2008


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WKU Libraries

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More than 5,000 people attended the 10th annual Southern Kentucky Book Fest featuring more than 175 authors from throughout the country. Mitch Albom, Harlan Coben and Marc Brown were the 2008 Book Fest headliners. Hundreds of aspiring writers also attended the 5th Annual Kentucky Writers Conference held the day before Book Fest with some of the visiting authors.

Community Outreach partnered with Usborne books to give away several hundred books to area schools in need. With support from WKU Athletics, the “Books & Baskets” program gave a free ticket to a men’s exhibition game for every new or slightly used book that was donated. Books collected at the game were donated to the Family Enrichment Center.

“Fall into Books” was a new program launched to bring several well-known writers to schools throughout the area. Author Gail Carson Levine of Ella Enchanted fame was the featured author. Newbery Honor winner Kathy Caren also visited schools as part of the Eliad program for teens. More than 175 copies of her book Matisse Big Sky were given to local youth.

As part of the WKU Libraries’ For Every Place and Kentucky Live lecture series, authors and experts discuss their unique experiences at Barnes & Noble Bookellers.

The 5th annual “One Campus-One Community-One Book” program hosted Georgia author Max Martin and his book Day of the Dead Corvette. Mr. Martin appeared at several events throughout the area including a special program at the National Corvette Museum. Over 250 copies of Martin’s book were given away to community members.

Close to 1,000 community members kicked off the holiday season at the Kentucky Library & Museum with “Christmas in Kentucky,” a day full of games, crafts, exhibits and tons of fun for the entire family.

“Fall into Books” brought together several well-known writers for a day of reading, writing and fun. The event was held in the Helm Library and featured several authors, including Newbery Honor winner Kathy Caren.

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The Dean’s Message

The year brought many new additions and improvements to WKU Libraries. The new 11,000 square foot Visual and Performing Arts Library opened its doors on the second floor of the Cravens Building; the Emma H. Farrell Reading Room was unveiled at a ceremony of the art Duncan Hines exhibit; and the first Dorothy Shilling Thurman Young Readers Book Award winner was announced. Technical services continues to offer more information through concerts and online services, including our first electronic journal through Tech@WKU.

Our outreach programs have impacted thousands through events such as S.O.S. Book Fest, Christmas in Kentucky, school events, library programs and our Art Away Place and Kentucky Live! lectures series. Our commitment remains strong to continuously move forward with an innovative approach as we serve our students, faculty, administrators and general community.

Dean of Libraries
Mike Binder

Visual and Performing Arts Library

The Visual and Performing Arts Library celebrated its grand opening on the second floor of the Cravens Building. This new 11,000 square foot facility contains approximately 75,000 books, 17,500 DVDs and VHS and 5,300 CDs. The Julia Gosses Listening and Viewing area holds two state-of-the-art listening/viewing rooms with 32-inch high-definition TVs and BOSE sound systems. An InfoLab containing twenty computers is available for instruction. Other features include a KICII self-service digital scanning system, a conference room, additional computers and several study areas for research and learning.

Did You Know?

The average library journal cost is $33. An average book costs $33. An average microform costs $66.22.

Over the year, the scope of library services has expanded far beyond the physical walls of the facilities themselves. In fact, WKU Libraries received the Thurman Young Readers Book Award for first electronic journal in Kentucky; the Kentucky Library & Museum unveiled a state-of-the-art Duncan Hines exhibit; and the first Evelyn Thurman Young Readers Book Award winner was announced. Technical services continues to offer more information through concerts and online services, including our first electronic journal through Tech@WKU.

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