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## UA51/1 Collections & Connections

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## SOKY Book Fest: A fun, free event for the whole family



More than 150 authors for adults and children will be in attendance at this year's Southern Kentucky Book Fest, a free literary event for all ages. The 2009 Book Fest will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., April 18, at the Sloan Convention Center and will feature Elmo puppeteer Kevin Clash, Sweet Potato Queen Jill Conner Browne, best-selling teen author Ellen Hopkins, *A Journal for Jordan* author Dana Canedy, and many others.

Kevin Clash, the man behind the muppet Elmo, has been a puppeteer for "Sesame Street" for over 25 years and is co-executive producer of "Elmo's World." In *My Life as a Furry Red Monster*, Clash talks about growing up in a predominantly African-American suburb of Baltimore, his love of puppetry, how he became Elmo, and what it's like to voice the most popular muppet ever.

Jill Conner Browne is *New York Times* best-selling author of six *Sweet Potato Queen* books. Browne founded the Sweet Potato Queens in the 1980s in Vardaman, Mississippi, when she discovered she lived near the Sweet Potato Queen capital of the world. She is considered one of the nation's leading humor writers and has sold more than 2.2 million copies of her books.

Ellen Hopkins is a poet and award-winning author, with 20 published nonfiction books for children and five *New York Times* bestselling young adult novels-in-verse, including *Crank*, *Burned*, and *Identical*. Her books touch on sensitive issues such as drug addiction, and suicide, letting young adults know they're not alone in their problems.

Raised near Fort Knox, Dana Canedy is the author of *A Journal for Jordan* inspired by the 200-page journal that her fiancé Charles Monroe King wrote for their son before being killed on duty in Iraq in 2006. Canedy is a journalist and senior editor at *New York Times*.

Other authors at this year's Fest include television personality Chuck Barris with a new mystery novel with references to Bowling Green, southern historian and Lincoln biographer Charles Bracelen Flood, singer-songwriter Janis Ian, and *Sisters Grimm* author Michael Buckley.

SOKY Book Fest attracts readers of all ages who welcome the opportunity to meet their favorite authors and purchase signed copies of their works. The event is a partnership project of WKU Libraries, Warren County Public Library, and Barnes & Noble Booksellers. For more information, visit [www.sokybookfest.org](http://www.sokybookfest.org) or contact Tracy Harkins, Community Outreach Manager for WKU Libraries, at (270) 745-5016.



## Kentucky Writers Conference kicks off Book Fest weekend



Book Fest authors will give attendees the benefit of their wisdom at the Kentucky Writers Conference on Friday, April 17th at Bowling Green Community College at Western Kentucky University's South Campus. FREE workshops on dialogue, character development, grants for writing, nonfiction topics and songwriting are some of those that will be presented during this day-long event. Sessions begin at 8:30 a.m., run for 75 minutes each, and are open to anyone who would like to attend including high school and college students. For more information contact Kristie Lowry at 745-4502.



# Calendar of Events

## Upcoming Events

**April 16:**  
Far Away Places  
*Viking Voyages*  
with Dr. Michael Trapasso  
Barnes & Noble Booksellers  
7:00 p.m.

**April 16:**  
Screening of *American Drummer Boy*  
Kentucky Library & Museum  
Reception: 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.  
Screening: 5:30 p.m.-9 p.m.

**May 17:**  
Sunday Spinners  
Kentucky Library & Museum  
1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

**June 5:**  
Bowling Green Gallery Hop  
Kentucky Library & Museum  
5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

**June 6:**  
Appraisal Day  
Kentucky Library & Museum  
9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

## Literary Events

**April 17:**  
Kentucky Writers Conference  
WKU South Campus  
8:30 a.m.-2:45 p.m.  
745-4502

Meet the Authors Reception  
For More Information  
Contact: 745-5016

**April 18:**  
SOKY Book Fest  
Sloan Convention Center  
9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
[www.sokybookfest.org](http://www.sokybookfest.org)

## Hundreds visit US Bank Celebration of the Arts



More than 500 art enthusiasts turned out to celebrate the opening of the 2009 US Bank *Celebration of the Arts* Open Art Exhibition. This month-long show included nearly 400 works submitted by more than 200 artists competing in the professional or amateur divisions. Juror Mitch Eckert of the University of Louisville awarded prizes in seven different categories, including ceramics, sculpture, fiber arts, works on paper, photography, watercolor and painting. C. David Jones won Best of Show with his painting titled "The Butcher."



## To Kill a Mockingbird actress appears at Kentucky Library & Museum as part of Big Read

Actress Mary Badham, who played the character "Scout" in the 1962 film *To Kill a Mockingbird* with Gregory Peck, spoke at Western Kentucky University's Kentucky Library & Museum to a group of 125 on February 10 in connection with the Southern Kentucky Book Fest Big Read program. This year's Big Read focused on the classic book *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. Ms. Badham's appearance was the first of three special celebrity and author appearances that took place in Bowling Green and the surrounding area. Ms. Badham's appearance was moderated by WBKO anchor Gene Birk and was free and open to the public.

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## WKU's Federal Depository celebrates its 75th Anniversary



Close to a hundred administrators, faculty, students and community members met at WKU's Helm Library on March 27 to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Federal Depository at WKU Libraries. Guest speakers Congressman Brett Guthrie and Dr. Edward Yager from the Political Science

Department expressed the importance of the Federal Depository from global and regional perspectives.

According to Rosemary Meszaros, Associate Professor and Depository Librarian, there are 1,250 Federal Depositories in the United States and WKU is one of 20 in Kentucky offering information from all three branches of the Government to the public.

Dr. Mike Binder, Dean of WKU Libraries, talked about the Libraries' relationship with the U.S. Government. "We share the Government's interest in keeping the public educated and informed. We have been a proud partner with the United States Government for 75 years and look forward to continuing our relationship for many years to come."





## University Libraries welcomes new Director of Development Josh Hawkins

Josh Hawkins graduated from Western Kentucky University in 2003 with a Bachelor of Arts in History and Social Studies. He is currently enrolled in the WKU Master of Public Administration program and is expected to graduate in December 2009. After spending three years as a student in the Phonathon program, Josh began his career in Institutional Advancement as an office associate in the Office of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving at WKU.

In January 2008, Josh was hired by Western as the Director of Development for Co-Curricular Activities. His responsibilities included the areas of Student Affairs, Campus Services, Honors College, DELO,

Leadership Studies, University College and several others. In March 2009, Josh began serving as Director of Development for University Libraries and Student Affairs.

## WKU Libraries Education Curator wins Kentucky History Award

Christy Spurlock, Education Curator for the Kentucky Library & Museum at WKU Libraries, received the Kentucky Historical Society's Frank R. Levstik Award for Professional Service at an awards ceremony at the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History in Frankfort, Kentucky earlier this month.

The annual Kentucky History Awards ceremony recognizes outstanding achievements by individuals, business and civic leaders, communities, museums and history organizations throughout the Commonwealth in the field of history.

In her tenure at WKU, Spurlock has enhanced a wide variety of popular online and in-house resources for educators including the museum's popular traveling trunks which are used

by nearly 5,000 students annually. Spurlock was instrumental in creating the Southern Kentucky Educational Attractions Association to increase awareness of community-wide attractions and has orchestrated three "Christmas in Kentucky" programs at the Kentucky Library & Museum, drawing in hundreds of visitors from the region annually.



## WKU Libraries Professor awarded New Faculty Scholarship



Nancy Richey, Assistant Professor for Library Special Collections, was recently awarded a New Faculty Scholarship to pursue research into the life of influential

Kentucky guitarist Moses Rager. The \$4,000 scholarship awarded to Richey is part of a competitive grant program at

WKU and is offered for full-time, tenure-track WKU faculty within the first three years of appointment to the University or following promotion to assistant professor rank. Richey's research subject, Moses Rager, is credited with teaching Merle Travis and is known for his unique thumb-finger picking style. With financial assistance from the grant, Richey said, "I hope to produce a monograph about his contributions to the arts of Kentucky."

# Calendar of Events

## Kentucky Library & Museum Exhibits

April 17-May 17:  
2009 WKU Spring Senior Art Exhibition  
Kentucky Library & Museum

April 24-May 17:  
Interior Design Senior Thesis show

May 22-June 7:  
KHQS Quilt Show

June 1-August 30:  
Photograph Exhibit from KYLM collections "Portrait of a Town: Cave City, Kentucky"

August 10-21:  
Duncan Hines Art Show

## Java City Performances

April 22:  
Avery Hovey

April 29:  
Tyrone Cotton

## Summer Day Camps

June 1-5:  
Backyard History Camp

June 8-12:  
Kentucky Clay Camp

June 15-19:  
Fine Art Camp

June 22-26:  
Exploring Cultures Camp

To learn more, visit us online at [www.wku.edu/library](http://www.wku.edu/library) or e-mail us at [libraries@wku.edu](mailto:libraries@wku.edu)

Layout by K. Lafferty

*Collections & Connections* is a benefit for Friends of Libraries & Museum. For additional information about Friends of Libraries & Museum or to renew your membership, please call 270-745-6977 or visit our website at [www.wku.edu/library](http://www.wku.edu/library).





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## Friends of WKU Libraries & Museum contributions support critical needs

The Friends of WKU Libraries and Museum program allows community members to support the WKU Libraries as it continues to serve the needs of students, faculty, staff and patrons around the world. This membership group provides much needed operating dollars that allow for the purchase of books and equipment, restoration and conservation of artifacts in the special collections, purchase of periodicals and journals, and outreach programming to name a few. With generous gifts, more can be done to truly make the WKU Libraries System the best in the region and beyond.

Memberships are yearly-based on receipt of the membership gift. For example, if you join in March, your membership would be for one year to be renewed in March. Whereas, if you joined in July, your membership would be for one year to be renewed the following July. A gift is defined as any monetary or

in-kind gift of \$25 or more to any area of the University Libraries.

As a part of the Friends of WKU Libraries & Museum, members will enjoy library borrowing and museum exhibit privileges; discounts for the gift shop, camps, and workshops; a subscription to the *Collections & Connections* newsletter; and special invitations to events, lectures and other library-related programs. Memberships will be tiered in the following levels:

Membership Level	Gift Amount	Discount Benefit for Gift Shop & Camps
Bronze Level	\$25-\$49	10%
Silver Level	\$50-\$149	15%
Gold Level	\$150-299	20%
Platinum Level	\$300-\$999	25%

For more information contact Jennifer Wilson at 745-6977 or visit [www.wku.edu/library](http://www.wku.edu/library).

### Mission

WKU Libraries' mission is to contribute significantly to the pursuit and application of knowledge through providing access to, delivery of, and use of quality information. In order to meet and exceed this mission, we depend on financial support from friends who recognize the value of WKU Libraries and the services we provide. To learn more how you can support WKU Libraries, call Josh Hawkins at 745-2730.