the craft, professional or amateur. Founded in 1906, the organization regularly sponsors exhibits and workshops on various bookmaking crafts. It also holds meetings where participants display their creations, hear presentations by experts, see demonstrations, and tour binderies and related facilities.

More information about the organization is available from Gohstand at robert.gohstand@csun.edu.

Among attendees at the exhibition's opening were long-time Library supporters Gus and Erika Manders, whose generous financial gift helped make the exhibit possible. Friends of the Library, a volunteer organization supporting all aspects of the Library's work, also provided funds. The exhibit runs through August 4. -jd



Guild of Bookworkers California Chapter President Robert Gohstand hot stamps commemorative book marks.



Guild of Bookworkers member Alice Vaughan demonstrates lacing techniques.



Bookbinder Mark Kirchner demonstrating hand tooling.

Karin Durán Honored for Extraordinary Service

This year the University's Faculty Award for Extraordinary Service was bestowed upon one of the Library's own, Dr. Karin Durán. University President Jolene Koester presented the prestigious award to Durán at an Honored Faculty Reception on May 19.

Durán's primary responsibility is overseeing the Library's Teacher Curriculum Center, a repository of teaching tools—from educational kits and games to videos, DVDs and CD-ROMs to award-winning juvenile books—in constant demand by faculty, staff, students and local teachers to enhance learning among students from kindergarten through grade 12. Says Margie Roblin, Durán's assistant, "This collection—probably the finest collection of K-12 curriculum materials in the state, if not the nation—is Karin's pride and joy and it is always growing and evolving."

But the award came to Durán not because she does her job well but because she constantly goes the extra mile, often on her own time. Her extra-curricular contributions include service as interim Associate Dean during a months-long search for a permanent replacement; regularly teaching evening classes in freshman writing and research; filling in for colleagues at the reference desk; service on many committees; and aiding innumerable students researching and writing papers. Indeed, the number of students she has influenced is impressive—50,648 students in 1,866 classes by Library Dean



Dr. Karin Durán

Sue Curzon's count—and that doesn't include the thousands of others she has mentored outside the classroom. Says Curzon, "Karin cares tremendously about the students she assists and teaches, and she takes pride in helping them be successful."

In view of Durán's extraordinary commitment, the discovery that she has received previous awards does not surprise. Among her kudos are Certificates of Recognition for Community Service from California Senator Richard Alarcón for 2002, 2004, and 2005; recognition for Service to Society by the CSUN Alumni Association; and the President's Award for Outstanding Service, Comision Femenil de San Fernando.

Karin's many contributions to our Library, to the Chicano/a Studies Department, to the University and to the community, and her professionalism, her personal integrity and her positive commitment to all she undertakes," says Curzon, "are but a few of the factors leading to this award. She is very deserving of this award and I'm delighted that her accomplishments have been recognized."

Editor's Note

We are pleased to report that Dr. Jim Dole, our Friends Newsletter writer, received the Distinguished Teaching Award for his work as Professor in the Biology Department. This award is a great honor—only three were given this year.

CONGRATULATIONS JIM!

Library Student Workers Recognized

On April 5 three students—Tilahun Anley, Serena Vaquilar, and JoAnn Hill—were honored for their contributions to the Library.

For his work as Lead Student in the Reserve Periodicals Microfilm area Anley was named CSUN Student Employee of the Year, an honor that comes with a \$3,042 scholarship. Says Danielle Ste.



Tilahun Anley



Serena Vaquilar



JoAnn Hill

Just, Anley's supervisor, "Tilahun is always punctual and his work meticulous. He is professional, he supervises his shifts with a quiet efficiency and his is the voice of reason. He is a model

for his peers." A Biology major, Anley was one of only twenty students selected for the highly competitive USC Pharmacy internship program in fall 2005 and upon graduation expects to attend pharmacy school. The SunTrust Student Loan Corporation funded the scholarship.

Vaquilar and Hill were recipients of the Susan C. Curzon

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Student Workers article continued

Scholarship Awards, each of which comes with a \$250 prize. Vaquilar works in Special Collections, Hill in Library Administration. Funds for these and future prizes, named to honor the Library's current dean, were donated by Wayne Smith, a supporter of the Library and a former employee of the Cal State Northridge College of Business and Economics, now completing his doctorate at Claremont College.

In her position in Special Collections Vaquilar "...learned how to handle and preserve rare and unusual books" but also "...developed skills in dealing with patrons and researchers."

She finds her work gratifying because she is "...doing exactly what the library is for—helping the community in research." Because of her experience in the Library, Vaquilar's career aims have changed. A Music major, upon graduation she now plans to pursue a degree in library science with the goal of becoming a music librarian.

In her four and a half years on the job Hill has become "...adept at multitasking: setting up meetings, ordering supplies, copying, filing, assisting with events, creating documents, mailings, and filing travel claims." Best of all, she has "...gained administrative skills...amazing friends...and developed strong Cal State

Northridge connections." This is not Hill's first honor, for in spring 2004 her contributions were acknowledged with a Student Achievement Award. As a result of her experience in the library, she looks forward to another educational administrative position after graduation.

Other students honored for exceptional service at the ceremony were Masayo Maeda, Aude Prachansitthi, and Gabriel Castaneda.

Says Library Dean Sue Curzon, "All of these students have demonstrated many times over their dedication to the Library and richly deserve our accolades. We are extremely proud of them and the work they do."

Kites - Soaring Among the Clouds

Oviatt Library Lobby

Cal State Northridge

May 20 - July 10, 2006

This exhibition is a celebration of one of the world's most enduring inventions—Kites! Found throughout the world, kites have been used as toys, artistic expressions, cultural and religious symbols, tools of war, and instruments of science and technology. While materials and designs may have changed over the years, kites have endured as devices with many applications and meanings. Kites have made significant contributions to history, the arts, sciences and mathematics, and have broadened our cultural awareness. Kite flying and kite fliers, from Benjamin Franklin to Charlie Brown, are quintessential parts of American culture. Kites continue to inspire the human spirit to soar. *This exhibition is curated by Gina Hsiung.*



FRIENDS OF THE OVIATT LIBRARY

Oviatt Friends

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We are on the web:
<http://library.csun.edu/friends/>

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California State University
Northridge

Special Thanks

Associated Students President
Chad Charton thanks Eric
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German American Cultural Society
and has a home on the second floor of
the Oviatt.

