

Oviatt Connections



A ROBUST AND DIVERSE PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE OFFERS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

The Delmar T. Oviatt Library at California State University, Northridge (CSUN) works to forge new partnerships across campus and far beyond the San Fernando Valley in a continuing effort to sponsor events that engage, enlighten, and entertain.

As both the geographical hub and pedagogical crossroads of CSUN's bustling campus and the surrounding community, the Oviatt easily averages one special event per week during the fall and spring semesters. A sample of Library programming includes: exhibits, film screenings, lectures, book signings, readings, workshops, career mentoring, panel discussions, and book sales. **Best of all, the majority of Library events are free of charge and open to staff, students, faculty and the public.** "The Library is a vital and unique entity on any university campus," says Oviatt Library Dean Mark Stover. "Because we provide support and resources that serve the research needs of so many, there is an exciting and often surprising intersectionality of interests here. By design, the Library environment and the work we do on a day-to-day basis provides endless possibilities for collaboration."

To be more specific, over the past year the Oviatt Library created a wide variety of programming in

collaboration with Women in Science and Engineering (WISE), the Friends of the Oviatt Library, the Pride Center, the Veterans Resource Center, the Tom and Ethel Bradley Center, Africana Studies, Chicano/a Studies, CSUN Athletics, the American Library Association (ALA), Academic Affairs, Gender and Women's Studies, Queer Studies, the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, the Financial Aid & Scholarship Department, the Career Center, Associated Students, the Alumni Association, the Department of English, the Slam Poetry Club, the Mike Curb College of Arts, Media, and Communication and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), among others. That explains why a trip to the Oviatt on any given day might take you past a live theatre performance on the Library lawn, a used book sale on the south portico, a pack of visiting therapy dogs in the lobby, a poetry reading in the Learning Commons, an exhibit opening in the gallery, an international soccer match on the media wall, or a faculty led symposium in the presentation room.

If you have not visited the Oviatt lately, one of their many events is the perfect way to get yourself reconnected with all the Library has to offer. Please visit the Events and Exhibitions page on the Library website at <http://library.csun.edu/events> or call (818) 677-2638 for more information about all Library programming.

**1.4 million
Library
visitors
annually.**

Be one of them.

CSUN
OVIATT LIBRARY

A BITTERSWEET CHANGING OF THE GUARD

Contributed by Jim Dole

"A true Renaissance woman," is how she was described by one admiring colleague at her retirement celebration. It is an apropos appellation for outgoing Oviatt Library Associate Dean, Marianne Afifi. Her interests are wide and her talents diverse.

She loves music, is a master of the culinary arts, an avid gardener, dabbles in the fine arts, and is an ardent knitter. Born and raised in Vienna, Austria, it is no surprise that she is fluent in German. Her linguistic abilities, however, do not end there. In addition to her adopted language of English, Afifi is comfortable reading in French, Spanish and Italian. Mention travel and her eyes light up, for Afifi is a consummate voyager who will jump at any chance to visit a new part of the world. Now that she's retiring, she's eager to do even more!

Two years after beginning her studies at the University of Vienna, Afifi relocated to the United States where she completed a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English and a Master's of Business Administration, both from the University of Southern California (USC). Subsequently, she earned a Master's of Library Science from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). "I had an interest in books, of course, but it was computing that most interested me," says Afifi. Appropriately, her first library position was with USC's Center for Scholarly Technology (CST), a group of librarians, programmers, and technologists that sought ways to make libraries more technology friendly. Computers were still in their infancy at the time, and the CST established and maintained USC's first website, one of the most innovative in the country. In 2005, after having moved up through a number of management positions, Afifi accepted the position of Associate Dean at CSUN's Oviatt Library. "I was ready for a change," she says, "and saw a perfect opportunity to contribute in the areas

The Oviatt awards over **\$20,000** in Library Student Employee Scholarships annually

of technology, digital libraries, building enhancement, information system education, and mentorship."

Mentorship, as it turns out, is a skill that Afifi's co-workers at the Oviatt came to greatly appreciate. Her caring and concern extends to the university's students as well. Commenting at Afifi's retirement gala on her habit of providing brown-bag surprises to student assistants during the wee hours of final exam week, Gabriel Castañeda, the Teacher Curriculum Coordinator, noted:



Marianne Afifi

"She'd provide the funds to fill paper bags with goodies—cookies, fruit, sodas, chips, candy—then have them available for the student workers. When students saw the bags, they'd have a big smile and their eyes would light up," says Castañeda. **"Marianne never lost sight of what was most important – the students!"** Afifi also contributes generously to Library student employee scholarships on an annual basis.

Although officially retiring after a decade at the Oviatt, Afifi plans to stick around for a few years on a half-time basis. "I'm not ready to give up just yet. I've got a few more things I want to do," she says. "I'm working on managing the expansion of the Special Collections and Archives section of the Library – a multi-year project that will proceed in two phases." There's no doubt that the Library will continue to be well served by her expertise as she guides the planned changes. When that project is complete, maybe then Afifi will have adapted to what many envision as a real retirement: sitting, reading, traveling and the like. Or, maybe not!

To learn more about the Oviatt Library's new Associate Dean, Kathy Dabbour, visit: <http://library.csun.edu/eNews/Spring-2016/spotlight-kathy-dabbour>.

RESOURCE RICH

7.1 Million
Database Searches

2.4 Million
Web Page Visits

1.9 Million
Volumes Held

100,000
Checkouts & Renewals

27,000
Students Attending
Librarian-taught
Lectures

18,000
Interlibrary Loan
Transactions

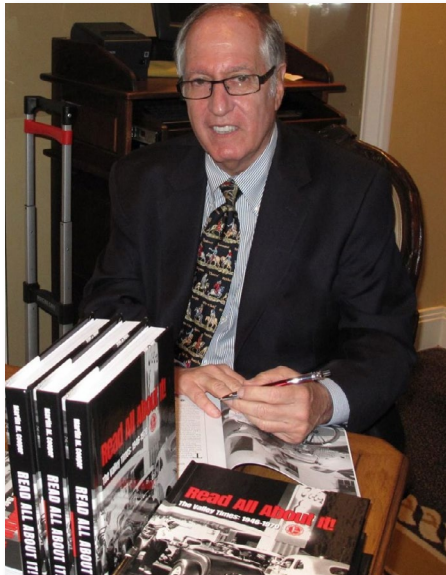
NEW AWARD HONORS OVIATT'S HISTORIC HOME

Inspired to promote research and writing related to CSUN's vital region, the Friends of the Oviatt Library recently established the San Fernando Valley Award for Non-fiction.

"The San Fernando Valley, with a population of almost 2 million people, has a colorful history and a bright future," says Oviatt Library Dean Mark Stover. "It has played an important role in the evolution of the city of Los Angeles and the surrounding region for many years. Growth in the population, in industry, and in the arts and culture make the Valley a rich source of material for non-fiction literature, including fields like history, journalism, the social and behavioral sciences, physical and life sciences, the arts, and biography."

Inspired to promote research and writing related to this vital region, the Friends of the Oviatt Library recently established the San Fernando Valley Award for Non-fiction. "There are no other awards for books written specifically about the San Fernando Valley, so it makes perfect sense for the Oviatt Library at California

The Oviatt serves as the main research facility in the San Fernando Valley



Martin C. Cooper

State University, Northridge, the largest university in the region, to honor writers and researchers with this prize," says Stover.

A call went out for submissions, and in the summer of 2016 the library's inaugural prize was awarded to author and long-time Valley marketing and public relations executive Martin M. Cooper. Cooper's book, *Read All About It! The San Fernando Valley: 1946-1970*, is a collection of photographs from the former Valley Times newspaper. The author pairs these extraordinary images with illuminating text to help contextualize the Valley's longtime connections to transportation challenges, transforming industries, film and television production, and politics. When asked about his inspiration, Cooper says, "Read All About It!" was originally conceived as an adjunct to the Los Angeles Public Library's desire to raise funds to catalog and digitize its collection of 70,000 photographs from the now-defunct Valley Times newspaper." In addition, as Chairman of the Boys & Girls Club of the West Valley, Cooper donates all of his proceeds from the book to that valley-based, nonprofit organization.

"Historical research and retrospective journalism are the keys to unlocking the mysteries of the past," says Stover. "Martin Cooper has created a marvelous book that will bring back memories for some of us and open up new vistas for others. His book spans an eventful 25 years, from the postwar migration to the Valley to the cusp of the Brady Bunch era."

In addition to the San Fernando Valley Award for Nonfiction, the Friends of the Oviatt Library are currently working to establish a similar award for works of fiction. More information about the awards and the submission process can be found on the Oviatt website at: <http://library.csun.edu/Friends/nonfiction-award> or by calling (818) 677-2638.



"We in the Library" take seriously the CSU's commitment to every student in the largest and most diverse university system in the world. Though often faced with challenging budgetary constraints, we continue to meet those challenges thanks to our most valued resource — you."

- Oviatt Library
Dean Mark Stover

NEW HOPE FOR ORPHANED BOOKS

Every year, thousands of books are donated to the Oviatt Library. These items may come from campus and community members who no longer have a use for them, or it may be that the shelf space in their home or office has finally reached a critical mass.

For whatever reason, many well intended bibliophiles often need to reduce the size of their personal collections and many of these unwanted books are gifted to the Library. Because the Oviatt cannot possibly integrate every donated title into its vast holdings, a difficult question was posed: what would become of these forsaken tomes? Fortunately – for both the Library and the discarded books – longtime Oviatt friend Robert Gohstand came up with an insightful answer. Gohstand, a Professor Emeritus from CSUN's Department of Geography and benefactor of the Oviatt's [Robert and Maureen Gohstand Leisure Reading Room](#), proposed the installation of a self-service, used book sale cart in the Oviatt Library lobby. Once Gohstand's plan was approved, local artisan Mike Kirk of Fullhouse Cabinetry was commissioned to build the book cart.

The Oviatt Library's Projects and Programs Coordinator, Victoria Campbell, who is responsible for keeping the book cart well stocked, confirms the cart's popularity.

"The response from the campus and community has been very positive," says Campbell. Perhaps best of all, the funds generated from the book cart's sales are put to a variety of good uses. The money raised from the resale of these items helps the Library to sponsor special events, supports the purchase of new books for the library's popular best-seller collection, and helps to fund scholarships for Library student employees.

An avid reader and book enthusiast, Gohstand believes that reading should be encouraged as much as possible. "Reading builds language skills, improves writing ability, encourages creative and imaginative thinking, and most of all it is a wonderful and inexpensive form of recreation," says Gohstand.

Visit the Friends of the Library on the Oviatt Library website at <http://library.csun.edu/Friends> and find out more about the library's book donation policy at <http://library.csun.edu/Friends/DonateBooks>.

Learn how your gift can help the Oviatt:
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library.csun.edu/give



Find out more about the Oviatt's book cart at: <http://bit.ly/BookCartVideo>

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