

fiat lux

SUMMER 2010 • NO. 16

The Music of Accuracy

LINGUIST AND MUSICIAN ZACHARY O'HAGAN CREDITS THE LIBRARY
FOR ITS COLLECTIONS AND TRAINING

IT STARTS HERE .

Berkeley's excellence is founded on its library. Opened in 1868 with one thousand books, the University Library now holds eleven million volumes, and ranks as one of the world's great research collections. Join us in supporting the growth and preservation of this stellar library.

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This summer, Zachary O'Hagan '11 will be studying a highly endangered Peruvian language—not in the classroom, but in a remote village in northeastern Peru, where the last two native speakers live. Omagua, once spoken by an estimated 1.5 million individuals, was one of the most widely spoken *linguae francae* in the Amazon Basin. Led by linguistics professor Lev Michael, Zach and three other students will travel to Peru this summer to begin creating the first-ever descriptive grammar and lexicon of Omagua.

Drawing on this summer's fieldwork, Zach's senior honors thesis will explore Omagua's genesis and sociocultural context, thus contributing to our understanding of indigenous populations before the advent of Europeans. His work in Peru will

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University Librarian's Letter

X-RAY VISION IN OUR NEW LIBRARIES



You and I can now look clean through books, seeing what we have not seen before. We still can follow a plot or an argument, but those questions in the back of our minds that traditional reading could never answer—those can now be cleared up. There is a clunky name for this, “non-consumptive reading,” but this way of answering questions can be elegant.

Consider the international best-seller that upholds the highest standards of noir suspense, *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*. While readers are hooked by cunning investigators tracking unspeakable crimes, no one can read very far into Stieg Larsson's off-kilter tour of Sweden without wondering: *how can they spend so much time drinking coffee... is this a trend?*

In the days before digitized texts, there was no way to do any more than wonder. Now we can bypass the prose on crooked business practices and stark murders and see that coffee drinking appears every five pages in *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*. Is that really a lot? Raymond Chandler's *The Big Sleep* and *Farewell My Lovely* (roughly the same length as the single Swedish novel) get around to coffee drinking only once every twenty-two pages. It appears that there was a coffee drought in the formative days of noir fiction, and that we have arrived at a torrent. We thought that drugs were on the rise in hard-boiled fiction, but we missed caffeine.

While it may have been possible to count the references to coffee in 500-page novels by filling in ledgers while turning pages, no human could have lived long enough to construct other metrics that are at hand in a digital age. Today researchers are taking all of the transcribed folklore of a region and using computer programs in the “digital humanities” to show relationships that were never apparent before.

Magical spells, for instance. We can now chart their frequency and the folks who cast them (male or female, young or old, etc). We can code the texts so that the location of the spells is systematically computed and displayed on maps. Are more spells cast in settled communities or in isolated places? When we track spells on the landscape, do they cluster around swamps? Do spells reach farther when they are cast by men or by women? Did spells work faster as our ancestors began to see time speeded up with the coming of clocks and faster transportation?

Thinking of a library as a virtual “corpus” that can be probed instantly by “non-human readers” is probably no stranger than the way we conceived the institution a century ago, Latin inscriptions welcoming readers into rooms where they would have to wait for books. The treasures in our libraries, secure all this time, now simply have new access points. This summer the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Mellon Foundation are sponsoring an institute at Berkeley, “Broadening the Digital Humanities” that will attract this new generation of scholars. We are ready.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'The Leonard'.

Thomas C. Leonard
Kenneth and Dorothy Hill University Librarian

Music of Accuracy,
continued from page 1

build on his previous work with Dr. Michael through the Undergraduate Research Apprentice Program, which provides opportunities for students to work directly with faculty on cutting-edge projects. In addition, Zach is grateful for a grant from the Haas Scholars Program in support of his trip.

Despite his demanding academic commitments at Berkeley, Zach has also found time to explore his family's Irish and Mexican roots, employing both online and Library sources. He describes genealogical research as an enticing "treasure hunt." In one such hunt, he noticed a brief reference to his fifth great grandparents on Google Book Search, in an 1888 issue of the *Magazine of American History*. The full edition is held by the University Library, and when he sought it out he was elated to find that a rare photo of these ancestors was also printed in it!

Zach later discovered that the papers of another ancestor, William Goodwin Dana (1797-1858), are held in the Bancroft Library on campus. He was thrilled to be able to hold Captain Dana's shipping log in his own hands, to read the original copy of an 1825 letter to his sister, and to follow Dana's travels between Santa Barbara and the Sandwich Islands. Tracing his family's roots has helped to anchor him to California, Zach says. It has also inspired him to be more diligent about documenting his family's activities, for the sake of the ongoing record.



The inviting setting of the Anthropology Library makes it a favorite study destination. Zach credits his job there with training him in the values of accuracy and precise documentation.

Zach has been playing the French horn since elementary school, and now performs in the campus orchestra, as well as studying with a private teacher. He has enjoyed mining the collections at the Jean Gray Hargrove Music Library for resources related to his orchestra work and to Sergei Rachmaninoff, his favorite composer.

His student job in the George and Mary Foster Anthropology Library, Zach says, has reinforced the importance of accuracy as the foundation for scholarship. "In linguistics and in genealogical research—as well as in the library—I've come to appreciate the value of precise documentation as a foundation of real learning. The capacity for thoroughgoing accuracy is something I build on all the time. It's a lesson I think a lot of Berkeley students end up absorbing: that being able to delineate exactly what you know—and what you don't know—helps you to discover the next set of research questions, in any field." 🐾

**"In linguistics and in genealogical research—as well as in the library—I've come to appreciate the value of precise documentation as a foundation of real learning."
—Zach O'Hagan**

Student Employees in the Library



SHAHRIYAR BOLANDIAN

Double major in molecular & cell biology and psychology
Employed at the Thomas J. Long Business Library
Graduated in spring 2010

“This is one of the top three or four research collections around the world. It is just astounding!”

— Shahriyar Bolandian

Shahriyar has wanted to be a doctor since first grade, when his class learned about the brain as the main processing center for human experience. “I found that so fascinating,” he recalls, “that I promptly decided I wanted to be a brain surgeon.” After graduating this spring with a double major in molecular & cell biology and psychology, he is closer to fulfilling his dream. Shahriyar plans to apply to medical school for 2011, after returning to Berkeley this fall to study in the post-baccalaureate program in health sciences.

Along with his passion for medicine, Shahriyar has a keen interest in business and investing, and has enjoyed getting to know the collections at the Long Business Library, where he works in circulation and shelving. His interest in investing began at a young age during discussions with his father, an accountant who moved to Los Angeles during the Iranian Revolution. As he and

his father tracked the rise and fall of various stocks, Shahriyar became intrigued with understanding the mysterious fluctuations of the market.

Towards the end of fifth grade, Shahriyar began trading in a small way, and immediately experienced some exciting success. But the next year, in 2000, the technology bubble burst, and his holdings plunged in value! “I lost everything in sixth grade,” he laughs, “and was scared off investing for a number of years.” After regaining his nerve, he has continued his investment activities through his years at Berkeley.

Shahriyar was delighted that the Library’s 24-hour Study Hall during final exams continued this year despite budget cuts, and commented how critical round-the-clock library access is for students then. He frequented the Music Library, conveniently located near his apartment, and the David P. Gardner Stacks for “intense studying.” With his long days he was grateful for nap-friendly locations such as the Morrison Library, where he could stop in for a “30-minute power nap” during the day.

Reflecting on his Library experiences as a student, Shahriyar comments “Pretty much any book I want is available here, either in hard copy or electronically. Because of my molecular & cell biology major I used a lot of science journal databases, and the digital collections here are amazingly comprehensive. If you can’t find an article you need, your search technique is probably off, because the Library has it. This is one of the top three or four research collections around the world. It is just astounding!” 🙌

Did you work in the library when you were a Cal student? We want to hear from you! Please send your contact information to Sandy Tesch at stesch@library.berkeley.edu.



MARY ZILKIE

Majored in English
Employed at the Marian Koshland
Bioscience and Natural Resource Library
Graduated in spring 2010

During her years at UC Berkeley, Mary's favorite place to study was the David P. Gardner Stacks in Doe Library. "Going underground and finding three whole floors of books is very cool! I do appreciate all the digital resources, but nothing replaces browsing in the library, where you can poke around on the shelves and find five or ten other great books on your topic."

In her last year here, Mary especially enjoyed a class on Mark Twain taught by Robert Hirst, editor of the Mark Twain Papers and Project at the Bancroft Library. She loved examining original manuscripts and notes for the novels, and adds "I'm pretty sure Hirst is the reincarnation of Mark Twain—he knows *everything* about him."

The class was structured as a seminar, a format Mary prefers. "At Berkeley you're surrounded by a lot of amazingly smart people, students from the top of their class," she says. "A seminar emphasizes discussion, so you get to hear their thinking and really engage with them, which is great!"

Following graduation this spring Mary plans to obtain an MA, inspired by an English teacher with whom she studied in community college. Her immediate goal is to teach at a community college herself, perhaps pursuing a PhD at a later date. Mary's enthusiasm for lively discussion and strong writing will make her a natural teacher. 🌿

Majoring in social welfare, minor in education
Employed at the George and Mary Foster Anthropology Library
Graduating in 2011

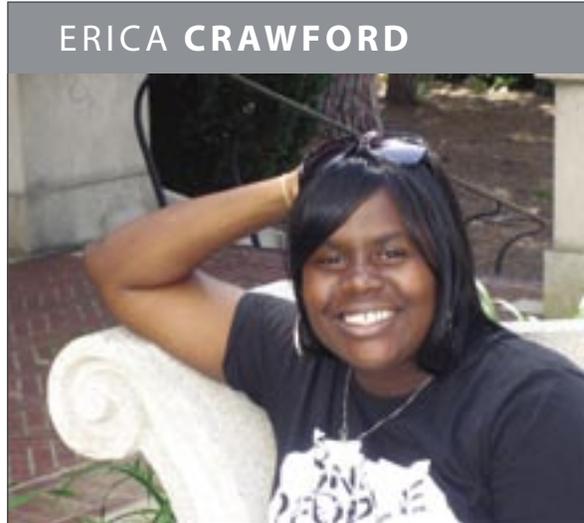
It was love at first sight, Erica says of her first day on campus during Summer Bridge, a program that prepares incoming students for university life. "I knew right away I had made the right decision—the diversity of people, the academic quality, and the beauty of campus were all amazing."

Three years in, Erica's student job at the Anthropology Library is a well-loved part of her schedule. "The staff there is like a small family to me," she says. "And working in a library helps you develop a lot of transferable skills, like in research. I'll use these skills in any job I have."

Erica delights in meeting new people from diverse backgrounds, and building connections with them. Her passion for mentoring—in her volunteer work at the Student Learning Center, and as a resident adviser in a dorm—inspired her to change her focus from a social work career to one in student affairs and academic advising.

She plans to apply to graduate programs in student affairs this fall. "I love being a college student—in fact, I'd like to be one forever!" Erica laughs. "Working in student affairs at a college or university will give me the chance to live vicariously through the students, while enjoying the satisfaction of advising and supporting them."

Erica is so relishing her education that she's passing on the Berkeley spark to her younger sister, even though college is still in the distant future for a ten-year-old. "She's in training to be a Golden Bear," Erica says. "She rocks the Cal hoodies already!" 🌿



ERICA CRAWFORD

"Working in a library helps you develop a lot of transferable skills, like in research. I'll use these skills in any job I have."

—Erica Crawford

Fighting Nazism with the printed word

EXHIBIT OF DUTCH CLANDESTINE LITERATURE SHOWS ART, BOOKS,
PAMPHLETS PUBLISHED AS PART OF THE RESISTANCE

Adapted from a 30 March 2010 NewsCenter story by Carol Ness



Hendrik Werkman was one of the greatest book designers of the 20th century and a dedicated member of the illegal publishing movement. This painting depicts resistance members moving in and out of the shadows to avoid detection.

Resonating through the current Doe Library exhibit of Dutch art and literature published in defiance of Nazi suppression is the knowledge that, more than a half-century later, persecution, prison and even execution can still be the price of words printed on paper.

On display in the glass cases in the Bernice Layne Brown Gallery, under the banner “Fighting Nazism With Words,” are some 100 pamphlets, books, broadsides, posters, prints and drawings selected from the Bancroft Library’s extraordinary collection of what’s known as Dutch clandestine literature.

Berkeley has one of the largest collections of such resistance works in the world — almost half of the roughly 1,000 pieces

published during the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands from 1940 to 1945. One of the Library’s special collections, it was built by librarian James Spohrer.

The power of words and images to expose and oppose tyranny is expressed throughout the exhibit of works printed in spite of Nazi censorship. The risks were extreme. An estimated 700 Dutch people lost their lives because of clandestine printing, according to Assistant Professor Jeroen Dewulf, the Queen Beatrix Chair of Berkeley’s Dutch studies program.

“It was very dangerous. Presses were noisy. There were not that many (presses) available, and the German authorities knew where to look,” says Dewulf, who along with Spohrer oversaw the creation of the exhibit. Dewulf, who is writing a book about Dutch clandestine literature, has collected many pieces on his own, which he has offered to the Bancroft collection.

DUTCH RESISTANCE PUBLISHING

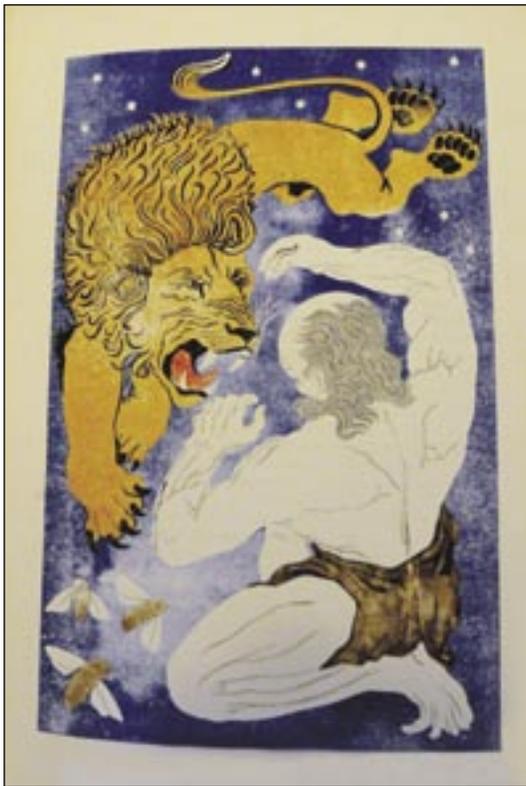
Resistance through publishing in the Netherlands began with a group of students from the university in Utrecht, who wanted to raise money to help provide food, shoes and clothing for Jewish children in hiding, according to Dewulf.

One of the first pieces was a 1941 broadside of the poem “The 18 Dead,” in which Dutch poet Jan Campert memorialized the first 18 Dutch people executed by the Nazis. Instead of selling hundreds, as they expected, the resisters sold thousands, and the idea caught on.

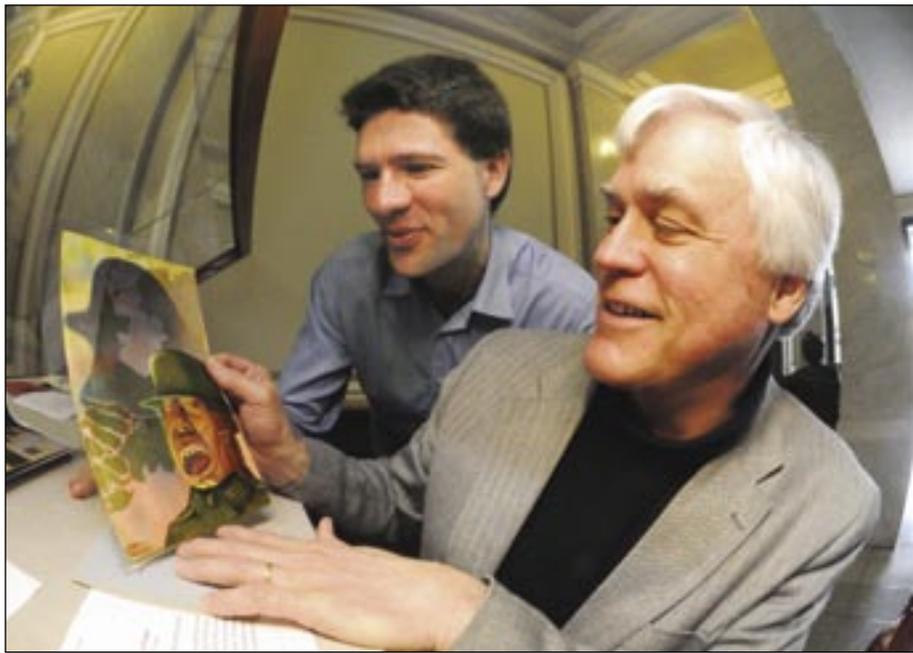
Works printed during the Dutch resistance ranged from gorgeously artistic to rudimentary, and from direct attacks on the Nazis to incredibly subtle critiques. The exhibit, which will be on view through Aug.

31, contains examples of the full range. (*The Diary of a Young Girl*, Anne Frank's account of life as a Jewish teenager in hiding, is the best known work written during the occupation. But it's not considered clandestine literature because it wasn't printed until after the war, in 1947, two years after Frank died in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.)

Among the most beautiful works is a book entitled *De Dierenriem (The Zodiac)*, by Albert Helman, a major figure of the time. He accompanied full-page, full-color linoleum prints of the 12 signs of the zodiac with text set in handmade type that resembles calligraphy. (The Leo page is reproduced here; for more images from the exhibit, see <http://tiny.cc/uq4gc>.) Astrology wouldn't seem to be a controversial topic, but Dewulf explains that it became popular during the resistance among people desperate for signs that their ordeal would end.



Print depicting the astrological sign Leo, in *The Zodiac* by Albert Helman. Astrology became popular during the resistance among people desperate for signs that their ordeal would soon end.



Professor Jeroen Dewulf and librarian James Spohrer examine a Dutch clandestine artwork.

Another highly artistic piece — purchased by Dewulf in a used-book store in the Netherlands — is the “Turkenkalender 1942,” a poetic calendar on fine, heavy paper with graphic designs that still seem modern. It was done by Hendrik Werkman, who Spohrer says was one of the greatest book designers of the 20th century and an artist who was executed by the Nazis for dedicating his talent to resistance work.

Dewulf tells a chilling tale: Werkman kept his critique of the occupation fairly subtle — the “Turkenkalender,” for example, relates a parallel tale of war from history. In a raid on his studio, however, the Nazis found a collection of provocative cartoons (also represented in the exhibit) that ridiculed Adolf Hitler. They held Werkman responsible, though they weren't his. He was dispatched to a Nazi camp the day that 12 inmates were to be executed for the killing of a German officer. One of the 12 escaped on the way to the execution ground, and Werkman was a convenient replacement. He was executed immediately.

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The students who helped prepare the Library exhibit gained valuable experience in curating scholarly displays.



This image by Leo J. Jordaan, from *Nightmare over the Netherlands*, vividly conveys the terror and violence of the occupation.

Fighting Nazism, continued from page 7

Other pieces in the collection are “touching because they’re made of the cheapest materials, made under duress,” says Spohrer, who is librarian for the Germanic collections. “People didn’t have enough to eat, but they found a way to print news broadsides.”

Such broadsides about German losses at Stalingrad in 1942, for example, despite efforts to suppress the news, let a disheartened people know the Nazis weren’t unstoppable, Spohrer says.

SPOTLIGHTING A STELLAR SPECIAL COLLECTION AND LIBRARY

Spohrer, who came to Berkeley as a grad student in comparative literature in 1981, went to work as a librarian while still a student. Since then, he’s built a good collection of Dutch resistance publications into a great one.

The exhibit came about because “we wanted to let people know that these collections exist,” Spohrer says. The collection can be accessed at the Bancroft Library.

Also, putting the exhibit together has proven to be a good way to teach students

about using the library, both he and Dewulf say.

“Many students who come here have never been in a library,” Spohrer says. They’re used to doing their research online and are “wide-eyed” when they arrive on a campus with 11 million books, he adds.

Spohrer, Dewulf and a handful of students worked on the exhibit as a project of the Townsend Humanities Lab, a new online effort whose aim is to build interdisciplinary collaboration. It’s part of Berkeley’s Townsend Center for the Humanities and brings people together to pool information, texts, files, film — anything that can be digitized — online.

“The goal of the exhibit is to reach out to students and hope they get interested and might eventually use the collection,” says Dewulf.

He arrived on campus three years ago, eager to plunge into the collection himself.

“It’s a topic that, at least from an international perspective, has not received much attention yet,” he says.

For more images from the exhibit, see <http://tiny.cc/uq4gc>. 🌿

LECTURE BY KADER ABDOLAH OPENS LIBRARY EXHIBIT

View his talk online at webcast.berkeley.edu/events.php

Inaugurating the library exhibit on Dutch clandestine literature, and driving home the connection to the present day, was an April 15 lecture by Kader Abdolah. Forced to flee his native Iran for opposing the ayatollahs during and after the 1979 revolution, Abdolah now lives in the Netherlands and writes in Dutch.

Abdolah’s name is a pseudonym joining the names of two friends executed by the Iranian regime. His best-selling novels (*The House of the Mosque* and *My Father’s Notebook*) are barely veiled critiques of his homeland, and are available in translation.

Dr. T. N. Narasimhan

PROFESSOR, ALUMNUS, AND ADMIRER OF THE LIBRARY

CAREER

Emeritus professor T. N. Narasimhan, Ph.D. 75, has devoted his career to the study of water—including its scientific, engineering, cultural, human, and policy aspects. His current publications examine how ideas on water's diffusion have evolved over the centuries, and explore the sustainable development of water resources. Dr. Narasimhan is the founder of the California Water Colloquium, a campus-wide distinguished lecture series devoted to education about water among faculty, students and the public. A prolific author, he was recently given a lifetime achievement award by the Groundwater Resources Association of California. His wife is employed at the College of Chemistry, and his son is a chemist at Northrop Grumman.

ON THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

"Because of the Library, its extraordinary collections, and the librarians who assist me with specialized questions, I am able to follow a



valuable line of research, using source papers by giants in my field such as Maxwell, Fourier and Laplace. I am exploring the history of science, not as a historian, but as a practicing scientist who is going back to the original sources for clarification of ideas. My work crosses disciplinary lines, so over my forty-odd years on campus I have used many libraries, including Law, Anthropology, Environmental Design, the Bancroft, Physics, Chemistry, and Math Statistics. Our Library is truly a world-class resource!"

QUOTABLE

"The spirit of Berkeley is freedom of thinking. In exchange for all the education, opportunities, and facilities it has given me, the university simply expects me to follow my scholarly instincts wherever they take me. This is a great privilege. As I tell my students, the essence of this place is the freedom to think—and to share our knowledge with anyone, anywhere."

"As I tell my students, the essence of this place is the freedom to think—and to share our knowledge with anyone, anywhere."

—T. N. Narasimhan

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Join more than 23,000 other friends, book lovers, alumni and faculty who recognize that the influence of a great research library extends beyond the university it serves to the many communities of which it is a part.

The Library adds an astounding amount of printed and electronic resources each year, including rare and unique materials. In order to continue to acquire, organize, and make accessible new information, the Library depends on the support of those who understand how important a world-class library is to the education of students who will one day shape our future. Your gift is crucial to the continued excellence of the University Library.

Library Associates receive complimentary copies of the quarterly newsletter as well as invitations to special occasions at the Library. For more information or to make a gift, contact us at (510) 642-9377 or give@library.berkeley.edu. Or visit our website at www.lib.berkeley.edu/give/

Support the Campaign for the University Library, which aims to strengthen the research collections so that scholars like Dr. Narasimhan and thousands of others can continue to find resources needed for their explorations.

www.lib.berkeley.edu/give/campaign.html

Join the CAMPAIGN for the UNIVERSITY LIBRARY



Standing at the center of the academic experience on the campus, the Library reflects the strength and distinction of the University of California. The Campaign for the University Library will enable us to achieve the next level of excellence, and to build on it for generations to come. Our goals are:

REVITALIZING MOFFITT LIBRARY

Focused on discovery, collaboration, and community, the revitalized Moffitt Library will be a place dedicated to supporting undergraduate research, and to fostering a vibrant community of scholarship and inquiry.

STRENGTHENING THE RESEARCH COLLECTIONS

The University Library is seeking private support to maintain the excellence of its research collections. Known for their depth and breadth, the Library's collections support the work of Berkeley's scholarly community across 130 academic departments.

Berkeley's libraries are at the heart of the University's mission of teaching, research, and public service. We appreciate your support of the Campaign for the University Library.

www.lib.berkeley.edu/give

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Then & Now

TWO COMMENCEMENTS



Here at Cal, every spring offers the chance to witness the two sides of commencement ceremonies—the formal structure of the event, represented in the photo on the left from the early 1900s, along with the irrepressible joy and elation of freshly-minted alumni. The campus celebrated over 10,000 new graduates this May, around three quarters of them boasting bachelor's degrees, and the rest MAs, PhDs, and professional degrees.

As a measure of the University Library's growth over the past century, back in 1910 when the new Doe Library opened, the collection held just over 200,000 volumes. Today, eleven million volumes are available, as well millions of digital files, microforms, graphic materials, manuscripts and maps, and sound and video recordings. That's an occasion for joy as well!

Fiat Lux, or Let there be light, is the motto of the University of California.

The *Fiat Lux* newsletter of the Library at the University of California, Berkeley is published quarterly by the Library Development Office, University of California, Berkeley, Room 131 Doe Library, Berkeley CA 94720-6000. Telephone: (510) 642-9377. Email: give@library.berkeley.edu. Your feedback and suggestions are warmly invited.

Kenneth and Dorothy Hill University Librarian
Thomas C. Leonard

Director of Development and External Relations
David Duer

Director of Communications
Damaris Moore

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David Schmitz p. 10, Peg Skorpinski p. 3, 7

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New from the Library

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You can now keep in touch with the UC Berkeley Library online. All you need to do is sign up and you will receive timely updates on Library programs, invitations to special events, notifications on available webcasts, and more.

If you'd like to take advantage of this opportunity to receive occasional email updates from the Library, please send your email contact information directly to stesch@library.berkeley.edu.

We want you to know that we respect your privacy rights and will never share your information with any other organization.

Thank you for your interest in the University Library!

WHAT'S YOUR SUMMER READING?

Distributed to incoming students as a way of welcoming them to the intellectual life of the university, the Library's book list—now in its 25th year—compiles book recommendations (not requirements!) from professors, librarians and others. The theme for this year's Summer Reading List is "Education Matters," and the list encompasses memoirs, biographies, arguments, poetry, fiction—and a blog. Check it out at reading.berkeley.edu, together with previous lists on themes like "Survival," "War and Peace," and "Now That's Funny."

KHALED HOSSEINI INTERVIEW IS NOW ONLINE

The University Library hosted a special donor event this spring, at which novelist Khaled Hosseini was interviewed by Elizabeth Farnsworth. The wide-ranging discussion with the author of *The Kite Runner* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns* is available for viewing online at webcast.berkeley.edu/events; look for the April 20, 2010 event.

FIGHTING NAZISM WITH WORDS:

Dutch Clandestine Books and Pamphlets under Occupation

Bernice Layne Brown Gallery, Doe Library

Through August 2010

Free; check www.lib.berkeley.edu for hours

UC Berkeley's Bancroft Library contains one of the largest collections of illegally published books and pamphlets from the period of the German occupation of the Netherlands in World War II. This exhibit highlights the collection and the conditions of Dutch everyday life during the occupation. It depicts the rise of Dutch resistance to Nazi rule and the fate of Dutch Jews as the conflict dragged on.