President's Message

The prospect of Fall brings to mind expectations of the harvest and of things coming to fruition, the anticipation of good things available for our enjoyment. In a few brief weeks we will begin to reap a bounty of programs at the Linda Hall Library that were years in the planning.

Our year-long recognition of the Panama Canal's centennial will continue with lectures on the Canal Zone's biodiversity, geology, and sustainability, along with an examination of the medical challenges faced by the thousands who built the Canal in the early years of the 20th century. The comprehensive exhibition, The Land Divided, The World United: Building the Panama Canal, continues on display through December 31, 2014.

Most noteworthy is the October 2 appearance by Pulitzer Prize-winning author David McCullough who will discuss the Panama Canal's history as recounted in his definitive work, The Path Between the Seas: The Creation of the Panama Canal 1870-2014. Mr. McCullough’s lecture will surely capture the attention of anyone interested in American history as well as the history of science and engineering.

The Library will also welcome former Space Shuttle astronaut Chris Hadfield who will discuss his new book, You Are Here: Around the World in 92 Minutes, and Smithsonian Institution research zoologist Dr. Carole Baldwin who will speak on Tropical Deep Reefs: Exploring the Underexplored.

We have set the table for a veritable feast of programs and events. I hope to see many of you at the Library. Come with a big appetite.

David McCullough: Building the Panama Canal

David McCullough has been widely acclaimed as a “master of the art of narrative history,” and as “a matchless writer.” He is the two-time recipient of the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Award, and the Francis Parkman Prize, and has received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award. On Thursday, October 2, he will speak at Unity Temple on the Plaza as a featured lecturer for the Library's The Land Divided, The World United: Building the Panama Canal centennial exhibition and lecture series.

In reference to his award-winning book, The Path Between the Seas, Mr. McCullough writes:

The Panama Canal, which opened to the world one hundred years ago, in August of 1914, represented the most ambitious and costly constructed effort ever mounted until then anywhere on earth. It is the story of colossal courage in the face of extreme adversity, colossal failure and extraordinary success. It was an unprecedented work of engineering, but it also changed history in more ways than commonly understood, and its story illustrates profoundly a truth too little appreciated: that history is far more than politics and war only.

Here one finds vivid lessons in the virtues of the empirical approach to problems - of relying on observation and experience, rather than established system or theory. Here one finds the advance of medicine in full play in changing the course of events. And here, too, is a full cast of memorable characters, both tragic and heroic, such as rarely found in history.

Mr. McCullough’s most recent book is The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris. His previous work, 1776, has been acclaimed “a classic,” while John Adams, published in 2001, remains one of the most praised and widely read American biographies. Mr. McCullough’s other books include The Johnstown Flood, The Great Bridge, Mornings on Horseback, Brave Companions, and Truman. His work has been translated and published in 15 countries around the world. As may be said of few writers, none of his books have ever been out of print.

For his work overall, David McCullough has been honored by the National Book Foundation's Distinguished Contribution to American Letters Award, the National Humanities Medal, and the Gold Medal for Biography.
given by the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He has been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, as well as to the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and has received 52 honorary degrees.

Born in Pittsburgh in 1933, Mr. McCullough graduated from Yale with honors in English Literature. He is an avid reader and traveler, and a devoted painter with a lifelong interest in art and architecture. Mr. McCullough and his wife, Rosalee Barnes McCullough, have five children and 19 grandchildren.

Mr. McCullough is presently working on a biography of the Wright brothers.

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**Rheticus’ Edition of the Sphere of Sacrobosco**

Johannes de Sacrobosco was a 13th century scholar and astronomer whose most popular work was a textbook, *De Sphaera, or Treatise on the Sphere of the World*, a widely read and reprinted introduction to Aristotelian cosmology. The Library recently acquired a copy of a 16th century edition, edited and printed in Wittenberg.

The editor of this edition was Georg Joachim Rheticus, the mathematician who visited Copernicus in 1539, learned about Copernicus’s sun-centered universe, and persuaded the Polish mathematician and astronomer to complete and publish his manuscript on the revolutionary idea for a world system in which the earth moved around a stationary sun.

It took awhile for Copernicus’s cosmology to work its way into textbooks. Meanwhile, there was still a strong demand for Sacrobosco’s *De Sphaera*. Rheticus’s edited version first appeared in 1550. The Library’s new copy was published in 1553, and it is bound together with another book that was written as a study guide, *Questions Concerning the Little Book on the Sphere of the World, (Quaestiones in libellum De sphaera)*, by Hartmann Beyer (Frankfurt, 1556). An inscription on the flyleaf indicates that the book was purchased in Fribourg in 1558, for 8 “assibus.”

This copy of *De Sphaera* has been well-studied, with extensive marginal notes written in ink on many pages so that all the blank spaces are filled up. In fact, there was not enough room in the margin to contain all the notes of an unknown scholar, so eight additional blank leaves of paper were tipped in. These additional leaves are filled with manuscript notes in Latin, in what is thought to be a French style of handwriting.

Whoever owned the book appreciated the text, but not its Lutheran associations. Wittenberg was one of Europe’s intellectual centers and its university arguably the finest. But it was also home to Martin Luther and his like-minded Protestant reformers including Philipp Melanchthon, an intellectual leader of the Reformation, who wrote a preface to this edition. His name appears prominently on the title page, except that in this copy it has been scored through so thoroughly with writing ink by an early reader that it left a hole in the paper that has been repaired on the back side. *De Sphaera* may have been required reading for students but, if they were Catholics, they did not have to read the name of one of the principal denouncers of their faith.
Exchange Program

A nationwide survey conducted by the Center for Research Libraries (CRL) of Cyrillic language science and technology collections revealed that CRL and the Linda Hall Library (LHL) hold the two strongest collections in the United States. Some containing rare and at-risk titles with as few as 10 copies extant worldwide. CRL and LHL are committed to the ongoing acquisition, retention, and availability of these rarely held materials, and to that end both organizations maintain relationships with foreign libraries and publishers ensuring that at least one of these institutions collects and preserves at-risk foreign language scientific materials for future scholarship.

Soviet advances in science in the post-World War II years prompted LHL to pursue the acquisition of Cyrillic publications. Many Cyrillic items became unavailable commercially during these years, and the numerous exchange relationships in which LHL sent western publications to the USSR in exchange for the otherwise unavailable materials were formed. The exchange of scientific publications between east and west thrived throughout the political challenges and upheavals of the Cold War. Through the decades, LHL has expanded its international reach, embracing exchange relationships with organizations in the former Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, the People’s Republic of China, Japan and other Asian countries, thus adding additional non-Roman language publications to the Library’s holdings. With each passing year, LHL’s accumulation of rarely held foreign language scientific publications has become increasingly valuable for research and study.

In the ensuing decades, while many university libraries reduced or abandoned their foreign language exchange programs, the Linda Hall Library has maintained hundreds of partnerships, adding esoteric titles and enhancing the depth of its research collection. LHL will continue to build collections of infrequently held foreign language materials so that future researchers on global hunts for hard-to-find texts will find their needs met at the Linda Hall Library.

2014 Shipman Award Winner

Forty participants from this year’s Greater Kansas City Science and Engineering Fair displayed their work in the Library’s Main Reading Room this spring. Members of the Library staff selected projects for display based on their respective scientific content, unique approaches to problem solving, and visual composition.

In addition to offering selected Science Fair participants the opportunity to exhibit their projects at the Linda Hall Library, the Library confers the Shipman Award on the most outstanding project. The Shipman Award, given in memory of the Library’s first director, Joseph C. Shipman, is presented annually to a Science Fair project for mastery of scientific writing demonstrated in either a project or paper. This year’s winner was Triton Wolfe, a senior at Olathe North High School whose project, was entitled, “A Study on the Macromolecular Content in Algal Species Chlorella kessleri due to Differing Nitrogen to Phosphorous Ratios in the Growth Media.” Triton’s sponsoring teacher, Amy Johnston, was also recognized for her support for her student’s research.

All students exhibiting their Science Fair projects at the Linda Hall Library were invited to a Blue Ribbon Reception in their honor, held in the Library’s Main Reading Room on May 5.
SEPTMBER 18
Thursday, September 18 at 7:00 p.m.
The Panama Canal Watershed: Science, Commerce, and Sustainability
Dr. Jefferson Hall, Staff Scientist
Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panama

The Panama Canal depends on a supply of fresh water, but the state of the Canal watershed reflects a global competition for land, water, and all of the goods and services that provide for a growing population. The Smithsonian’s reforestation work in Panama to protect its valuable watershed is at the intersection of science, commerce, policy, and nature.

OCTOBER 2
Thursday, October 2 at Unity Temple on the Plaza at 6:30 p.m.
Building the Panama Canal
David McCullough
Historian and Pulitzer Prize-winning author

The Panama Canal, which opened to the world in August of 1914, represented the most ambitious and costly constructed effort ever mounted until then anywhere on earth. It was an unprecedented work of engineering, but it also changed history in more ways than commonly understood, and its story illustrates profoundly a truth too little appreciated: that history is far more than politics and war only.

OCTOBER 16
Thursday, October 16 at 7:00 p.m.
Once in a Century Opportunity: Geology and Paleontology of the Panama Canal
Dr. Bruce MacFadden, Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology
Florida Museum of Natural History

The Panama Canal is currently being expanded on a scale not seen since the original excavations one hundred years ago. A team of scientists from the U.S. and Panama are capitalizing on these new digs, uncovering important fossil deposits that have revealed a new understanding of ancient biodiversity.

OCTOBER 28
Tuesday, October 28 at 7:00 p.m.
Tropical Deep Reefs: Exploring the Underexplored
Dr. Carole Baldwin, Research Zoologist
Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History

The Smithsonian’s Deep Reef Observation Project is a multidisciplinary Smithsonian project exploring the diversity of tropical deep reefs off the coast of Curaçao in the southern Caribbean. Deep reefs are natural extensions of shallow water reefs, but, because they lie beyond SCUBA diving depths, deep reefs are underexplored ecosystems worldwide.
**NOVEMBER 11**

Tuesday, November 11 at 7:00 p.m.
You Are Here: Around the World in 92 Minutes
Chris Hadfield, former Space Shuttle astronaut and ISS Commander
A Rainy Day Books author event
cosponsored and hosted by the Linda Hall Library

You Are Here represents one (idealized) orbit of the International Space Station. This planetary photo tour illuminates the history and consequences of human settlement, the magnificence of never-before-noticed landscapes, and the power of the natural forces shaping our world. Copies of You are Here will be available for purchase and signing courtesy of Rainy Day Books.

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**DECEMBER 4**

Thursday, December 4 at 7:00 p.m.
American Medicine and the Panama Canal:
Miasmas, Mosquitoes, and Malaria
Dr. Enrique Chaves, University of Kansas Medical Center

Theodore Roosevelt appointed William Gorgas in 1904 as Chief Sanitary Officer in charge of the sanitation in Panama. Armed with recent knowledge that the mosquito was the vector for yellow fever and malaria, Gorgas converted Panama from a pesthole to a healthy place and made possible the completion of the Panama Canal in 1914.

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Visit our website at www.lindahall.org for more information about our upcoming events.
Fellow: Caitlin Silberman, PhD Candidate
University of Wisconsin – Madison, two-month fellowship
Project title: “I Believe We Shall Be Crows’: Thinking with Birds in British Art and Visual Culture, 1840–1900”
Ms. Silberman’s research studies how Victorian imagery explains attitudes toward animals, particularly birds, and how those attitudes justified human dominion over animals and also welcomed the possibility that humans and animals are more closely related than previously imagined.

Fellow: Angela Smith, PhD Candidate
University of Texas – Austin, four-month fellowship
Ms. Smith’s research examines Victorian attitudes toward the 1844 publication of Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation, by Robert Chambers. Her intent is to examine the author’s motivations for publishing and to highlight the importance of Edinburgh to the development of evolutionary theory generally and to reveal some of the contrasting and complementary values represented by the relationship between science and society in early Victorian Britain.

Fellow: Gabriella Petrick, PhD
George Mason University, nine-month fellowship
Project title: “Tasting the New World: Wine, the Environment, and the New Global Palate”
Dr. Petrick’s research project will use a wide range of contemporary and historical sources to look at various aspects of the wine industry: grape varieties, environmental consequences of wine production, and the technological and scientific approaches to creating wine for a global palate.
Linda Hall Library Board of Trustees Welcomes New Members

The Linda Hall Library Board of Trustees welcomed three new members in 2013-14. They join continuing trustees Marilyn Bartlett Hebenstreit (Chairman), John A. MacDonald, and Tuck Spaulding.

**Terry Bassham** is Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer, and President of Great Plains Energy, KCP&L, and Greater Missouri Operations (since June 2012). Prior to his election as its Chairman of the Board, Terry served as CEO, President, and Chief Operating Officer of these organizations. Terry holds an undergraduate degree in accounting from the University of Texas-Arlington, and a J.D. degree from St. Mary’s University Law School in San Antonio, Texas. He previously practiced as a regulatory attorney. In addition to his LHL board membership, Terry currently serves on the boards of the Kansas City Symphony, the Guadalupe Center, United Way of Greater Kansas City, the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, Urban Neighborhood Initiative, the Civic Council of Greater Kansas City, Win/Win, and the Electric Industry Group.

**Steve Dunn** is Chairman of the Board of JE Dunn Construction Company. He has been affiliated with JE Dunn for 39 years in increasingly responsible capacities. Prior to joining JE Dunn, Steve was associated with Columbia Union Bank. A graduate of Rockhurst University, Steve holds a BS/BA in Marketing. He has served on the boards of Benedictine College, Bishop Spencer Place, De LaSalle Education Center, the Foundation for Shawnee Mission Medical Center, and Shawnee Mission Medical Center. Among Steve’s current affiliations are the boards of Avila University, Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, UMKC, the Dunn Family Foundation, the Police Foundation of Kansas City, and the Downtown Council.

**Nick Powell** is President and Director of Colt Energy, a Kansas-based oil and gas exploration and production company which he started in 1981. Nick graduated from Tulane University with a B.S. in Economics. He worked for Yellow Freight System, Inc. as a fuel purchaser and developer of a subsidiary, Overland Energy, Inc. (OEI). Nick has served on the boards of numerous oil and gas societies including the Petroleum Technology Transfer Council, the Eastern Kansas Oil and Gas Council, the Kansas Independent Oil & Gas Association, and the Independent Petroleum Association of America. He also serves as Chairman of the Board of Powell Gardens. Nick and his wife, Mary Ann, co-chair the Linda Hall Library’s President’s Circle, the Library’s major donors’ society.
Bequest of Dr. Ruth Patrick

In April 2014, the Library received a collection of books bequeathed by Dr. Ruth Patrick following her death at age 105 the previous September. Dr. Patrick was one of the country’s leading experts in limnology, the study of freshwater ecosystems. In a career devoted to the study of thousands of species of single-cell algae called diatoms, Dr. Patrick developed a method for determining water quality based on measuring the kinds and numbers of diatoms to reveal the type and extent of pollution. For this method, which has been implemented around the world, and for her other groundbreaking work, Ruth Patrick was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1970, and received the National Medal of Science from President Clinton in 1996.

Dr. Patrick’s bequest is not limited to books pertaining to her research interests. Those books, mostly concerned with biology and fresh water ecosystems, will be added to the Library’s general collections. The majority of the books bequeathed to LHL by Dr. Patrick are rare books belonging to her father, Frank Patrick, a book collector and lawyer who practiced in Kansas City in the early 20th century. Frank Patrick first encouraged his daughter’s interest in science, which eventually took her to the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia where she worked for more than 70 years. However, Dr. Patrick’s ties to Kansas City remained strong, and it was her wish that her father’s books return to the city where he lived and worked.

Frank Patrick’s collection includes copies of Robert Hooke’s Micrographia restaurata (London, 1745), Louis Joblot’s Observations d’histoire naturelle, faites avec le microscope (Paris, 1754-55), and Jan Swammerdam’s Histoire generale des insectes (Utrecht, 1685). The oldest book in the collection is not on natural history, but is an excellent example of early printing from Gutenberg’s era, Historia romana, by Appianus of Alexandria (Venice, 1472). The Library is grateful to Dr. Patrick’s son, Dr. Charles Hodge, for his invaluable assistance facilitating the bequest and the books’ transfer to LHL.
The 14 acres surrounding the Library are home to 338 trees representing some 52 genera and 145 species.

In 1972, local arborist Chuck Brasher began to survey the Kansas City metropolitan area in an effort to locate and document the largest trees in a given genus and species. Currently this list contains over two hundred trees that have been measured and identified as Greater Kansas City Champion Trees. **Twelve of those trees are found on the grounds of the Linda Hall Library.**

Champion Tree status is determined using a mathematical formula based on tree height, spread, and trunk circumference. Trunk circumference is measured in inches and one-half feet above ground. Tree height and spread are measured in feet. One point is given for each inch of trunk circumference and each foot of height. One-quarter point is given for each foot of spread. The three measurements are added together to determine a tree’s point total. The designation of Champion Tree is assigned to the tree of a given genus and species with the largest point total.

An interactive map with coordinates for every tree in the arboretum can be found on the Library’s website: http://www.lindahall.org/about_lhl/grounds.shtml. For the more curious visitor, the Library provides guided tours of the Arboretum. Contact Eric Ward at 816.926.8753 for an appointment.