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Collections & Connections -- Fall-Winter 2010

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Planned exhibit shows why Kentucky is the “horse capital”

American Saddlebred... Rocky Mountain... Morgan... Thoroughbred...
Quarter Horse... it’s no stretch to say Kentucky is considered the horse capital of the world. Throughout its history, Kentucky’s identity has always been closely tied to horses and the horse industry. That is why the Kentucky Museum is making plans and raising funds to showcase a new exhibit called The Horse in Kentucky.

The permanent exhibit will educate and enlighten visitors by exploring the science, function and spirit of the horse. “It will illustrate the horse’s prominence in Kentucky by highlighting breed enthusiasts who share their personal experiences,” said Timothy Mullin, Director of the Kentucky Museum and Project Manager for The Horse in Kentucky. “There is no one better to tell about the horse than those who know the horse best—the farmers, the breeders, the riders, the veterinarians, the jockeys, the therapists, the pioneers—the list goes on. We look forward to sharing their stories here at the Kentucky Museum.”

The majority of storytelling will be done through Kentucky’s horse breeds and personal narratives of Kentuckians past and present who have worked closely with horses, highlighting the bond that forms between horse and master. For more information on how you can help support Horse in Kentucky, go to horseinky.com or call Amy Hardin, Director of Development, at (270) 745-2730.
Over a thousand attend Harry Potter Night

Donned in robes, wizard hats and creature costumes, students and adults came in record numbers to the Kentucky Museum for the Harry Potter Night held Friday, November 12. The free event brought in more than 1,200 fans of the J.K. Rowling series from all over the Bowling Green area.

“With the release of the latest Harry Potter movie, we felt this was the perfect time to offer this event,” said Christy Spurlock, Education Curator of the Kentucky Museum and organizer of the event. “We expected a good turnout and were very pleased with the response.”

Nine stations, staffed by WKU Hogwards students, allowed for plenty of good fun and activities. As participants entered the Museum, the sorting hat assigned them to a house and sent them on their journey for the night. Guests visited Hagrid's Hut to view magical creatures brought in from Kentucky Down Under, sampled sweets at Honeydikes, and designed mysterious potions. Other activities included Harry Potter trivia, wand making, photographs with the cardboard movie characters, and a costume contest.

The event was sponsored by Friends of WKU Libraries & Museum. Pictures from the night are on Facebook under KY Museum and on the blog at wku.edu/library.

Christmas in Kentucky set for December 4th

The Kentucky Museum is hosting its fifth annual Christmas in Kentucky event after the Jaycees annual parade in downtown Bowling Green on Saturday, December 4. Thousands have attended the event over the past four years making it one of the community's largest family programs.

“We look forward to this event every year,” says Christy Spurlock, Education Curator and organizer of Christmas in Kentucky. “There will be plenty to do for all ages and free parking directly across the street.”

The children who attend can visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus, say hello to Big Red, and make an ornament to take home. Mr. Magic will be on hand creating his balloon animals and a cake walk with Duncan Hines prizes is scheduled. Participants can also sample a treat, go on a scavenger hunt or simply enjoy the student-decorated Christmas trees.

Spurlock encourages everyone to bring their cameras for picture opportunities with Santa and Mrs. Claus. For more information, contact Christy Spurlock at 745-6082.
SOKY Reads community-wide program featured author Carolyn Wall’s book *Sweeping Up Glass*

SOKY Reads!, a community “one book” reading project sponsored by the Southern Kentucky Book Fest partners, kicked off at the end of September with book giveaways at various partner locations. The book selected for the project was *Sweeping Up Glass* by Carolyn Wall. Wall’s book takes place in fictional Pope County, Kentucky, and main character Olivia Harker Cross owns a mountain, or thinks she does. Wolves live on the mountain, and Olivia feels a bond with them, as well as with the land. She is hurt and outraged when someone starts to kill her wolves. The plot follows Olivia’s efforts to solve the wolves’ murders, but this book isn’t just a mystery – it is also a love story, a character study, a Southern novel, and an overall extremely well-written book.

Carolyn Wall visited Bowling Green at the end of October as part of SOKY Reads! and was warmly received by many who remembered her from the 2010 Southern Kentucky Book Fest and Kentucky Writers Conference. While in Bowling Green, Carolyn taught a writing workshop to almost 50 aspiring authors of all levels, and gave a presentation to members of the community about her book, background, and writing career. Carolyn also managed to fit in lunch with the Divas, a local book club selected from among the many who read *Sweeping Up Glass* as part of the community reading project.

SOKY Reads! was a great success in terms of number of books given away, read, and discussed. The search is on now for the community’s “one book” for the 2011 SOKY Reads!

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**SOKY Book Fest partners sponsor “Fall into Books”**

Bowling Green, Ky. – The Southern Kentucky Book Fest partners brought two best-selling children’s authors and a well-known children’s illustrator to area schools November 14-20 in connection with their Fall into Books event to promote children’s literacy. *New York Times* best-selling author Laurie Halse Anderson visited Bowling Green High School and South Warren High School November 17. Anderson is the author of numerous books for children of all ages including the young adult books *Speak* and *Chains*.

Award winning author Crystal Hubbard and illustrator Robert McGuire visited Dishman-McGinnis and Oakland Elementary November 18 and Warren Elementary November 19. Hubbard and McGuire are the 2010 winners of the fourth annual WKU Libraries’ Evelyn Thurman Young Readers Book Award for their picture book *The Last Black King of the Kentucky Derby*. The story is a biography of Jimmy Winkfield, who battled racism and other obstacles on the road to becoming one of horseracing’s best jockeys and in 1902 the last African American to win the Kentucky Derby. The authors received their award at a luncheon at the Kentucky Museum on November 19. The award honors the memory of former WKU Librarian Evelyn Thurman who made significant contributions to children’s librarianship and literacy during her 25 years of service.

The SOKY Book Fest partnered with WKU Athletics to cap off Fall into Books with “Books & Baskets” at the Lady Toppers home opener November 18. Fans donated new or gently used children’s books to receive one free reserved ticket to the game. Donated books will be given to area organizations that support children in need.

SOKY Book Fest is a partnership project of WKU Libraries, Warren County Public Library, and Barnes & Noble Booksellers. For more information, visit sokybookfest.org.
Baylis speaks on value of research during 2010 Open Access Week

Dr. Gordon Baylis, WKU Vice President for Research, discussed the tyranny and democracy of knowledge during Open Access Week 2010 at Helm Library this past October.

“We were very pleased Dr. Baylis was able to speak during Open Access Week,” said Connie Foster, Department Head for WKU Libraries Technical Services. “His discussion reinforces the significance of WKU’s TopSCHOLAR®, a free and open research and creative activity database.”

Over 700 items collected during fourth food drive

WKU Libraries recently completed its fourth food drive, collecting more than 700 food items for a local community pantry. “This was definitely our best drive yet,” said Paula Bowles, Library Public Services Circulation Assistant, “For every food item brought to Cravens 4th floor, we forgave $1 of the student’s fines up to $15.”

According to Bowles, there were not only more donations, but larger items. “Along with the traditional canned items, we received flour, sugar, coffee, potatoes and other food items that cost more than a dollar to donate. It was just terrific,” said Bowles.

Food was taken at any WKU library location. However, to have fees forgiven, food was brought to the fourth floor of Cravens Library. The food drive ran from November 1-19 and donated items were given to Saint Vincent de Paul.

The October 2010 issue of College & Research Libraries News magazine features Main Street by Granville Mitchell as its cover illustration. Mitchell’s painting forms part of the Kentucky African American Art collection in the Raymond Cravens Library.

Special Collections faculty Christy Spurlock, Donna Parker and Sandy Staebell presented “Stars, Bars, and More Cars! Challenges and Opportunities in Museum Planning” at the American Association for State and Local History annual conference held in Oklahoma City this past September.
February
2nd
Rachel Pearl, Nashville singer/songwriter

8th
NOISEJOI, Bowling Green Neo-soul band

16th
Bradlee Burtner, Nashville singer/songwriter

22nd
Sarah Peacock, Atlanta singer/songwriter

March
2nd
Matthew Fogle, Nashville Christian rock artist

17th
St. Patrick’s Day Concert, Library Leprechauns and Prof. Tom Hunley

23rd
Liberation, Bowling Green Rock band

29th
Zingara, Glasgow belly-dance troupe

April
6th
D-Lux and Drian, Louisville rap artists

12th
Banjo Bill and CJ, Bowling Green folk musicians

20th
Technology vs Horse, Bowling Green Alt-rock band

Follow Us

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WKU Libraries faculty member Jack Montgomery sings with his band Watersprite. Band members are wearing masks as part of their presentation of the 1960s novelty song “The Witchdoctor” that was performed this fall at Greener Groundz.


Above: Kevin Renick plays inside Java City. Right: Erin Milliken wows the crowd outside of Java City.

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Spotlight on Faculty

- Nancy Richey’s book *Images of America: Barren County* was recently published by Arcadia Publishing.
- Carol Watwood received a grant from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine.
- Charles Smith received a Faculty Research Grant to edit a travel diary kept by Alfred Russel Wallace.
- The *Far Away Places* series coordinated by Peggy Wright and Brian Coutts received two grants from the Global Encounters Program.
- Christy Spurlock received the “Emerging Professional Award” from the Kentucky Museum and Heritage Alliance.
Speakers present topics both close to home and far away

WKU Librarian Nancy Richey speaks on her latest book, *Images of America: Barren County.*

The *Kentucky Live* and *Far Away Places* speakers continue to delight audiences with their vast experience and knowledge from all over the world. *Kentucky Live*’s series which promotes southern culture kicked off the fall season with Mark Wetherington, Executive Director of the Filson Historical Society in Louisville, who spoke on *Steamboating on the Western Waters.* To “spice” up the series, Chef Albert Schmid from Sullivan University, discussed culinary tourism; and WKU Libraries’ Nancy Richey gave a special Glasgow presentation covering her new book *Images of America: Barren County.* November speakers Kenny and Beverly Mattingly, owners of Kenny’s Farmhouse Cheese, discussed their business and the story behind their award winning cheese.

The *Far Away Places* series brings countries or locations not always readily visited into the limelight. Topics this fall included *Rights Movements in the Ukraine* with Sarah Phillips from Indiana University; *Underwater Archaeology in the Mediterranean* with John Hale from the University of Louisville; and Medellin, Colombia was the spotlighted country in November with Holli Drummond from WKU and John Dizgun from the Kentucky Institute for International Studies.

Programs are at Barnes & Noble on Thursday evenings at 7 pm. with Friends of the WKU Libraries & Museum as the sponsor. For more information on upcoming programs, go to wku.edu/library and click on the link under events.

**Kentucky Live!**

**February 10**

German Jackboots: Housing German Prisoners of War in Kentucky

Antonio Thompson, Dept. of History and Philosophy, Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, TN

**March 3**

To Make Madness Beautiful: The Creation of a Kentucky Tragedy

Matthew Schoenbachler, Dept. of History, University of North Alabama, Florence, AL

**April 7**

The Modern South: So Much to Consider

Janna McMahan, Kentucky novelist

**Far Away Places**

**February 17**

China’s Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow: A Look at a City Called Tianjin

Haiwang Yuan, Dept. of Library Public Services, WKU Libraries

**March 17**

Climbing Mt. Everest: Tibet, 2010

John All, Dept. of Geography & Geology, WKU

**April 21**

Bolivia and the United States: The Ties that Bind and Constrict

James Siekmeier, Dept. of History, West Virginia Univ., Morgantown, WV

All speaker series are held at Barnes & Noble at 7 pm
As part of MASTER Plan, the new student orientation at Western Kentucky University, WKU Libraries held two separate events that drew in hundreds to both its main campus library and the Kentucky Museum. The MASTER Plan helps transition students to campus life with classes and programs during the day and social events in the evening. One event was “Snacks in the Stacks: Casino-style” which was held at Helm-Cravens Library from 8:30-10:00 pm and the other was “Ghost Tours” ending at the Kentucky Museum from 10 pm-midnight.

“Our goal was to encourage students to come through our doors,” said Jennifer Wilson, coordinator for the event. “We want all students to feel comfortable coming to the libraries. This event not only allowed students to put us in a positive light, but they were able to see what the library has to offer, get a feel for the layout, and meet faculty and staff that will be assisting them with their future research needs.”

Students who attended the event played casino games such as the slot machine, Texas Hold ‘em and 21; ate pizza and sweets; watched a magician; built amazing card houses; visited the palm reader; showed off their personalities at the photography station; and participated in a “poker walk” that took them to different locations throughout the library. After the games concluded, students waited for their names to be drawn for free t-shirts, college “goodie” baskets, and several other door prizes.

Later in the night, WKU Libraries participated in the highly popular “Ghost Tour.” More than 300 students began their tour at the Guthrie Tower and walked the campus as MASTER Plan guides provided eerie tales of WKU and its legendary ghosts. Students completed the tour by entering the Kentucky Museum for a darkened stroll of various galleries. Costumed characters and candlelight helped set the spooky mood. WKU Libraries faculty member Jonathan Jeffrey performed as legendary psychic Edgar Cayce and spoke of his life as a young man in Kentucky.

“We were very pleased with the turnout and the students had a terrific time,” said Christy Spurlock, coordinator of the Ghost Tour at the Kentucky Museum. “It was a great opportunity for the students to discover the Kentucky Museum, and hopefully the first of many programs they will attend at the Museum.”

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Welcome our new faculty & staff

Amanda Drost
Kentucky Library Cataloger

John Gottfried
Business Librarian

Robert Harbison
Owensboro Campus Librarian

Amy Hardin
Development Director

Darlene Malosh
Owensboro Library Assistant

Tammera Race
Science/Technology Cataloger

Amy Slowik
Electronic Resources Librarian

Lisa Miller and Nikole Wolfe
Weekend Librarians
Java City at Helm Library gets a welcomed new look

At the beginning of this academic year, students entering Helm Library were impressed as they entered the newly renovated Java City.

“I really like the new look,” said WKU Junior Cassandra Matthews. “Tables are much larger and will accommodate both my book and binder along with whatever I’m eating or drinking.”

As a bonus, more food items are also on the menu. Varieties of Biscuit Soufflés, paninis, soups and specialty iced drinks called Javalanche are now available.

“Java City has always been a favorite spot for many students,” said Mike Binder, Dean of WKU Libraries. “The new contemporary look and additional menu items have definitely been a wonderful enhancement.”

Dozens of Residence Hall staffers attended the grand opening the week before the semester began. Aramark, Java City’s parent company, offered complimentary coffee and special treats to the upper classmen as they browsed the beautiful new facility.

Work begins for Confucius Institute exhibit at Helm

Earlier this year, WKU became the first Confucius Institute in Kentucky and one of approximately 70 across the nation. Recently, renovations began for the cultural exhibit and collection of the Confucius Institute (CI) on the first floor of Helm Library.

“WKU Libraries is very proud to be involved with such a wonderful partnership,” said Mike Binder, Dean of WKU Libraries.

According to Eric Fisher, Facilities Coordinator for Helm-Cravens Library, approximately 3,400 square feet is being devoted to the new exhibit and collection. “The reference area, its materials and computer workstations have been relocated to allow for space for the displays and shelving,” said Fisher.

The area, located at the entrance to Helm, will include a permanent cultural media center with interactive displays, traditional Chinese décor and an extensive collection of Chinese books, videos and other materials. The projected date for completion is Spring 2011.