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WKU University Libraries

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WKU Libraries celebrated Kentucky Literacy Week

Several faculty, staff, and community members participated in a “Read-In at the ERC” this past March during Kentucky Literacy Celebration Week. WKU Libraries and the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences’ School of Teacher Education partnered to offer the program at the Educational Resources Center (ERC) in the new Gary A. Ransdell Hall on WKU’s campus. Participants were invited to bring their favorite book, appropriate for all ages, and read a short passage from it to honor literacy in Kentucky.

“We wanted to commemorate the importance of literacy in Kentucky by asking people to share a few lines of their favorite book with others,” says Roxanne Spencer, Coordinator for the Educational Resources Center.

Dr. Jennifer Montgomery, assistant professor, literacy education, in the School of Teacher Education, added, “It was great to see the children and adults who joined us enjoy and share favorite books and reflect on the importance of literacy.”

During the week everyone was also invited to “DEAR”—Drop Everything and Read – for fifteen minutes as another way to celebrate literacy in Kentucky. Literary works by several WKU Faculty were also on display at the ERC. The Kentucky Literacy Celebration, declared by First Lady Jane Beshear, began Monday, February 28 and continued until Friday, March 4.



Collections & Connections

SOKY Book Fest draws thousands of reading fans to Bowling Green

The 13th annual Southern Kentucky Book Fest brought thousands of people to the Carroll Knicely Conference Center on Friday and Saturday, April 15 and 16. The state’s largest literary event kicked off on Friday with the return of Children’s Day headlined with a talk by Judith Viorst, bestselling author of *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*, and many other books for children and adults. School children, teachers, and members of the community enjoyed this day



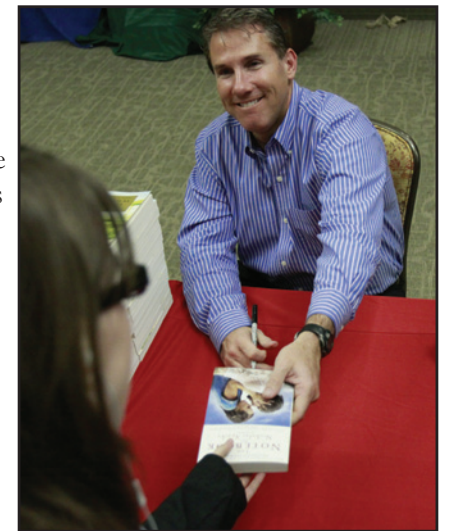
filled with presentations, crafts, and (best of all) a chance to interact with authors and buy their books!

Along with Children’s Day, Friday was the day for the 8th annual Kentucky Writers Conference. The Conference drew record crowds this year with presentations on finding a literary agent, writing a query letter, memoir writing, and much more. Estimated attendance for the event was 150 people, some of whom traveled hundreds of miles to spend a day soaking up knowledge from published authors.



It is unique among writers conferences because the Book Fest partnership is able to provide this opportunity free of charge, thanks to the generous support of Dollar General.

Saturday brought the main event, and this year’s Book Fest was the biggest and best one ever. Over 130 authors spent the day signing their books and speaking with readers. Highlights of the day included a special breakfast for students with bestselling author Nicholas Sparks, and presentations and book signings by Mr. Sparks, as well as *Clan of the Cave Bear* author Jean Auel and Pulitzer Prize winner T.J. Stiles. Thanks to the Book Fest’s many generous sponsors, including Jim Johnson, Fruit of the Loom, and Smuckers, who made possible the free events. Proceeds from the sale of books at Book Fest go toward year long literacy events in the region, and organizers are making plans for next year’s event already!



Message from Interim Dean Connie Foster



Campus buildings get windows retrofitted to meet energy, safety, and practical needs. Helm Library recently got such a face-lift with 99 replacement windows. Now WKU Libraries has a window of opportunity to look from within and without at services, systems, and collections.

A new window opened when we accepted the invitation to become an OCLC Research Library Partner, effective July 1, 2011, with participation in challenging and rewarding activities and benefits that will involve forward thinking and innovative library and museum managers and leaders worldwide.

Another window on the world is the continued growth of TopSCHOLAR®, the Research and Creative Activity Database of WKU. As of this writing, we are approaching 6,000 "papers" and have exceeded 200,000 downloads. If one "Googles" TopSCHOLAR®, it shows up either as the first or second hit out of 91,400 results! If you have not visited the site, go to digitalcommons.wku.edu to realize the intellectual capital of WKU faculty, staff and students.

We converted research guides to LibGuides to better integrate curricular support, research needs, and library instruction in a variety of formats and functions. To further support distance learners, we are making a concerted effort, in consultation with each department, to move as many journals to online platforms as possible. Students can now access nearly 30,000 journals through databases, paid subscriptions, and open access (free) models.

Community outreach remains strong with the Southern Kentucky Book Fest, Kentucky Live! Far Away Places and the numerous events, activities, exhibits (like Duncan Hines) and special collections at the Kentucky Library & Museum. These highlights barely touch upon areas of achievement and growth.

Through my window of opportunity as Interim Dean, I look forward to exploring the future of the Libraries as part of the strategic discussions of the future of WKU. WKU is a dynamic academic community. Library faculty, staff, and students are committed to excellence, lifelong learning, and collaborative efforts. We are here to provide research instruction and resources, to engage in scholarship and service, and to advance the quest for knowledge, understanding, innovation, and creativity.

Connie Foster

WKU Libraries announces partnership with world's largest library

WKU Libraries announces its affiliation with Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) Research Library Partnership. The OCLC Research Library Partnership is an influential global collaborative of research libraries, museums, and archives that work with a sophisticated technical capacity, highly skilled on-staff experts and external consultants to achieve significant, innovative and collective action for the benefit of scholars and researchers everywhere.

WKU Libraries will join an elite group of universities within the partnership, including Columbia, Duke, Emory, Cornell, Dartmouth, Princeton, Rutgers, Johns Hopkins, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Yale and many others.

According to Connie Foster, Interim Dean for WKU Libraries, the Partnership is supported by a large team of

experts including information scientists, librarians, archivists, web developers, programmers, and analysts. "Through this new alliance, we will have leading-edge, peer-based opportunities to participate in transnational research collaboratives, to access multifaceted technology, and to explore challenges facing research libraries across the globe," said Foster.

For more information regarding the OCLC Research Library Partnership, go to <http://www.oclc.org/research/partnership/newpartnership.htm>.



Spotlight on Faculty

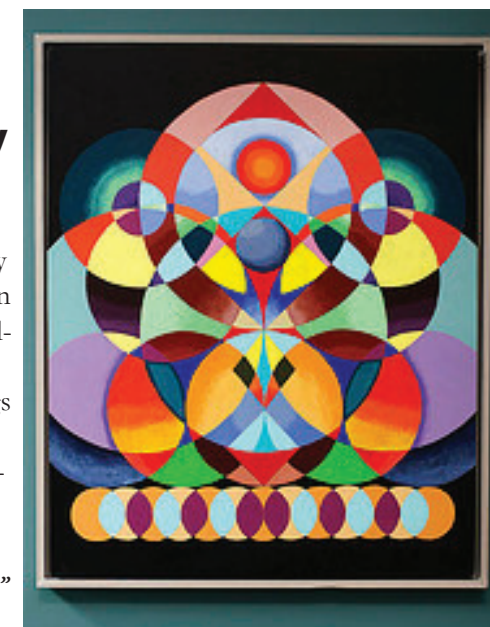
- Sean Kinder, Associate Professor and Humanities & Social Sciences Librarian, received a Research & Creative Activities Program (RCAP) internal grant in the amount of \$1800 to go to UCLA to conduct research in their Special Collections and Film & Television archive for his upcoming biography of Una Merkel.
- Charles Smith, Professor and Science Librarian, was awarded a Research & Creative Activities program (RCAP) internal grant for \$6,350 to cover expenses for a five-week visit to London, England, to research materials connected to evolutionary biologist Alfred Russel Wallace. Smith, who has done extensive research on Wallace, will use his findings to support his book on Wallace's lecture tour to North America in 1886-7.
- Rosemary Meszaros, Associate Professor and Coordinator of Government Documents & Law from Library Public Services, recently won the WKU Libraries Faculty Award for Research and Creativity.
- Christy Spurlock, Assistant Professor and Education Curator from Library Special Collections, recently won the WKU Libraries Faculty Award for Public Services.
- Nancy Richey, Assistant Professor and Image Librarian for Kentucky Library, won a research grant from the Kentucky Library Association to look at the influence of Barren County native Cynthia Mae Carver, "Cousin Emmy" on country music. She was also recently awarded a National Endowment for Humanities grant in the summer scholar program. Richey will be participating in a week-long program giving participants direct experiences in the interpretation of significant historical and cultural sites and the use of archival and other primary evidence.
- Amanda Drost, Assistant Professor and Kentucky Catalog Librarian, received a new faculty grant with plans to document and disseminate the best practices of tribal libraries within Native Americans.
- Tammera Race, Assistant Professor and Science & Technology Catalog Librarian, received a new faculty grant to study Sarah (Sadie) F. Price (1849-1903), a female naturalist and horticulturalist during the Victorian era who lived and worked in Bowling Green.
- Allison Andrews, Assistant Professor and Kentucky Librarian, received a new faculty research grant to study early Kentucky and Tennessee settlers, particularly William Russell who was part of Daniel Boone's party and fought in the Revolutionary War.

WKU Libraries acquires new art and furnishings at Java City

WKU Libraries has recently acquired seven paintings by Phoenix Latino artist Julio Cesar Rodarte. These are on display in Java City's lower level. His art has been collected by corporations and private collectors worldwide.

In addition to the art, new furnishings have also been added with support from the WKU Student Government Association.

Right: Rodarte's piece entitled "Sound Waves."



Digital Milestones...

- Over 6,500 items are available on TopSCHOLAR® with nearly 250,000 downloads as of May 10, 2011.
- A new record for TopSCHOLAR® downloads of Manuscript finding aids was set this past March for a total of 3,383 Manuscript and Folklife Archive finding aids.

Students receive first undergraduate research awards

Western Kentucky University students Andrew Alvey from Warren County and Megan Stohner from Whitley County were awarded the first WKU Libraries and University Experience Undergraduate Research Awards April 26 at WKU's Cravens Library. Alvey was recognized for the best career essay, and Stohner received an award for the best annotated bibliography. Both students received a \$100 cash award along



Above: Instructor Paula Trafton accepts the award from Sara McCaslin on behalf of her student Megan Stohner.

with a plaque honoring their achievements.

Alvey, a freshman from Bowling Green, was surprised to be selected as the top choice. "I was just concentrating on getting the assignment completed," said Alvey. "I was very excited when I won."



According to Tammera Race, WKU librarian and selection committee member, the purpose of the research awards is to recognize the important role of good library research in college academic success. Race noted that "students from University Experience classes are a great fit as they have a final project tied to their research instruction."

Sara McCaslin, Library Skills Coordinator for University Experience, echoes Race's comments: "The award is a way for students to recognize the benefit of good research and to foster it throughout their entire careers."

For more information, contact Carol Watwood, Chair of the Research Award Selection Committee at 270-745-6977.

TopSCHOLAR® posts first conference

WKU's Research and Creative Activity Database TopSCHOLAR® posted its first conference event, The Fair Trade Universities' National Convergence at http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/fair_trade, at Gary Ransdell Hall, March 18-20, 2011, with openly accessible presentations and supplemental material (WKU Resolution and CHH article). The Karst Hydrogeology and Ecosystems, an international conference to be held in Bowling Green, June 8-10, will be another highly significant event on this platform.

"Due to the efforts of faculty, students, and staff leadership this content is available worldwide," said Connie Foster, Interim Dean of Libraries. "We will be glad to work with anyone who has a conference or publication idea and wants to have a presence on TopSCHOLAR®."

WKU Libraries upgrades searching technology with Primo Central

This summer WKU Libraries will launch a new system that will allow research users to search the library's collection—both physical holdings and e-resources—through a single point of access and to receive a single, relevance-ranked list of results.

"Currently users have to go to several different search locations to access materials," said Deana Groves, Acting Head for Library Technical Services and member of the Primo Implementation Committee. "Online researchers today want immediate information; the advantage of Primo is that users will receive results from most of our databases at a single point of entry that are not only meaningful but relevant for their research topic."

The Implementation Committee is working closely with Ex Libris, the host for Primo software, to have the new search tool in place for the fall 2011 academic school year.

Kentucky Museum hosts eighth annual US Bank Art Show

It's truly a summary of the tremendously talented individuals we have within our area," said Donna Parker, Exhibits Curator for the Kentucky Museum.

Perhaps the most tangible measurement for its success was the growth in community support as reflected in sales according to Sandy Staebell, Collection Curator and Museum Registrar. "We had one of the best years for art sales and there was a larger pool of buyers as well," said Staebell.

According to Staebell, 25% of the art sales commission is split between the WKU Art Department and the Kentucky Library & Museum. This year, each department received approximately \$1,200 to use for student scholarships and underwriting the costs of future US Bank shows.



Hundreds of artists, supporters and patrons kicked off The US Bank *Celebration of the Arts* exhibition Sunday, February 27 at the Kentucky Museum. The open art exhibition, which ran through April 2, is the largest of its kind in South Central Kentucky.

"We are very pleased to continue our sponsorship for Celebration of the Arts," said Craig Browning, Regional President for US Bank. "This show is the premiere art event in the region and we look forward to it every year."

From paintings and photographs to sculptures, ceramics and fiber arts, there was not an art enthusiast in attendance who couldn't find something they favored.

This year, close to 400 works of art were entered. "We're pleased that so many regional artists participate in the show.



WKU Libraries receives NEH grant to sponsor Alcott events

WKU Libraries has received a \$2500 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to present a number of events on American writer Louisa May Alcott. The programs will be the focus of WKU Libraries' SOKY READS! series in September 2011 and are based on *Louisa May Alcott: The Woman Behind Little Women*, written by Harriet Reisen. Alcott is recognized around the world for *Little Women* but few know her as the bold, compelling woman who grew up in the innermost circle of Transcendentalist and antislavery movements, served as a Civil War army nurse, and led a secret literary life writing pulp fiction.

"We have plans for a number of events that will explore Louisa May Alcott's life, work, and times," said Interim Library Dean Connie Foster. "Besides her best known children's novel, Alcott authored many other stories for adults, such as *Hospital Sketches*, an account of Alcott's time spent as a Civil War nurse, and, *Behind the Mask*, one



of Alcott's recently discovered thrillers. Our library is excited to explore these little known works which provide a unique perspective on American history. We look forward to sharing the biography and documentary with our community."

WKU professors Dorothea Browder, Sandra Hughes, and Walker Rutledge will facilitate the events scheduled for September. In conjunction with the events, Warren County Public Library will also plan and organize a community-wide reading program and give local residents the option of reading *Little Women*, the historical fiction book *March* by Geraldine Brooks, or the biography of Louisa May Alcott.

Louisa May Alcott programs in libraries are sponsored by the American Library Association Public Programs Office with the support of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The schedule will be made available in June at www.sokybookfest.org.

Summer Events

Camps

June 6-10
Clay Camp
Ages 6-9

June 13-17
Clay Camp
Ages 10-14

June 20-24
China, Explore Its Culture
Ages 6-12

June 27-30
Art Camp
Ages 6-12

Gallery Hops
June 3
Gallery Hop

August 12
Gallery Hop

Thanks to Collections & Connections Contributors

Connie Foster
Tracy Harkins
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Jack Montgomery
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Haiwang Yuan

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Kentucky Museum brings history and culture to life with its educational outreach programs

Enriching and educating lives is what the Kentucky Museum Education faculty and staff do best. In March, approximately 500 elementary age students and educators from regional schools participated in Civil War Days. Students got a taste of what it was like during the Civil War as they visited the Felts log cabin, watched Dr. Trapasso—donned in military uniform—talk about life during the war, danced around the ballroom, and tried their own handwriting with the traditional ink and scroll pens. Nancy Baird, history specialist, talked to them about the soldiers' health conditions as a result of the times.

"The medicine session was my favorite," said Briarwood 5th grader Madeleine Wilson. "It was interesting to learn about the diseases and how the



soldiers became ill because the surgeons didn't clean off their tools."

Christy Spurlock, Education Curator for the Kentucky Museum, coordinated the program that was offered on two separate days. "It was a terrific turn out," said Spurlock. "We actually sold out completely for both days."

In addition to Civil War days, the Education Department has held numerous school field trips, school break camps, craft workshops for adults and visual art opportunities for the entire community.



Left: Nancy Baird, former Kentucky Library history specialist, shows the school children how the soldiers wrapped their wounds during the war at Civil War Days.

Right: Participants worked together to complete their "Soteria Green Baskets." Area expert Beth Hester instructed attendees on how to make the functional basket.
Photo by: Tim Harris



Pictured left is the "Three Saints" icon featured in an exhibit in the Owensboro Museum of Fine Art until the end of May.

Collection from Kentucky Museum now on display at Owensboro Museum of Fine Art

From now through May 31, artwork from the Kentucky Library & Museum is on view at the Owensboro Museum of Fine Art as part of "The Divine in Art" exhibit, a major survey of art in a religious genre collected or produced in this region in the past century. Two Russian icons, "Christ Pantocrator" and "Three Saints," from the C. Perry Snell

Collection are featured in the exhibit which consists of more than 150 works that date from the 15th century to the present.

For more information about the exhibit, contact the Owensboro Museum of Fine Art online at www.omfa.us or by calling 270-685-3181.

Right: WKU Libraries' "Far Away Places" international talk series featured Professor John All from WKU's Department of Geography & Geology. All scaled the treacherous northeast ridge and reached the summit of Mount Everest, at 29,035 ft., the world's highest mountain.



Below: At the final Java City Concert of the semester, Sean Giddings singer/songwriter/WKU employee entertained the crowd with his thoughtful lyrics and sophisticated song stylings.



Above: The Crowd at Java City was thrilled by local music legend and humorist "Banjo Bill" aka William Green as he performed his favorites.

Java City programming is sponsored by Independence Bank.

Museum Exhibits

Current Exhibits

Finding Our Way: Maps and Mapmaking

Snell Franklin Decorative Arts Gallery

A Star in Each Flag: Conflict in Kentucky

Recommended by Duncan Hines

Felts Log House

Western 100: A Century of Spirit

Roads, Rails and Rivers: Warren County Then and Now

Hascal Haile: Guitar-maker to the Stars

Taking the Mystery out of Prehistory

Upcoming Exhibits

Shooting the Big Shots (May 31-September 30)

Yours for the Carters: The Vintage Sound Collectings of Freeman Kitchens (August 22-November 11)

Summer Museum Hours
wku.edu/museum

Summer Library Hours
wku.edu/library

Design by K. Lafferty