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Oberlin Heritage Center Presents a Look at International Historic Preservation Projects

Oberlin College Educators Working to Preserve Libyan History

Learn about a challenging—yet rewarding—transcultural historic preservation program when the Oberlin Heritage Center presents Oberlin College professors Susan Kane and Sam Carrier who will talk about their work assisting the Department of Antiquities in Libya with the modernization of cultural heritage records and documentation of archaeological sites. **Cultural Heritage Management Capacity Building in Libya** takes place Wednesday, **February 27** at 7:15 p.m. at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive). The event is free and open to the public.

Kane and Carrier have been working with the Libyan Department of Antiquities for the past eight years through the Cyrenaica Archaeological Project, a partnership between American and Libyan archaeologists. Kane is the director of the project, which in addition to its archaeological work also oversees capacity building and infrastructure improvement projects designed to address issues confronting the Department of Antiquities following years of neglect under the four-decade Gaddafi regime. Much of the partnership's work has been supported by a series of Ambassador Fund for Cultural Preservation grants from the U.S. State Department.

One key element in this capacity building program is to train Department of Antiquities archaeologists how to document and preserve archaeological sites. Many sites are within war-torn areas of Libya and need to be evaluated and monitored in the face of new threats, including population growth and urban encroachment, as well as the prospect of increased tourism as Libya reengages with the developed world. Through the international partnership, Libyan archaeologists receive comprehensive training in the mapping, documentation, and risk evaluation of sites. This is an exciting opportunity for historic preservationists to develop a better understanding of the spectacular cultural remains in Libya while creating new exchanges between Libyans and westerners.

Professor Susan Kane, an internationally known expert on Greek and Roman sculpture, holds an undergraduate degree from Barnard College and a doctorate from Bryn Mawr College. A member of the faculty at Oberlin College since 1977, she has excavated in the US, UK, Greece, Tunisia, Yugoslavia, Libya, and Italy. She is Director of the Sangro Valley Project (Abruzzo, Italy) and Director of the Cyrenaica Archaeological Project (Cyrene, Libya). Kane has published extensively in classical archaeology and archeometry.

Professor Sam Carrier—originally trained in experimental psychology with an A.B. from Wesleyan University and a Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkley—has for many years collaborated with his wife, Susan Kane, and published with her and others in the archaeological literature. He served for twenty years in academic administration, and as Oberlin’s provost oversaw the computing center, library, archives, art museum, and other areas. Carrier has particular interest and expertise in the application of computer technologies to archaeology.

The Oberlin Heritage Center is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and operates a site of three beautifully preserved historic buildings. Through a year-round calendar of public programs, tours and other activities, the Heritage Center helps to preserve and share the powerful stories that are part of this nationally significant community. Visit the Oberlin Heritage Center’s website at www.oberlinheritage.org to find a variety of resources for educators, students, and those who simply want to learn more about local history and historic preservation. For more information, call (440) 774-1700.

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