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Sue Grafton Is Coming to the 2005 Book Fest

by Jayne Pelaski

New York Times best-selling author Sue Grafton has confirmed that she will appear at the Southern Kentucky Book Fest on April 16, 2005. She is published in 28 countries and 26 languages—including Estonian, Bulgarian, and Indonesian. Books in her alphabet series, begun in 1982, are international bestsellers with readership in the millions. The Book Fest partners are delighted she will be headlining the 2005 fest.



Big Red Celebrates a Major Milestone

by Earlene Chelf



He's big, he's red and he's turning 25! Who, you ask? In this case, the "who" should be a "what," and it's none other than Western Kentucky University's big, red, fuzzy, hip-shaking, roof-raising, adorable mascot, known both nationally—and internationally—simply as Big Red.

Big Red's 25th birthday is a major milestone in the evolution of WKU's sports icon, and it will not pass quietly. In fact, the entire week-long 2004 Homecoming celebration, themed "Big Red's Birthday Bash," will be an uproarious wing-ding, with the furry, crimson character turning up at myriad events such as the "Homecoming Parade," "Big Red's Roar," "The Festival of Friends," "Toppertown," and, of course, Saturday's football game against Indiana State.

Also on Saturday, Big Red will be at the Kentucky Library

Jayne Pelaski
Jan Rensch
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and Museum to officially open an exhibit chronicling the furry creature's "life" and to participate in a reunion of the nearly 60 individuals who, since Ralph Carey's first portrayal in 1979 and 1980, have been Big Red impersonators.

Titled "Big Red: The All-America Mascot Turns 25," the exhibit will showcase an array of mascot memorabilia, including two early costumes. One is the very first, which was designed in 1978 and 1979 by Carey, who, along with Gary Ransdell, now the University's president, and Ron Beck, a former Student Affairs Office employee, played a major role in the development of Western's mascot and, as noted above, was the first to wear the costume.

The other costume, a modified version of the first and much easier to don and maneuver, will be loaned by Sports Marketing to display along with photographs and clippings, wild and crazy props used by former Big Reds for skits, trophies and awards garnered from national competitions, and many other items bearing the mascot's image.

Not only was Carey the first to appear in the original Big Red costume, but he also came up with the original mascot concept. When asked how it felt to see his "creation" turn 25, Carey said, "It's hard to believe that so much time has passed. I am surprised to see this character still going strong!"

Carey also said he was surprised at how widely known and recognized Big Red has become, noting that the mascot's rise to fame came about slowly. "For the first years," he said, "Big Red was just a Western mascot."

"But now," he continued, "Big Red has become famous and has received national recognition and awards. I could not have projected that," he concluded.

The "Big Red" exhibit will be on view in the Kentucky Building's Orientation Room, beginning October 20th and continuing through mid-December, 2004.

For more information, contact Earlene Chelf (270) 745-5263 or earlene.chelf@wku.edu. Or check the web site: www.wku.edu/Library/kylm.

Abraham Lincoln: Pro Equality or Pro Union?

by Earlene Chelf

I hate slavery because it deprives our republican example of its influence in the world—enables the enemies of free institutions, with plausibility, to taunt us as hypocrites—causes the real friends of freedom to doubt our sincerity.

Abraham Lincoln, 1854



For freeing enslaved African Americans, Abraham Lincoln has gone down in history as "the Great Emancipator." Over time, however, some have questioned the 17th President's motives, saying he was more interested in preserving the Union than in racial equality.



This question and others relating to Lincoln's leadership during one of the darkest times in our nation's history are addressed in "Forever Free: Abraham Lincoln's Journey to Emancipation," a traveling panel exhibit, opening at The Kentucky Museum on October 27th, 2004.



Exhibition essayist John Rhodehamel writes, "...Abraham Lincoln lived the American dilemma. He believed that slavery was wicked, backward, and an offense to the nation's republican ideals." Rhodehamel continues, "At the same time, he [Lincoln] saw no peaceful way to alter such a monumental and seemingly permanent feature of the national landscape. He knew slavery was evil, but he believed that a direct attack on the institution could only result in an even greater evil, the breakup of the Union and the destruction of the only significant democratic nation in the world."



To examine Lincoln's efforts toward the abolition of slavery during the Civil War, "Forever Free" is divided into six themes: Young Lincoln's America; The House Dividing; War for the Union; A New Birth of Freedom; War for the Union and Freedom; and Legacies. Each themed part of the exhibit uses reproductions of rare historical documents, period photographs and illustrative material to explore the events and individuals who influenced Lincoln and led to his pivotal decision to free the slaves in 1863.



In addition to the "Forever Free" exhibition, which was organized by the Huntington Library and the Gilder Lehrman Institute for American History and circulated by the American Library Association, three-dimensional objects and Lincoln prints and ephemera will be added. A dramatic addition will be a room setting with a life-size Lincoln figure sitting at a desk. This diorama, plus a quilt made by LaRue County Homemakers for Kentucky's Bicentennial, and a couple of framed items will be on loan from the Lincoln Museum in Hodgenville, Kentucky.



Further embellishments are a number of framed lithographs, broadsides and sheet music from the Kentucky Library and Museum's collections. Significant among these is an original "Certificate of Appointment" signed by Secretary of War Simon Cameron and President Lincoln appointing Herbert M. Enos to First Lieutenant in the Regiment of Mounted Riflemen, August 10th, 1861.

"Forever Free" will be on exhibit in The Kentucky Museum's Gallery L until December 10th, 2004. For more details about the opening event and subsequent programming, contact Earlene Chelf at (270) 745-5263 or earlene.chelf@wku.edu. Or check the web site: www.wku.edu/Library/kylm



On the Same Page

by Jayne Pelaski



Following the success of "One Campus-One Community-One Book" project, the Southern Kentucky Book Fest partners will sponsor a children's version called "On the Same Page." Beginning from October and ending during Children's Book Week in November, children will be encouraged to read a book and discuss it among their friends, classmates, and family.

The book chosen for grades K-3 is *The Librarian from the Black Lagoon*. The book chosen for grades 3 - 6 will be *The Class*

Trip from the Black Lagoon. Both of these books are written by popular children's author, Mike Thaler.



Mike Thaler will be in Bowling Green on November 17th through 19th, 2004, to meet and discuss his books with the children who participated in the project.



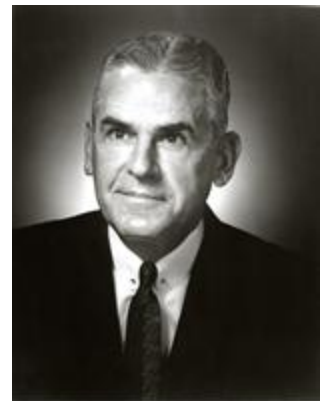
William H. Natcher: The Gentleman from Kentucky

by Earlene Chelf

William Huston Natcher was elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1953 and served Kentucky's 2nd District until his death in 1994. He was—and undoubtedly shall remain—unique among elected politicians.

Natcher took very seriously his sworn duty to fulfill his legislative responsibilities by never missing a roll-call vote. In fact, just a few weeks before his death, he cast his 18,401th consecutive vote, a record, most are confident, will never be equaled or surpassed. He also was unique in not accepting campaign contributions but chose to fund limited campaigning using his own money.

Over the years, Natcher became one of the mostly highly respected members of Congress, gaining a reputation as an honest, hard-working and dedicated public servant. To better serve his constituents, Natcher sought membership on important House committees such as the Appropriations Committee. While Chairman of the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education, Natcher was instrumental in passing major social legislation that benefited all Americans, not just



William Huston Natcher,
Member of United States of
Representative 1953-1994





Kentuckians. His influence was extended even further when he assumed the Appropriations Committee chairmanship.

Throughout his career, Congressman Natcher amassed a huge collection of letters, photographs, plaques and other memorabilia. When he died, a major portion of his collection came to the Kentucky Library and Museum. After several years of processing, the Natcher Political Collection will open to the public on Friday, October 1st, 2004. As a part of that opening—a fundraiser to benefit the Kentucky Library and Museum—many items from his collection, including his journals, will be displayed in an exhibit titled, "William H. Natcher: The Gentleman From Kentucky." Attendance at this once-in-a-lifetime event is contingent upon membership. Cost to attend the opening will be \$50/person for nonmembers; \$25/person for members.



You may become a Libraries and Museum Associate by joining at one of the following levels: Individual at \$50; Family at \$100; Scholar's Circle at \$250; Dean's Circle at \$500; and President's Circle at \$1,000. As a membership bonus, anyone joining at the \$250 level or above will receive two tickets to the Natcher Collection opening. President Circle members are also recognized at that level of generosity by Western Kentucky University.

To continue to offer unique services, programs and activities, the Western Kentucky University library system needs your support. And, as an Associate you will have the rare privilege to be among the first to see the William H. Natcher Political Collection and pay tribute to the devoted public servant who selflessly served his constituents in Congress for 41 years.



William Natcher and his books

For more information about memberships or the Natcher Collection opening, contact Earlene Chelf, Coordinator of Marketing and Special Events, (270) 745-5263 or earlene.chelf@wku.edu or check the web site: www.wku.edu/Library/kylm.



2004 Sara Elizabeth Tyler Merit Award Winners





Former Western Kentucky University Libraries faculty members Sally Ann Strickler and Peggy Wright were presented the Sara Elizabeth Tyler Merit Award for Distinguished Service in Librarianship during ceremonies held on Wednesday, May 5th, 2004, at the Kentucky Library and Museum.

The Tyler Award was established in 1979 to honor Sara Elizabeth Tyler (1910-2001), a librarian at Western for about four decades. The award, administered by the College Heights Foundation, is given periodically to emeritus faculty who have made significant contributions in their field. Previous honorees are Imogene Foster, 1980; Vera Guthrie, 1984; and Evelyn Thurman, 1989.

Sally Ann Strickler served WKU Libraries for 30 years. She began in 1969 as a graduate assistant in what is now Library Special Collections, was hired as catalog librarian in Library Technical Services, and then promoted in 1972 to Supervisor of Data and Book Processing.

In 1978, she became Head of Library Circulation Services, and in 1981 was promoted to lead a newly formed Department of Library Public Services. After serving that department for 10 years, she asked to be reassigned to the Reference Unit so that she could once again have opportunity to assist library patrons.

Although she officially retired in 1999, Dr. Strickler remains actively involved with WKU Libraries. She volunteers weekly in the Manuscripts/Archives Unit and serves as a part-time Kentucky Building Lobby Clerk.

Peggy Wright joined the WKU Library Public Services faculty in 1980, and after nearly 20 years of service, retired in 1998. In addition to her responsibilities as librarian, Ms. Wright was involved in a number of activities and projects, such as teaching research instruction classes to thousands of students, organizing and conducting seminars for new faculty, and developing more than 50 small library exhibits dealing with a variety of topics.



by Earlene Chelf

Sally Ann Strickler (left) and Peggy Wright are the 2004 recipients of the Sara Elizabeth Tyler Merit Award for Distinguished Service in Librarianship. Together they have nearly a half-century of service to Western's libraries.

Photo by Deborah Cole



Notable among Wright's achievements was service as a library consultant. In the early 80s, Ms. Wright was asked to help a teachers college in Belize organize and catalog its library. While there, she also helped organize the library at a nearby school for mentally and physically challenged children. Her efforts caught the attention of the Belize Governor General, who invited her to set up that nation's first university library.

Like Dr. Strickler, Ms. Wright continues her association with WKU Libraries by working on special projects. Ms. Wright is credited with the creation and planning for two very successful community outreach programs: "[Faraway Places](#)" and "[Kentucky Live](#)." The first, a series of programs by WKU faculty who have traveled to foreign countries to conduct their academic researches, just completed its third year; the other, a series of presentations that focus on "Southern culture at its best," is now in its second year.

For more information, contact Earlene Chelf at (270) 745-5263 or earlene.chelf@wku.edu

Meet Timothy Mullin, New Head of Library Special Collections

by Timothy Mullin



Timothy Mullin, new head of the Department of Library Special Collections

I grew up in a farming community just outside of Philadelphia, not far from where my European ancestors made their home in the 1690s. Those early ancestors moved west, built log houses on the Pennsylvania frontier, and took refuge from Indian attacks in Fort Bedford. I claim among my antecedents a signer of the U.S. Constitution, the founder of Universalism, state senators, colonial doctors, and soldiers who fought in every war from the French and Indian to World War II. My childhood home was filled with old family things, many of which I commandeered for my room, gaining me the family nickname, "the curator."

I guided visitors through an historic house as my first paying job, and spent the next 36 years working in museums. I worked my way through college as a museum guide, which involved guiding 4th graders through Maryland's colonial capital or leading political junkies through Hollybush where President Johnson met Premier Kosygin. Between college and graduate school I worked full time at the Brandywine River Museum, which houses much of the Wyeth family's prodigious work.

After receiving my Master's degree in historic preservation with an emphasis in museum studies from Middle Tennessee State University, I worked at the Tyler Arboretum, an outdoor museum. My next stint came in Baton Rouge as executive director of Magnolia Mound Plantation, followed by a move back toward home at the Historical Society of Delaware. I spent 18 years at HSD, leading the museum division through expansion and development.

My research, writing, and special projects have concentrated on historic house interpretation, recreating historic interiors, and a special emphasis on recreating historic landscape. Gaining a scientific background through certificate courses in ornamental horticulture at Longwood Gardens, I have designed a number of landscapes around public museums and restored several significant gardens by noted nurserymen from the past.

I am delighted to be joining the Western Kentucky University family and the Kentucky Library and Museum team. The potential for growth and development is ripe, and I look forward to leading the Department of Library Special Collections to new heights.

It's Time to Renew or Join for the First Time!

by Carrie Barnett

University Libraries has long been called the "heart" of WKU's campus. With the beginning of the school year upon us, it's time to join for the first time or renew your Western Kentucky University Libraries and Museum Associates membership, helping to keep the "heart" pumping strong.

For \$50 for individuals or \$100 for families, you can have access to:

- more than 625,000 books
- 123,000 bound periodicals
- 85 databases (See a [detailed list](#))
- 17,000 electronic journals
- 3,900 current newspaper and journal subscriptions
- 18,700 audio and video products
- 385,000 government documents
- 2.7 million microforms

And if that's not enough, you also receive unlimited free admission to the Kentucky Library and Museum and a 20% discount at the Museum Store.

Most importantly, by becoming a Western Kentucky Libraries and Museum Associate, you support the continued operations and growth of the third largest academic library in the Commonwealth and the unique collections of the Kentucky Library and Museum. Your Associate membership dues allows the WKU Libraries to further develop its collection of books, databases, journals, audio and video products, Kentucky artifacts and more.

Western Kentucky University's motto, "The Spirit Makes the Master," is evident in University Libraries. Continued support from alumni and community members like you brings that saying to life—providing a glimpse of history and access to the information of today, and helping the development of future leaders of Kentucky. Thank you for enabling us to prove that we are the "heart" of Western Kentucky University.

Contact: Carrie L. Barnett, Director of Development, University Libraries Office of Development by writing to Wetherby Room 109, Western Kentucky University, 1 Big Red Way Bowling Green, KY 42101; call (270) 745-7056, 1888-958-2586, or (270) 792-2066 (mobile phone); fax (270) 745-5300; or email carrie.barnett@wku.edu.

Behind the Scenes

Co-Chairs of the Southern Kentucky Book Fest Committee

by Jayne Pelaski



The 2004 Southern Kentucky Book Fest was enormously successful! Hundreds of authors and thousands of readers descended upon the Sloan Convention Center on Saturday, April 17, to celebrate reading and their love of books.



We are indebted to the Book Fest co-chairs who devote their time and energy to the this and other partner events. The Book Fest partners rely on our co-chairs for guidance and support. The co-chairs for the 2004 Book Fest were Elaine Walker, John Grider and Jerald Manning.

Elaine Walker is the Chair of the Board for the Bowling Green Public Library. This was her first year as Book Fest co-chair. Since her arrival in Bowling Green in 1994, she has been a significant asset to the community.

Elaine Walker (center) with Book Fest authors at a reception

Elaine's love of books and historic preservation drives her to devote much of her time to various organizations that support these causes; among the groups she participates in are Downtown Redevelopment Authority (Chair and Member), Hobson House Commission (Commissioner), Friends of Riverview (Board Member), Library Board of Trustees, Landmark Association (Board Member), and College Hill Historic District (Board Member). Her company, Peridot Pictures, also provides support to a number of not-for-profit groups by contributing all or part of their production services for public service announcements and motivational videos.

Elaine is a candidate for Mayor of Bowling Green.



John Grider has served as Book Fest co-chair since 2002. John has been on the University Libraries' Kentucky Museum Advisory Council since 1994. His devotion to Western Kentucky University and the Bowling Green community is well-known.



John has served on various boards, including Bowling Green Girls Club, Warren County Arts Commission, Salvation Army Advisory Board, and Girls, Inc., where he is listed as a Lifetime Honorary Board Member. John has received many honors for his dedication. He was awarded the Western Kentucky University Distinguished Service Award for 2001, and the 2001 Volunteer of the Year Award for the Kentucky Museum Advisory Council. He is the Vice President of Kentucky Trust Bank. John's accomplishments are a testament to his hard work and belief in improving the quality of life in Bowling Green.



John Grider (right) and Jerald Manning

Jerald Manning has also served as Book Fest co-chair since 2002. Jerald's tireless efforts on behalf of the Book Fest are recognized and commended by his colleagues. Each year, he sponsors and organizes the Famous-Barr Used Book Sale, which yields thousands of dollars for the Book Fest. This year, over \$15,000 was raised in three days.

Jerald is deeply committed to our community. Currently, he is Chair of the Capitol Arts Alliance; Chair of the Western Kentucky University Library Advisory Council; and President of the Bowling Green Noon Rotary Club. He also serves in the Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors, and the Bowling Green-Warren County Community Foundation. In addition, Jerald serves on the Board of Commissioners for the Housing Authority of Bowling Green and is a member of Bowling Green Library Advisory Council. Previously, Jerald's community service includes: Board Member for the Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce, Bowling Green Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Hilltopper Athletic Foundation. Jerald is the General Manager of Famous-Barr Department Store.

Elaine, John and Jerald not only perform Book Fest duties, but they also participate in our various literary events throughout the year. Don't be surprised if you see them collecting books at "Books and Baskets," sorting books for the "Famous-Barr Used Book Sale," or assisting an author at the Book Fest. We are fortunate to have such fine community leaders at the helm of the Book Fest.

NOTE: Jerald will be rotating off as Chairman of the Libraries Advisory Council. Christine Sowders is the new chair of the council and the new co-chair for the Southern Kentucky Book Fest.

Bibliographic Access & Authority Control: What Are We Doing?

by Katy Roe

Tucked away on one side of the Department of Library Technical Services on the third floor of Cravens, you will find the Bibliographic Access Unit, aka "Catalogers and Cataloging Assistants." That's right, we are the ones responsible for assigning all the books, videos, DVD's, CD's, etc., those little numbers we call "call numbers." We are also responsible for making sure that the records associated with each item are properly entered into our online catalog system called the TOPCAT so that our faculty, students, and staff can search and find the material they are looking for.



From left to right: Doris Hardcastle, Katy Roe, Linda Davis, Shiu Yue Mak, Nancy Steen, Jeannie Butler, Ann Brown, and Rose Davis. Absent from the photo is Deana Groves.

The Bibliographic Access Unit is doing more than just cataloging books and videos. Oh yes, much more. In addition to our regular cataloging duties, we are all working on a Series Authority Control Project. Sounds thrilling, doesn't it? Authority control can be described as a way to maintain consistency of headings in a bibliographic record, and to show the relationships among names, works and subjects; in other words, the proper way, or the "authorized" way a heading should read in the TOPCAT system.

With the help of our fearless leaders Rose Davis and Shiu Yue Mak, we have all attended at least two workshops to learn about authority control and how we are going to "clean up" our own authority files already in the TOPCAT system. Rose and Mak thought it would be easier for us to start with series authority control. So, after our workshop training in February 2004, the Bibliographic Access Unit started the project of series authority control.

In our Unit, you will find our series authority shelf list. Thirty drawers of series are listed (one series per card), so there are literally thousands of series that need to be checked. Each one of us will pull a drawer, take it to our desk, pull a card, search OCLC—short for Online Computer Library Center, a national shared cataloging data service—for that series authority record, import it back to TOPCAT, and add that record to our database. We may also have to work with bibliographic record(s) attached with the series to correct them according to the authority record.

It is a very slow and tedious process, and there are problems that we encounter along the way, but we work through them as we go. We estimate that we have already done over 5,000 records.



The cataloging team at work on the third floor of Cravens

In order to search a series in TOPCAT, use the "Series/Uniform title" search. If you get a listing that says "series" or "non-series" title, be sure you click on the "series" title. This tells you that this is the authorized form of that particular series, and all reference information will

be listed as well. Here are some links that may be of interest to those wanting or needing further information about authority control and searching:

www.wku.edu/Library/dlats/dlats_onlineres.htm, and
www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull/jf03/jf03_locatorplus.html.

This is a project that will continue for some time. Once completed, you will be able to access series titles from different points, including names as well as any references and cross-references. Even though there are still thousands more series cards to check from our shelf list, we have gotten off to a great start with the 5,000 or so series titles that have already been entered. We still have a long way to go, but our series authority control project is well on its way.

Out & About



Nancy Disher Baird has had an article entitled "An Opportunity to Meet 'Every Kind of Person': A Kentuckian Views Army Life During World War II" published in a recent issue of the *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*.

Jonathan Jeffrey was invited by the Kentucky History Center in Frankfort to give a presentation on Duncan Hines in mid-August as part of their "Double Feature" series. Jeffrey also spoke to the Allen County Historical Society on old and new scrapbooks.



Roxanne Myers Spencer, Assistant Professor and Coordinator, Educational Resources Center, has been appointed to the Executive Board of the Kentucky Reading Association, an affiliate of the International Reading Association. She serves as the new editor of the KRA Newsletter.

Sandy Staebell, Registrar/Collections Curator, Kentucky Museum, recently published "Fashioning a Career" (*Kentucky Humanities* No. 2, 2003), an article about Bowling Green businesswoman Carrie Taylor.

Rosemary Meszaros, Coordinator, Government Documents and Law, recently made a presentation at the KLA Conference at Barren River Lake Resort (April 15, 2004) called "KERA Rides Again!" She published a follow-up article entitled "WKU Posts KERA



Web Site" in *Kentucky Teacher* (April/May 2004, p. 18).

Haiwang Yuan, Coordinator, Web Site & Virtual Library, has been appointed Co-chair of the Web Advisory Committee of the Chinese American Librarian Association, an affiliate of the American Library Association. He was also appointed Chair of the CALA Midwest Chapter's Public Relations Committee.



Haiwang Yuan at 2004 CALA Midwest Chapter Annual Conference



In May, he made a presentation at CALA Midwest Chapter's annual conference entitled "Promote Cultural Diversity through Community Outreach Programs—A Case Study of Western Kentucky University Libraries and Its Community Partners."

Applause, Applause!

Visual and Performing Arts Library Being Planned

by Sue Lynn McDaniel

The Task Force for Planning the Visual and Performing Arts Library, chaired by Therese D. Baker, is setting up plans for a new branch library that will be devoted to the visual and performing arts. This library will be located on the second floor of Cravens Library, replacing the Career Services Center, which is scheduled to move out of the Cravens building during the summer of 2005.



The audio/visual facilities in Helm will be part of the Visual and Performing Arts Library on the second floor of Cravens, now housing the Career Center

University Records Management Training

by Sue Lynn McDaniel

62 Western Kentucky University employees participated in records management training in July and August. University Records Officer Sue Lynn McDaniel will offer additional sessions for faculty and staff later this year. On September 13th through 14th, 2004, Mark Myers, Electronic Records Officer at the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, will provide two days of electronic records management training for university and local government employees. Working with the Faculty Center for Excellence in Teaching and the WKU Libraries Web Site & Virtual Library Coordinator, McDaniel is designing instructional web pages for faculty and an enhanced records destruction reporting form.

Jonathan Jeffrey Honored with Jefferson Award

by Jonathan Jeffrey

Jonathan Jeffrey, Special Collections Librarian in the Kentucky Library and Museum, was recently honored with a Jefferson Award. This award was founded in 1972 to honor the highest ideals and achievements in the field of public service. This prestigious national honor recognizes the unique dedication, sacrifices and accomplishments of individuals who serve largely without recognition.

Jeffrey moved to Bowling Green 14 years ago and has made a lasting impact on the community. He has enthusiastically researched the history of Bowling Green and shares that knowledge with students and organizations from across the Commonwealth. He is a speaker for the Kentucky Humanities Council and has written 6 books on Bowling Green's history. Proceeds from his books have all been given to non-profit groups. Jonathan has initiated and implemented the Kentucky Literary Awards which recognize Kentucky's outstanding authors and poets. Besides working at the Kentucky Library and Museum, Jeffrey volunteers at Riverview at Hobson Grove and the Landmark Association. He provides support and consultation to people restoring historic structures and gives heritage tours of the area. He is also a member of the Gideons organization and serves as a deacon at Eastwood Baptist Church. Jeffrey received WKU's Faculty Award for Public Service in 2002.

Kentucky Writers Conference 2004

by Sue Lynn McDaniel

The first Kentucky Writers Conference held on April 15th through 16th, 2004, was a huge success thanks to the hard work of Jayne Pelaski, Assistant to the Dean for Community Outreach, and the Writers Conference Committee members Jack Montgomery, Roxanne Spencer, and Sean Kinder. Over 200 people attended the two day writing sessions. Plans are underway for the 2005 conference to be held on April 14th through 15th, 2005



The Writers Conference Committee Members Sean Kinder (left), Roxanne Spencer (center) and Jack Montgomery (right) with volunteers at the conference reception desk in Downing University Center.

Faculty Awards Honor Two Librarians



Bryan Carson (left), Jack Montgomery (front), and his wife Leslie at the College Award reception. From left in the background: Mike Binder, Dean of University Libraries, Connie Foster, Head of Library Technical Services, and Brian Coutts, Head of Library Public Services

Photography by Gayle Novick

by Haiwang Yuan

Bryan Carson, Coordinator of Reference & Instruction from the Department of Library Public Services, received the 2003 Libraries College Award for Research/Creativity. Jack Montgomery, Coordinator of Collection Services from the Department of Library Technical Services, received the award for Public Services.

It is to be noted that as active Carson is in public services, Montgomery is in academic research and creativity.

Because of their achievements, Carson and Montgomery have both been tenured and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor in 2004.

Worthy of Note

TDNet: WKU Libraries New E-Journal Management System

by Connie Foster

- "Does the library have the electronic version of Journal X?"
- "The database I used referred me to Journal ABC. Does WKU have it?"
- "What are the titles we have access to in JSTOR or Project Muse?"
- My class has a group project throughout the semester on stem cell research and public ethics. Can we get weekly email updates on the latest developments?"

And the answer is ... TDNet!

WKU Libraries is the first library in the state to have TDNet, a powerful electronic journal management system. Over the summer we increased our A-Z e-journal list from under 200 titles to over 17,000 titles! This system has four features:



- an A-Z list of journal titles to which we have access, and links to the databases where they are found (this feature includes a link to TOPCAT for titles we currently subscribe to in print as well)
- a feature that allows searching table of contents for full-text articles
- a linking capability from database to full-text article
- an alerting service for use by individuals or classes to track subject or journal specific contents weekly.

The A-Z list can be retrieved through a regular click on e-journals on the [library home page](#) or through [TIP](#). Journals that are in aggregator databases like Project Muse and JSTOR are now listed individually as part of those 17,000 titles.

WKU Libraries staff is very excited about this enhancement to its online capabilities. We hope that students, faculty, staff and the user community will see immediate benefits and potential to ease of use for a maze of electronic journal resources. We hope you like this arrangement, and we look forward to hearing from you as we try to improve systems and services for you.

“Cutting Edge Collecting” Garners National Publicity

by Jonathan Jeffrey

During times of national stress, people often write letters or begin diaries to record their thoughts and keep their loved ones informed of their safety, anxiety, and locale. The Kentucky Library and Museum’s Manuscripts and Folklife Archives houses dozens of collections containing correspondence written during national and international wars. Pat Hodges, coordinator of Manuscripts and Folklife Archives, was interviewed about the war letters in the collection on Memorial Day by Neal Conan of National Public Radio’s “Talk of the Nation” program. Conan’s show is carried over 200 public radio stations and has an estimated audience of over three million.

The story of how Conan heard of the Library and Museum’s collections is interesting. Knowing that future historians would one day want documentation about soldier experiences in the Iraqi war, Hodges and Libraries Special Events Coordinator, Earlene Chelf, penned a press release asking soldiers and the people at home to send copies of their letters to her. Also aware that much of this correspondence is now conducted by e-mail, Hodges asked for copies of these electronic exchanges or to be added as a recipient on e-mails. Several local newspapers picked up the story, and the *Courier-Journal’s* Byron Crawford devoted one of his columns to this unusual collecting venture.

Soon after Crawford’s story, collections and e-mails began to arrive. A colleague of Neal Conan’s in Washington, D.C. saw the Crawford piece and suggested that an interview with Hodges would make a unique Memorial Day segment. NPR staff contacted Hodges and quizzed her about the collections and asked for copies of certain letters and e-mails that had already been received; afterwards a telephone interview was arranged.

While on air Hodges and Conan talked about the scope of Western’s war letters,

stretching from the nation's founding to Desert Storm, and now letters from the war in Iraq. The same method of publicizing the collecting of war letters was used during the Persian Gulf War over a decade ago. That effort resulted in the addition of a number of fascinating small collections. The new technology at that time was the fax machine.

Conan also read portions from several of the letters over the air during the twelve-minute interview, which reflected the overall humanitarian spirit that the soldiers felt toward the Iraqi people. Letters also contain fascinating details about eating meals in one of Saddam Hussein's palaces, seeing exotic animals in one of his zoos outside a palace, and describing living conditions in the war-torn country.

This "cutting edge collecting" is working. To date Hodges has received almost two boxes of letters and e-mails from about 13 individuals and has a number of leads to follow-up on later. Besides e-mails and correspondence, the Library and Museum has also received a complete Iraqi Republican Guard uniform, an Iraqi flag, Iraqi currency and a number of photographs. Although the emphasis of the interview was about the current war, other wars were mentioned as the scope of Western's collections were discussed. The interview has helped glean another collection of WWII correspondence and four Civil War letters. Hodges is excited about the results and noted that the Library and Museum now has enough documentation about the Iraqi war for a student to execute an interesting term paper.

Movie Madness in the Library

by Jack Montgomery



WKU Libraries has inaugurated a Popular Film collection, which has been available to the university community since the spring semester. This collection of films on DVD and VHS format does not attempt to duplicate the types of films usually found in a commercial video store or those films that are shown in local theaters.

Rather, the collection focuses on films that may have had a small release, had limited distribution, or that are from foreign sources. It also includes those films now deemed classics of the silver screen. The classic films, both silent and in sound, will also be used to support the new academic program in Film Studies.

The library also tries to acquire those films that have won awards in a wide range of countries and cultures. In its initial stage, the Popular Film collection has been well received by the university community, including our international students and those members of the local community who make use of the library's services. Its success has insured its continuance for the future.

The films are available for browsing in bins across from of the circulation desk, though the discs and VHS cassettes themselves are stored behind the circulation area.

Personnel Update

- **Nancy Baird** has resumed her duties as Kentucky History Specialist after serving 3 years as interim head of the Department of Library Special Collections.
- **[Timothy Mullin](#)** has assumed the headship of the Department of Library Special Collections.
- **Jonathan Jeffrey** and **Charles Smith** have been promoted to the rank of professor.
- **Jack Montgomery** and **Bryan Carson** have been tenured and promoted to the rank of associate professor.
- **Carol Watwood** has accepted the faculty position of Health Sciences Librarian.
- **Lynne Ferguson** now serves full-time as the Kentucky Library and Museum's Artist-in-Residence.

Calendar of Events

- WKU Libraries' coming events are available in this **[Fall Calendar](#)**
- For details, visit the Libraries' **[Calendar and Events](#)** web page
- To learn what is happening and what is going to happen at WKU Libraries and its community, you may also visit its **[Community Outreach Events and Projects](#)** page