Digital Library Pioneer to Stay Active in Retirement

By Leslie Evans

When Dr. Gloriana St. Clair first interviewed with CMU 15 years ago, she didn't think of herself as a leader of library technology. She thought of herself as a library manager and facilitator, but she liked the smart, caring, and innovative people she met at CMU, who saw her in that role even though most libraries at that time were not ready to accept their digital future. CMU was ready, and so was Gloriana.

CMU had already started the ambitious project to convert into digital format one million pages of the congressional papers of Senator John Heinz. Within a few months of her hiring, Gloriana met Dr. Raj Reddy, and together they experimented with equipment and wrote a proposal for the Million Book Project, a book-digitization collaboration with China and India.

Another success story of that grant was the inspiration for what came next. The Million Book Project demonstrated that large-scale scanning was possible and laid the groundwork for the Google Books Project. Google’s ultimate goal is to work with publishers and libraries to create a comprehensive, searchable, virtual catalog of all books in all languages. The 20 million books currently online already enable people to find relevant books they wouldn't find any other way. Users discover new books, and publishers discover new readers.

Gloriana feels strongly about universal access to digital information. “Every citizen in the

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Gloriana with her award as 2012 CMU Honorary Alumna

“...Still round the corner there may wait, a new road or a secret gate.” J.R.R. Tolkien

By Diana Yankes

Dean of Libraries Gloriana St. Clair may be known as a visionary, a pioneer for remote and distributed access to academic information. She has written, and been written about, in numerous publications, and you can find out more about her honors and projects elsewhere. But as she begins to think about packing up her corner office in Hunt, I had the opportunity to meet with her and offer these observations.

She is delightfully down-to-earth. Dr. St. Clair is an expert on Middle Earth, of course, and passionate about language, the linguistically isolated Icelandic especially.

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From the President

By Jan Davis

Planning was the theme of the summer and fall of 2012. We completed the strategic plan, had a successful 20th Anniversary celebration, completed a workflow assessment for the office, and now for action!

Winter has brought us finally to implementing these ambitious plans. The office is currently being re-modeled with new filing cabinets, desks, and shelving to accommodate additional staff and their files. New procedures in the office have been established to streamline our handling of credit-card payments, enhance communications with our members, and improve the paper trail of our many courses and study leaders. Training has begun for our new online registration software. The test and implementation phase will be planned for this summer and fall.

All this would not be possible without the many volunteer hours that our members continue to offer to our office staff. We now have more members stopping in to the office to aid and assist us than ever before!

Thank you so much for your help.

We are always looking for more enthusiastic, talented volunteers. We hope to create opportunities for our “new members” to meet and socialize. If anyone is interested in being part of a fun social committee, email osher@cmu.edu or call the office at 412 268-7489.

We are also looking for graphic design help with flyers, authoring a blog, posting photos online, etc. And, of course, the heart of our program is our curriculum. Do you have a new idea for a course, lecture, or brown-bag gathering? Do you know of someone who might want to teach a course for us? Let us know.

The excellence of our program is a direct result of the efforts of our members.

See you in class!

National OLLI Conference a Whirlwind of Sharing, Learning

By Jan Davis

This past November Lyn Decker, our registrar, and I attended the OLLI National Conference in Colorado Springs, Colorado. At the three-day conference, staff and volunteer Osher Institute leaders from around the country engaged in lively discussions and shared ideas on how to manage, develop, and expand our programs.

The conference leaders shared best practices in resource development and fundraising, leadership, membership and volunteer management, public relations and publicity, curriculum, faculty, and teaching. In addition, the planned program featured reports on new and innovative trends, ideas, and programs related to education for older learners. There were in-depth discussions of the leadership role that the Osher Institutes may play in the ongoing national dialogue about later-life learning.

Over 300 attended the conference. Of the many sessions offered, Lyn attended the session “Curriculum: What Works, How and Why?” along with the double session “Yours in Learning: Administering an OLLI Program.” I attended two sessions: one on fund-raising, “Bring in the Big Bucks,” and “OLLI 2020: Are You Ready?”

The fundraising session featured three prominent OLLI Institutes (University of Alabama, Penn State University and Kennesaw State University) that have successful fund-raising programs. Ideas, programs, and best practices were discussed. All the participants were very eager to share their information and experiences. Bernard Osher also attended this session. The session “OLLI 2020” focused on looking ahead and initiating an essential long-range planning process to prepare for the oncoming Boomer wave. This session interested me because we had recently completed our Strategic Plan, and I wanted to learn more about other institutes’ approach to respecting the past while building for a better and more productive future.

This conference was a non-stop whirlwind of meeting other leaders and staff, attending breakfast meetings, breakout sessions, luncheons, and dinner meetings.

The conference was exciting, exhilarating, and fact filled. We didn’t have time to enjoy the Broadmoor resort, the grandeur of the Rocky Mountains, and the magnificent blue skies but returned with enthusiasm and lots of great ideas and new friends. Thanks so much for sending us to the conference!
Library Dean to Retire
continued from page 1

smallest town in South Dakota should have the same access to knowledge as the population of Boston and Pittsburgh.” Her goal for the future of libraries is for “the world’s knowledge to become available to the world’s people.” She sees “open access” as the alternative to published journals stored in collection stacks.

Under open access, many grant recipients must agree to offer free access to resulting publications. For example, the National Institutes of Health require public access to the results of their funded research. As Gloriana puts it, “We (the taxpayers, the citizens) want to know too.”

Gloriana emphasizes that libraries still need librarians “who are aware of how students do research” and “who lead students to the special indexes,” such as the Modern Language Association’s. Student research starts with a Google search and Wikipedia, but recently she helped a CMU Ph.D. candidate use digitized copies of Darwin’s books for his dissertation. “People must still sort through information, differentiating between good and bad, reliable and unreliable.”

Gloriana’s first steps towards realizing the future of campus libraries were taken at Oregon State and at Penn State, where she closed out the physical card catalogs, eliminating the task of typing book information on tiny cards. As she put it, “Heaven help you if one got misfiled!” She also began purchasing journals electronically, which allowed all state campuses, big or small, to use the research.

With voice-recognition technology being refined, she predicts that we are not far away from Star Trek’s computer that understood spoken questions and searched through every book ever written to find the information for the answers.

Dr. St. Clair is retiring from her current position as dean of University Libraries, but she is not leaving CMU or Osher. She will still be Osher’s official university liaison but will move to an office in the Sorrells Engineering & Science Library in Wean Hall. Sorrells is slated for remodeling to add more space and light this coming summer. Envision this: Remove half the book collection, let skylight brightness fill the space where teamwork and individual study and research can take place—with a few recliners for power napping. On the remodeled first floor of Hunt Library, Osher students can see how stack space became a group of study spaces. The Global Communication Center there helps students develop writing, presentation, and other essential communication skills.

Olive, an archive for executable content, is the next grant-funded project that Gloriana has initiated and will direct. Olive will deal with how we can save and interact with old software and early computer games.

The best news for Osher is that Gloriana St. Clair may have time again to teach Osher classes. And Osher is very glad to have her continue with us in our lifelong learning adventures.

Scenes from remodeled first floor in the Hunt Library

Thank You—Carnegie Mellon Food Drive

We extend our thanks and appreciation to all those Osher members who so generously contributed to the Carnegie Mellon University Nineteenth Annual Food Drive in November 2012.

The drive contributed 7,389 pounds of non-perishable food items and toiletries to the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. In addition to these items, Osher members contributed $603 in cash to the $4,791.35 that the drive collected.

Hopefully, again with the help of our loyal Osher members, the university can exceed last year’s totals in the November 2013 Food Drive.

Joe Scorpion
A Glimpse Inside Osher Classrooms

Mom and Pop Whiskey

Joan Morse Gordon enjoyed the fall 2012 Osher class “Whiskey and Rebellion at Pittsburgh’s Wigle Whiskey Distillery.” The one-day class will be repeated in the summer session.

Inspired by a tour of a family-run winery in Niagara-by-the-Lake, retired attorney Mark Meyer and his family started looking around for an enterprise with some aesthetic bent that he, his wife Mary Ellen, sons Jeff and Eric, daughter Meredith and her husband, Alex Grelli, could launch together. Jeff, a park ranger in Mesa Verde, came east and spent months in research, discovering that Pittsburgh had been the epicenter of whiskey making in the 18th century. He found further that a farmer named Philip Wigel was sentenced to hang for treason for his part in the Whiskey Rebellion in 1794, when local distillers fought against a federally imposed sin tax on whiskey.

He was pardoned by President George Washington, who, along with Alexander Hamilton, our first secretary of the treasury, was trying to assert the power of the federal government as the supreme law of the land. In fact, the president actually led troops part of the way west.

With this rich history in hand, the Meyers found an old machine shop on Smallman Street, hired the Edge Studio architects, used Meredith’s design skills, went to the Michigan State University Artisan Distilling Program, which over a year helped with the recipe and process with samples of organic Pennsylvania wheat and rye.

Elegant brass and copper equipment was custom-ordered from a 150-year-old German family company. Thus Wigle Whiskey was born. The Myers started distilling small batches, and continue to experiment, now producing rye whiskey, wheat whiskey, and a gin.

Today, Mark, who in the past has given Osher classes on Great Trials (from Scopes to O. J. Simpson) gives visitors a PowerPoint history of the Whiskey Rebellion, a tour of the Wigle facilities with an explanation of the distilling process, and a tasting to end the class.

Joan Morse Gordon

Schists, Gneiss, and Flysch

Dr. Barbara Manner constantly updates the material for her Geology of National Parks classes by researching, visiting the parks, and taking photos. In her explanations of how peaks and valleys are formed, she uses Native American names, such as “Tee-winat,” Shoshone for “many pinnacles,” in Grand Teton National Park.

In addition to teaching the difference between folding and faulting, Dr. Manner suggests scenic areas to see: for example, waterfalls in the Rocky Mountain National Park—Fern, Copeland, Alberta, Calypso, Adams, and Big Thompson. She makes geological predictions: California will eventually be an island off the coast of Alaska. Dr. Manner takes us beyond shale, sandstone, and granite to schists, gneiss, and flysch and makes them all very understandable.

Leslie Evans

From left, Michael Driver, Lecture Committee chair, with Ed Reis, curator of the George Westinghouse exhibit at the Senator John Heinz History Center. Mr. Reis re-created George Westinghouse at an Osher lecture December 19.
Blowing Our Horns

By Filomena Conti

Anyone more or less musically inclined knows what a trumpet is and sounds like. Gabriel blew one, Harry James led his orchestra with one, and it wouldn’t be a marching brass band without one.

For Hanita and Ron Kossowsky, Alice Chen, and me it was a distinctly pleasant experience to have graduate student Erin Yanacek present an Osher course on the history of the trumpet. Erin is completing her work to attain a master’s degree in trumpet performance at Carnegie Mellon’s School of Music.

We learned how the trumpet works—harmonic series, valves, lip buzzing, air—that make a trumpet sound the way it does. Earlier forms of horns—the conch shell, the alphorn, the shofar (from antiquity) the cornetto—led up to the present-day C trumpet that is used in symphony orchestras.

Erin presented some of these instruments, including a precious shofar, which we were invited to try to play. Erin also played these instruments, handing us the music so that we could follow the notes. We heard music from the baroque, classical, and romantic periods.

A special treat was being invited to Erin’s graduate recital on February 10. Erin played two trumpet concertos with piano accompaniment; a concerto with flute and oboe; and one with a quintet consisting of two violins, a viola, a cello, and a bass. A truly delightful event!

At our last class, we were shown how to care for a trumpet, polishing and oiling it. Then we were each handed a trumpet and invited to play it. First, the trumpet itself is surprisingly heavy. We had to hold it aloft with the fingers of our left hands, three fingers from our right hands poised over the valves, our lips pursed over the mouthpiece, and then we had to blow through it. The last action was the hard part, but with persistent blowing, we were able to emit noises, if not musical notes.

Our thanks to Erin Yanacek for sharing her love and knowledge of the trumpet with us. Another wonderful example of the Osher at CMU program!

Curriculum Committee Plays in Tune

By Beatrice P. Jones
Co-Chair, Curriculum Committee

Members of a symphony orchestra sound great when they play solo, but when they play together, the music is magnificent. They perform in perfect harmony. The members of the Curriculum Committee come together to find and recruit the people who become the study leaders who teach our many courses. Each committee member may contact 10 or more people. When all 24 of us put all these contacts together, we have three wonderful catalogs a year: Winter/Spring, Summer, and Fall.

As with an orchestra, some committee members stay for a long time. Others may choose to leave after a short period of time. We reluctantly say goodbye to some committee members each year, and we happily welcome new members. Each member brings unique gifts and talents to the committee.

Every great orchestra needs a great conductor. The Curriculum Committee is very fortunate to have Sally Cohen as our chair. Her hard work and dedication inspire us to give our very best. We are also fortunate to have Byron Gottfried as our diligent and conscientious coordinator.

We are happy to welcome new committee members Gary Bates, Paul Caswell, Marilyn Maiello, Enid Miller, Esther Skirboll, and Rochelle Steiner. We are looking forward to working in harmony to create a curriculum that can excite our Osher members.
Varied and Vivid Recollections of World War II
By Joan Gaul

On the afternoon of November 29, 2012, authors met to pick up the first copies of the anthology WW II We Were There. We shared a plate of cookies, signed each other’s books, and had a grand time. What a range of people and ages; what a variety of experiences we had during that war. What distinguished the group, now, was that we were still alive, could remember, and wanted to write something of what we had known. Thanks to Osher members Hazel and Alan Cope, we could and did. Here’s how it unfolded.

The Copes had seen a similar book of British origin and they had heard Al Smolover’s war poems in their Osher poetry class. They wondered if there were such stories among people of Pittsburgh. Could Osher members be the source?

Hazel recalled: We presented the idea to Osher. They presented it to the board, who agreed. We put a little notice in the Osher newsletter and immediately started getting memoirs. We asked for volunteers for the editorial board and had a few meetings. We agreed on some basics such as format, that authors would be in alphabetical order, and that articles would be very lightly edited so as to be in people’s own words. Committee member Mike Driver came up with the idea for the cover. Some of us interviewed people who preferred that way to recollect, and we all did some of the editing. Alan and Mike put in many hours getting it all on computer. Millicent Lynch did a wonderful job of keeping records and generally keeping us going. She got the ISBN and bar code. Alan and I did final editing. We found a good local printer who’d printed Signatures and we worked well with him. We picked up the boxes of books and did much of the distribution. Osher has received the difference between printing costs and selling price.

A third printing has been completed, bringing the number of copies to 286. As the books were printed on a pre-order-only basis, only a few unordered copies have been available. The third printing has eased that. Recently, increased interest has opened the possibility of the book’s being printed and distributed by an institution with more resources and time than available to the Copes, who have already spent untold hours initiating the book and bringing the idea to fruition. Demand will determine what happens next.

A limited number of copies are still available at $15 postpaid. Email the Copes at copes@verizon.net.

It is a good book. I am allowed to say so. Forty-seven memoirs were submitted. All were used. Stories ranged from Eastern Europe to North America to Asia. There are war front stories and home front stories. There are American children watching excitedly from home; there are children in grave danger abroad. There are servicemen in perilous situations and servicemen having a pretty good time. It is a good read. Perhaps best for those who think of World War II as ancient history.

At the book signing: Alan Cope at the right, Anita Smolover signing. Hazel Cope said that Anita and her late husband, Al, were among the main inspirations for the book. Al, who died in January, saw the book and liked it. He loved taking Osher classes.

Quite recently Hazel said, “It’s all been quite exciting, but time consuming.” She added that she was “both moved and inspired by how much more involved and affected people were by World War II than they are now where no one is affected but the soldiers and their families.” She quoted the title of one of the stories “War is not the answer.”

See Joe Shirk’s excellent, five-minute video interview with the Copes recounting the making of the book, with 1940s soundtrack and photos, and Joe’s special effects. It’s on youtube.com/CMUOLL.
From the Editor:

In our Fall 2013 issue It’s All Talk invited members to send contributions by email to itsalltalkcmu@gmail.com. We were glad to hear from Ronna Edelstein, an avid reader and published writer, who teaches part-time in the Writing Center at the University of Pittsburgh. She wrote:

“My students, ranging from first year freshmen to Ph.D. candidates, remind me what it is like to grow up in a post-9/11 world where life itself seems so fragile. . . . From them, I have re-learned to cherish each moment, especially those I spend with my 96-year-old father. The more I encourage my students to “think on paper,” the better I become at seeing things from a new perspective. . . .

“I do not have the time to take Osher classes. However, I keep up my Osher membership, carefully read each semester’s course offerings, and always enjoy the It’s All Talk.”

It’s All Talk is pleased to publish this issue’s book review by Ronna Edelstein. We look forward to hearing from you. We do, of course, reserve the right to edit submissions for space and clarity.

Speaking of Books
By Ronna Edelstein

Eden by Yael Hedaya

So what is the moment?” Dafna, one of the protagonists of Yael Hedaya’s Eden, utters these words more as a wistful prayer than as an academic inquiry. Although Dafna specifically refers to the moment of conception, her battle with infertility, her waning love for Eli, and her frustrations with her widening body and diminishing job rewards give these words a more universal meaning that Hedaya explores in her novel: What is the moment when love turns to hatred? What is the moment when parents lose any positive connection with their children? What is the moment when happiness melts into puddles of unhappiness, envy, solitude, and grief?

Hedaya, an Israeli writer, addresses these questions through a small group of central characters: Eli, Dafna’s yuppie lawyer husband, who is sick of producing sperm samples and finds a physical outlet—and guilt—in his affair with Roni, a precocious teenager; Roni, abandoned by her American mother and misunderstood by her Israeli father, who takes refuge in rebellion, reading, and relationships with a married man, a tired driver’s education teacher, and an over-zealous young writer; Mark, Roni’s father, who seeks a life of nurturing others through his restaurant, wives, and children, and does not understand why he often finds himself alone; Alona, Mark’s second wife, Roni’s stepmother, the buxom woman who faces each day as a struggle between control and letting go; Jane, Roni’s biological mother and Mark’s ex-wife, who tries to find fulfillment in a hippie lifestyle but never gets over severing her bond with her daughter; Reuven, an older man, who resentfully allows Rina, his wife, to order him around and blindly closes his eyes to Dudi, his pedophile son; and Nechama, the ancient mother of Alona, who stumbles and fumbles to find a solid place in the ever-changing world.

By having each chapter focus on one of these characters, Hedaya creates a patchwork of individuals with their strengths and weaknesses, endearing traits and foibles. However, by having each character—and story—interact with another, Hedaya succeeds in weaving together a colorful, masterful quilt set against Eden, the physical setting that emerges as a character with its own personality and impact.

Eden, of course, invokes images of the original Garden of Eden—that idyllic paradise in which Adam and Eve ran naked through the flowers, washed in the streams, and never worried about tomorrow. This Eden, a moshav or Israeli rural settlement located near Tel Aviv, is the Eden after the Fall—after the serpent has continued on page 9
Welcome Chris Dashti

Next time you’re in the Osher office, introduce yourself to Chris Dashti, our new assistant to the registrar, who is constantly updating our membership, registration, class lists, donations, and records.

Chris, pictured above at her desk, is a big fan of continuing education. “I love working here because I am very busy doing an important and worthwhile job.” She is in constant motion, using her computer or talking on the phone, patiently answering the many requests of Osher members and wannabes on the waitlist.

She is a native Pittsburgher who has lived in Missouri and Texas but keeps returning home to the “Burgh.” During college in Rolla, Missouri, she met her husband and together they moved to Houston to work for three years. With a brief stopover in Philly, they finally settled down in Green Tree and started a family. Her son Cameron, 20, is a senior at the University of Pittsburgh, and her son Arman, 17, is a junior at Keystone Oaks High School.

Chris, a member of the Green Tree Garden Club, has adopted the rose garden and perennial garden at the Green Tree Borough Building. She loves reading and talking about books, especially books about espionage.

Chris will help implement the new registration software, starting with the summer registrations. She hopes that in the fall session, members will be able to register online and immediately see their course confirmations. She emphasizes the importance of Osher members having email addresses so they can use them to register for classes online and communicate with the Osher office.

Leslie Evans

Gloriana St. Clair’s New Road
Continued from page 1

She’s long been an advocate for lifelong learning, helping our young organization find healthier office space in the library, and she attends her favorite Osher literature class as often as she can, not as a dean but just as one of us.

And then there are other tangibles: the large quilt her mother made her, framed and hung on the wall. Made of swatches of her childhood dresses, the quilt is a topological map of her childhood. On her right shoulder sits a leopard broach that she admits is an “imitation Madeleine Albright,” a kindred spirit, certainly, for women who first broke through the glass ceiling into the highest levels of administration during the male-dominated “9 to 5” generation. These artifacts send a powerful message about this amazing person.

She is vacating her dean-sized office and leaving her titular role as dean of the libraries, but she is not leaving campus. She’ll downsize to an office in the Roger Sorrells Engineering & Science Library—the one you pass on your way to the Osher classrooms in Wean—where she will continue to manage particular library projects. And she is planning to teach an Osher course again. It will be about one of Tolkien’s lesser-known contemporary novelists at Oxford, Joyce Cary, who himself wrote a trilogy. She will also continue as the liaison between Osher and CMU. So when you hear that Dr. St. Clair is retiring this year, don’t be misled. CMU is still her home, and she is still passionately involved in intellectual pursuits and relationships here on campus.

At a January 15 Osher evening lecture event, the CMU Graduate Honors Starling String Quartet performed a Haydn quartet and described the inception of the quartet as an ensemble and commented on Haydn’s compositional style. Five flute excerpts followed, played by Annie Gordon, from works by Ravel, Dvorak, Brahms, Bizet, and Prokofiev. The flutist discussed the meaning of each excerpt within the larger orchestral scheme.
**Hunt Institute Spring Exhibit**

March 22 to June 30, 2013

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation presents “What We Collect: Recent Art Acquisitions, 2007-2012.” The exhibition of art from the early 19th century through the present highlights the history of botanical illustration and puts the institute’s collection practices in perspective.

*Rumex obtusifolius Linnaeus, [Rumex obtusifolius Linnaeus, Polygonaceae] ; watercolor on paper by Julia Trickey 2006, 55 x 36.5 cm © 2006 Julia Trickey
All Rights Reserved.

**In Memoriam**

With deep sadness we report the passing of Elizabeth “Libby” Crow on February 9. A graduate of CMU, Libby was an early and active member of our Academy for Lifelong Learning (A.L.L., now Osher). She chaired the Membership Committee, edited our newsletter—starting the “Ad Lib” column, and served on the Board of Directors.

*Eden: book review*  
*continued from page 7*

done its damage and Eve has eaten of the forbidden fruit. In this Eden, men lust after neighbors’ wives; young girls starve themselves of food but gorge on sex; and fear of life, death, Palestinians, and risk-taking drain people of their joy and vibrancy. Even the land suffers. Ali, the Arab caretaker, scolds Mark: “You could put together a beautiful garden here. Why have you let it go? Look, all your trees, all the fruit, it’s all dead. Nothing.” Mark’s reply that “I’m just a tenant” might convey Hedaya’s overall theme: we are all renters in this life. We own nothing but our ability to choose how we will live out our time.

That Hedaya’s characters make wrong choices gives the book a plot that is both dramatic and depressing, realistic and heart-wrenching. Yet the characters somehow find a way to muddle through the daily quagmires of sick children, unreliable deliverymen, unwelcome visitors, and unfertilized eggs to find a way to move forward.

When each minor crisis explodes, with a final car crash and hospitalization of one of the main characters, the other inhabitants of Eden come to understand not only the fragility of life but also its beauty.

**Contributions to Osher Given in Memory**

From Anita Smolover in memory of her husband, Albert Smolover.

From Michael Crow in memory of his mother, “Libby” Elizabeth Chalfant Crow.

Phyllis Davidson Retires

On January 11, 2013, Phyllis Davidson retired after nearly 11 years of dedicated service to our A.L.L./Osher program. When she began, she did data entry. With her knowledge of information systems, she progressed to the development of our data system, and later as bookkeeper was responsible for paying bills and processing checks, all the while adding functionality to our database. She later assumed production of our course catalogs through the database and later developed a computerized record-keeping module for use by the Curriculum Committee.

Phyllis is no stranger to the Carnegie Mellon University family, having been employed by the university for 18 years in several capacities, as expediter for the Student Information System and as a computer programmer for the Financial Aid Department. She retired from CMU in 2000 as a principal software engineer designing and enhancing databases.

She holds a master’s degree from the School of Urban and Public Affairs (SUPA) (now the Heinz School). In retirement she plans to avail herself of our many classes including Paper Crafts, Tai Chi, and Tamburitzan Kolo Dancing. We extend our warmest wishes to Phyllis for many rewarding retirement years and thank her for her years of devoted service to CMU and our lifelong learning program.

Joe Scorpion

CMU International Film Festival Features Faces of Media

The Carnegie Mellon International Film Festival: “Faces of Media” features over a dozen new and award-winning films from Germany, the United Kingdom, Denmark, Romania, Austria, Finland, Sweden, Ukraine, Egypt, Iran, Israel, Japan, China, and the United States.

The first festival event was a sneak preview of Danube Hospital Friday, February 22. This film by Nikolaus Geyrhalter reveals how the state-of-the-art computer technology and robot-like transporters that we imagined in science fiction have become a reality in an Austrian hospital.

The We and the I, scheduled for Thursday, March 21, is directed by Academy Award-nominated director Michel Gondry. It captures the dramatic yet poignant relationships of Bronx teenagers who ride home each day on the same bus route. Gondry will introduce the film via Skype from France.

Many of the festival films this year highlight how new media forms are revolutionizing not only our businesses but our societies as well. Israeli director Ann Oren will discuss her film In Contact following the screening on March 23. This feature presents the story of an American community in the near future that maintains social contact through constant live video feeds on home computers, exposing their personal talents, voyeurisms, and vulnerabilities online.

The romantic comedy from Romania Hello! How Are You? shows a couple in a lackluster marriage who individually turn to the world of online dating to spice up their love lives, not realizing that their secret “anonymous” love interests are each other!

The impact of social media on continuous development...
International Film Festival
Continued from page 10

the eventful Arab Spring movements will be highlighted in three films, including Back to the Square, a documentary that captures both the perseverance and resentment of Egyptian citizens during the anticlimactic aftermath of Mubarak’s overthrow. Czech director Petr Lom, who has just returned from Egypt, will also be offering a master class on campus that will be open to the public.

This year the festival presents a new permanent component: “Goodman Faces of Work”—a memorial tribute to Dr. Paul Goodman (1938-2012). A world-renowned film maker, psychologist, and Carnegie Mellon professor, he was an active proponent of introducing global theory and a wide variety of multi-media elements into the classroom. A favorite film from this series is Crocodile in the Yangtze, the story of the slow yet victorious rise of entrepreneur Jack Ma in his journey toward building the first Chinese Internet startup company at the dawn of the new millennium. Director Porter Erisman will discuss his film with the audience following the screening on March 22.

The annual “Goodman Faces of Work” component will incorporate at least three of Paul’s films along with international films related to Paul’s professional focus: the theme of work. By showing these films, the festival hopes to honor Paul Goodman’s legacy. Focusing on the daily routines of everyday people at work, the films highlight the processes of work that are never seen in Hollywood productions but are so essential to our daily lives.

The 2013 Carnegie Mellon International Film Festival: Faces of Media will provide an interesting chance to learn more about our evolving world of globalized communication through a cinematic lens. For additional information about the festival, visit the festival website, www.cmu.edu/faces or contact the festival director, Jolanta Lion, at jola@cmu.edu.

Festival Schedule

The We and the I dir. Michel Gondry, USA, 103 min, 2012
Thursday, March 21, Melwood Screening Room, 7:15pm
*Opening night screening
*Director will introduce film via Skype

Crocodile in the Yangtze, Porter Erisman, China/USA, 75 min, 2012
Friday, March 22, Carnegie Mellon McConomy Auditorium, 7:00pm
*Director will attend
*Goodman Faces of Work screening

In Contact, dir. Ann Oren, Israel/USA, 2012
Friday, March 22, Melwood Screening Room, 7:00pm
*Director will attend

Tahrir – Liberation Square, dir. Stefano Savona, Italy/France, 90 min, 2011
Sunday, March 24, Melwood Screening Room, 3:00pm

Sushi: The Global Catch, dir. Mark Hall, USA/Poland/Japan/Australia/Singapore, 75 min, 2011
Sunday, March 24, Carnegie Mellon McConomy Auditorium, 5:30pm
*Goodman Faces of Work screening

Blood in the Mobile, dir. Frank Piasecki Poulsen, Germany/England/Congo, 75 min, 2011
Wednesday, April 3, Carnegie Mellon McConomy Auditorium, 7:00pm

Gaamer, dir. Oleg Sentsov, Ukraine, 92 min, 2012
Thursday, April 4, Carnegie Mellon McConomy Auditorium, 7:00pm

Short Film Competition
Friday, April 5, Carnegie Mellon McConomy Auditorium, 7:00pm

Fame High, dir. Scott Hamilton Kennedy, USA, 97 min, 2012
Saturday, April 6, Carnegie Mellon McConomy Auditorium, 7:00pm
*Director will attend
*Goodman Faces of Work screening

Sunday, April 7, Regent Square Theater, 5:00pm

Wednesday, April 10, McConomy Auditorium, 5:00pm

Abendland, dir. Nikolaus Geyrhalter, Austria, 90 min, 2011
Wednesday, April 10, Carnegie Mellon McConomy Auditorium, 7:00pm
*Goodman Faces of Work screening

The Punk Syndrome, dir. Jukka Karkkainen, J-P Passi, Finland, 85 min, 2012
Thursday, April 11, Carnegie Mellon McConomy Auditorium, 7:00pm
*Director will introduce film via Skype

The Ballad of Genesis and Lady Jaye, dir. Marie Losier, USA/France, 75 min, 2011
Friday, April 12, Carnegie Mellon McConomy Auditorium, 7:00pm
*Director will introduce film via Skype

Back to the Square, dir. Petr Lom, Norway/Canada, 83 min, 2012
Saturday, April 13, Carnegie Mellon McConomy Auditorium, 7:00pm
*Director will attend
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It’s All Talk

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