

Summer 2005

# Collections & Connections

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# Collections & Connections

 Westen Kentucky University  
Libraries Newsletter  
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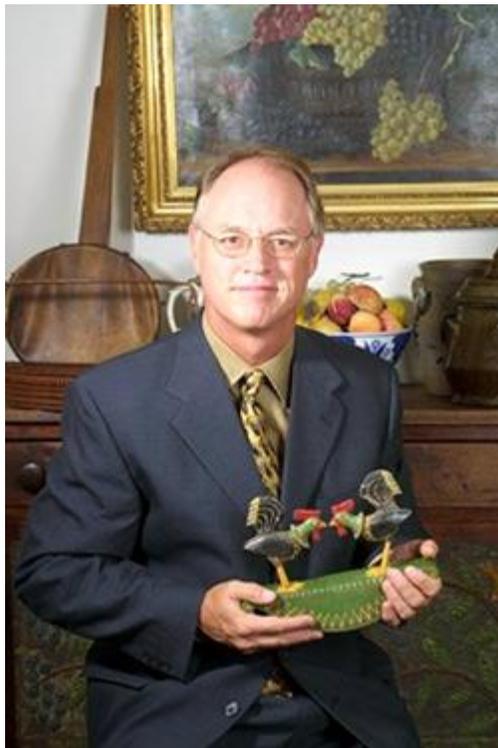
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## Headliners

### Popular 'Roadshow' Appraiser Headlines "Appraisal Day"

by Earlene Chelf



Because of extensive knowledge of antiques and collectibles, Ken Farmer (above) is known as the "go to" guy on PBS's "Antiques Roadshow," where he has been a guest appraiser for ten years

Ken Farmer, one of the most popular and highly respected appraisers on PBS' "Antiques Roadshow," was the featured appraiser at the Kentucky Library and Museum's second annual "Appraisal Day," 10am – 3pm, Saturday, May 21, at the Kentucky Building.

This year, appraisals were given on "Tools, Toys and Textiles," and Farmer appraised mainly tools, even though he is also qualified to appraise musical instruments, furniture, art, folk art and decorative arts. Farmer was assisted by David Chelf, certified appraiser and owner of David Chelf Auctions/Real Estate, Smiths Grove.

Toy appraisals was handled by two people: Eric Jodlbaur, who is with the Cecil County Historical Society, Elkton, Md., and Timothy Mullin, head of WKU's Library Special Collections. Textile appraisers was Helen Thompson, from Lexington, Ky., who appraised quilts and coverlets, and Mary Teloh, from Nashville, who specializes in a variety of textiles and vintage clothing. Sandy Staebell, Kentucky Museum Registrar, assisted the textile appraisers.

There was more! At 7pm, Ken Farmer was featured at an informal gathering so sponsors,

Library/Museum Associates and other special guests could have an additional opportunity to interact with him. Following the reception and dinner, Farmer appraised a limited number of items for sponsors and talked about his experiences on the "Antiques Roadshow," where he has been a guest appraiser since 1995.

Jayne Pelaski  
Jan Rensch  
Haiwang Yuan

**Dean of Libraries**  
Michael Binder

There was more still! To begin positioning this annual event as a full-blown antiques show – with appraisals – invitations have been sent to area antique dealers, inviting them to set up booths and sell antiques. This year, dealers were limited to five and display space went to the first responders. Next year, the show will be expanded to include dozens of antique dealers.

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## Kentucky Literary Awards Honor the Commonwealth's Writers

by Jonathan Jeffrey

The Kentucky Literary Awards for excellence in fiction, nonfiction and poetry were announced on Friday, April 15, at WKU's Carroll Knicely Conference Center.

The winners were:

Fiction: Silas House for *The Coal Tattoo*, winner; Joey Goebel for *Torture the Artist*, finalist.

Nonfiction: Jo Anna Holt-Watson for *Taste of the Sweet Apple*, winner; Karen Salyer McElmurray for *Surrendered Child*, finalist.

Poetry: James Baker Hall for *The Total Light Process*, winner; Mark Jarman for *To the Green Man*, finalist.

Each winner received a handsome commemorative plaque and a \$1,000 prize.

"Our stellar panel of judges has once again sifted through a record number of Kentucky Literary Award nominations and have made outstanding selections," commented Jonathan Jeffrey, Chair of the Kentucky Literary Awards Selection Committee. "This year the panel was able to proceed one step farther in its deliberations, as it was selecting a winner and a finalist in each category," concluded Jeffrey.

The Kentucky Literary Awards were initiated in 2002, and past winners read like a list of Kentucky literati: Bobby Ann Mason, Silas House, Charles Semones, and Z.Z. Packer, to name a few. Nominations for the 2005 Kentucky Literary Awards are now being accepted. Eligible books must have been written by a Kentucky author or have a Kentucky-related theme and have been published within the 2005 calendar year. The guidelines for the awards can be found at the [Southern Kentucky BookFest's website](#). Nominations may be submitted in writing, by e-mail, fax, or by using the [online form](#) on the above website.

The partners for the Southern Kentucky Book Fest gratefully acknowledge Integra Bank



From left to right: Jo Anna Holt-Watson, James Baker Hall, Silas House, and Jonathan Jeffrey, Chairman of the Kentucky Literary Awards.



for underwriting the awards this past year and WKU Dining Services for providing an outstanding awards luncheon.

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## **Cravens Elevator Renovations**

by Dan Forrest and Matt Bogard



In November, 2004, both elevators in the Cravens tower were temporarily out of service for complete restoration. With the help of ABC Elevator Company we were able to use one elevator on a limited basis in the mornings to move books and packages. Patrons unable to traverse the stairs could be assisted by staff in circulation. By April, 2005, the first elevator was restored to service for floors 4—9. The second elevator was initially planned to be finished weeks later. The total cost of the project has been estimated to be around \$279,000. The new elevators have improved lighting, a nice new wood panel on the sides and attractive tile floors.

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## **New Furniture for Helm and Cravens**

by Matthew Bogard



WKU Libraries has received classroom improvement funds totaling \$49,654. Two areas that are being improved by this funding include Helm room 100 and Cravens floors 7-9. While Cravens 7-9 will receive new love seats and chairs with upgraded fabric patterns, perhaps the most interesting project will be the conversion of Helm room 100 into a modern leisure reading room. This room has been used to store older periodicals in the past but now will be an open space with new furnishings, including what we anticipate to be the most comfortable chairs in the library.

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## **Java City Noontime Concert Series**

by Jack Montgomery

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Java City, the University Libraries new coffeehouse, located in the old Helm Library lobby, has just completed its 2005 noontime concert series. The series featured local and regional musicians performing during the noontime lunch period. Recent artists have included an ole-time dulcimer band, a harpist, Irish balladeer, as well as a bluegrass trio and an alternative rock band. The series has become very popular and usually draws a large crowd to the Java City facility and the Main Library.

## **WKU Libraries Participates in Civil War Center's Development**

by Earlene Chelf

The refrain of a well known spiritual goes, "Ain't gonna study war no more, ain't gonna study war no more." This is not the theme, however, for Western Kentucky University's History Department, which, with the help of several other University departments and administrators, has established a research center to encourage the study of war—specifically, the Civil War, and more specifically, the Western Theater.

Andrew McMichael, assistant professor of history, along with departmental colleagues Robert Dietle and Marion Lucas, were instrumental in the Center's coming to Western. According to McMichael, the research center, located in the Kentucky Library, will be "a place where scholars come to do research on the Civil War in "the West," with "the West" defined as the states bordering the Mississippi River and on west.

At present the nucleus of the research center is an extensive microfilm collection of Old South, Civil War, and Gilded Age documents and manuscripts, including: Records of Antebellum Southern Plantations from the Revolution through the Civil War; Records of Southern Plantations from Emancipation to the Great Migration; Letters Received by the Attorney General; Civil War Battles and Campaigns; Civil War Unit Histories: Regimental Histories and Personal Narratives; Confederate Military Manuscripts; Papers of Union Staff Officers, 1861-1865; and the Journal of the Congress of the Confederate States of America. These materials were collected from a variety of sources over the years by LexisNexis and purchased from them.

The microfilm augments rather extensive existing Civil War collections of secondary works, newspapers and government documents in WKU's Main Library, plus the Kentucky Library's collections on the Old South and the Civil War, which also includes secondary sources and newspapers, plus soldiers' letters, diaries, maps, unit histories, photographs of Civil War officers, broadsides and more.

A news release announcing the Center's coming to Western states that the goals of the center are: (1) to increase public awareness of the historical importance of the Western

Theater in the outcome of the Civil War; (2) to establish WKU as a center of Civil War research; (3) to build stronger ties with area schools; and (4) to enhance the History Department's graduate program. To achieve these goals, the History Department has developed both short- and long-term goals.

Short-term plans are to open the microfilm collection to researchers in June, 2005 with a major opening event in September. Long-term plans are to use the Frockt Family Professorship in History endowment to hire a Civil War specialist to "anchor" the Center, to offer weekend seminars and summer workshops, and ultimately to host a scholarly conference in 2008.

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## **Kentucky Writers Conference 2005**

By Sean Kinder

The second annual Kentucky Writers Conference took place at the Bowling Green Community College on April 14-15, 2005, and proved to be a rousing success. With nearly 400 people in attendance, this year's conference offered WKU students, faculty, staff, community members, and local area high school students a wide variety of talented writers and presenters. Among the participants: children's book author Jerrie Oughton, illustrators Christopher and Jeannette Canyon, journalists Keith Runyon and Wade Hall, songwriters Mark Melloan and Heidi Howe, novelists Teresa Medeiros and Scott Elliott, poets Steven Cope and Jennifer Gresham, and playwright Mary Hall Surface, just to name a few.



This conference, which is a collaborative effort between Western Kentucky University Libraries, WKU English Department, and WKU Bookstore, was overseen by Dr. Michael Binder, Dean of Libraries, and Jayne Pelaski, Assistant to the Dean for Community Outreach. Kentucky Writers Conference committee members were David Coverdale, Dory Hudspeth, Tom Hunley (co-chair), Anna Jo Johnson, Sean Kinder, Diana McQuady (co-chair), Jack Montgomery, Jayne Pelaski, Portia Pennington, and Roxanne Spencer (co-chair).

Hoping to build on the success of the conference's first two years, organizers are already planning next year's event, which is scheduled for April 6-7, 2006, at the Bowling Green Community College.

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## Worthy of Note

### New Opac Enhancements

by Katy Roe

There are a few new enhancements on TOPCAT that should help make your searching easier. In the basic search key, an author/creator sorted by title search has been added. If you are searching by a specific author's name, select this option, type in the name, and it will give you a list sorted by titles of that particular author. This is a good way to see exactly what this library holds from that author.

The series/uniform title search has been added as well. This may not be used as much by the public as it will be by staff and faculty, but it allows us to see how our series are showing up in TOPCAT, and it should be easier to search for series titles using this particular option.

These two can be found under the basic search key, but under the guided keyword search drop down box, there is a new search option, table of contents. This is a key word search, and will be very beneficial to those searching if they are looking for a particular title of a story, or chapter, or even a song. This search will search the 505 field in the MARC record, and will display the table of contents for that particular item you are looking for. These new enhancements should be most beneficial to everyone, not just faculty and staff, but students and the general public as well.

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### WKU Libraries' Recent Acquisition of Online Databases

by Bryan Carson and Jue Wang

Western Kentucky University Libraries is always striving to provide the most up-to-date information to our users. During academic year 2004 - 2005, the library has managed to add the following databases to our online database collections:

- *Biblical Archaeology Society Online Archive* – contains the editorial content of each issue of the *Biblical Archaeology Review* (1975 to 2003), *Bible Review* (1985 to 2003), and *Archaeology Odyssey* (1998 to 2003).
- *BIOSIS Previews* – indexes and abstracts articles in the life sciences and biomedical sciences from *Biological Abstracts*.
- *CAB Direct* – covers research and development literature in the fields of agriculture, forestry, human health, human nutrition, animal health and the management and conservation of natural resources.

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- *CQ Researcher* – contains in-depth, non-biased coverage of political and social issues, with regular reports on topics in health, international affairs, education, the environment, technology and the U.S. economy.
- *Literature Online* – contains the full text of over 350,000 works of English and American poetry, drama and prose, along with 136 full-text literature journals, and other key criticism and reference resources.
- *Marquis Who's Who* – features comprehensive profiles on over 1 million of the most accomplished individuals from all fields of endeavor including: government, business, science & technology, the arts, entertainment and sports.
- *Mediamark Reporter* – Contains demographic, lifestyle, and product usage information taken from surveys with over 26,000 consumers.
- *Naxos Music Library* – a comprehensive collection of online classical music including the complete Naxos, Marco Polo and Dacapo catalogues of over 85,000 tracks, including Classical music, Jazz, World, Folk and Chinese music. Naxos also includes notes on the works being played as well as biographical information on composers and artists.
- *ScienceDirect* – provides full text access to science E-Journals published by Elsevier.
- *SciFinder Scholar* – provides indexing and abstracting from Chemical Abstracts and MedLine to articles from over 9,000 journals, patents, conference proceedings, dissertations, technical reports, and books in the field of Chemistry from 1907 to the present. The database also covers chemistry-related information in the fields of biology, engineering, and medicine.
- *TeachingBooks* – contains book guides, author interviews, book readings, thematic booklists, information on book awards, and links to websites in 25 categories.
- *Testing & Education Reference Center* - contains information on private high schools, undergraduate and graduate programs and executive education programs, searchable by location, major, tuition, sports and more. The database also features interactive online practice tests for preparatory examinations including entrance exams and certification and licensing tests.
- *Value Line Investment Survey* – contains information and advice on approximately 1,700 stocks, more than 90 industries, the stock market, and the economy.
- *The Vanderbilt Television News Archive* – contains over 30,000 individual network evening news broadcasts from ABC, CBS, NBC, and CNN, and more than 9,000 hours of special news-related programming including ABC's Nightline since 1989.
- *Wiley InterScience* – provides full-text access to electronic journals published by Wiley.

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## New Stamp Honors Kentuckian Robert Penn Warren

by Jonathan Jeffrey

Using a photograph of Robert Penn Warren from his personal library housed in the Kentucky Library & Museum, the United States Postal Service has issued a stamp honoring the Kentucky native. The stamp, designed by San Francisco artist Will Wilson, features a profile of Warren based on the 1948 photo. The background art recalls a

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political rally scene from Warren's most noted novel, *All the King's Men* (1946). This book won the Pulitzer Prize and inspired an Academy Award-winning film. It is currently being re-made into a major motion picture.

The stamp was unveiled on the centennial of Warren's birth, April 24, 2005, in his hometown of Guthrie, Kentucky. Hundreds of local citizens joined dignitaries, students, and Warren scholars in purchasing first day cancellations of the new stamp, which is the 21st in the Postal Service's Literary Arts Series. The stamp is available nationwide at post offices and Philatelic Centers and online at <http://www.usps.com/shop>.

Robert Penn Warren received scores of awards for his writing, including two additional Pulitzer Prizes for poetry (1958 and 1979) and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. He was also selected the nation's first poet laureate (1986-1987). He taught at Vanderbilt, the University of California, the University of Minnesota, Yale and at Oxford. Over the course of six decades he wrote 16 volumes of poetry, 10 novels, a collection of short stories, and important non-fiction textbooks on fiction and poetry.

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## **Kentucky Library and Museum Fellowship Granted**

by Jonathan Jeffrey

Kelley F. Wright, a doctoral student at the University of Cincinnati, has received the Kentucky Library and Museum Fellowship for 2005. Wright's work at WKU will assist her in completing her dissertation: "Coloring Their World: Americans and Color in the Nineteenth Century." "My dissertation," Wright said, "focuses on the diffusion of color into the everyday lives of Americans living in the nineteenth century. Specifically, I am interested in the social changes both brought on by, and reflected in, average Americans' application of color to what had previously been a more or less homespun world. The goal of my research is to describe the social historical significance of the popularization of color images, textiles, advertising and decorative arts over the course of the century."

Reviewers favored the application because Wright will use a variety of sources in the Kentucky Building. She will be examining printed material such as 19th century books, magazines, newspapers, and ephemera in the Kentucky Library. In Manuscripts, she is specifically interested in the Shaker collections but believes that other collections, such as household account books, will provide information about furnishings, interiors, china, and quilts. The Kentucky Museum offers vast resources for Wright in her resources, particularly the quilt, furniture and textile collections. Wright has a bachelor's degree in psychology from the College of William and Mary and a masters in American history from the University of Cincinnati.

Each year the Kentucky Library and Museum offers one to two fellowships of between \$250 to \$500 for scholars to use for travel and/or copying expenses when they visit the facility. Applicants must provide information about how the Kentucky Library and Museum's collections will benefit their study, and should show how the completed research will aid in the completion of a thesis or dissertation or result in a publication.

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Haiwang Yuan**Dean of Libraries**

## *Applause, Applause!*

### **Award Winning Book Fest!**



The Southern Kentucky Book Fest was awarded two distinct honors from the Kentucky Tourism Council. The Book Fest won honorable mention in the Traverse Award Marketing Campaign category. This is the third consecutive year the Book Fest has received this award. The winner in this category was the Kentucky State Fair Board. The Kentucky Tourism Council presents the Traverse Awards each year to honor the best work in advertising and marketing among Kentucky tourism businesses and organizations.

"The Southern Kentucky Book Fest partners should feel very honored to have received a 2004 Traverse Awards for Excellence in Tourism Marketing because of the record number of entries this year and the outstanding quality of those entries," says Vicki Fitch, Marketing Director for the Bowling Green Area Convention and Visitors Bureau. The second honor bestowed on the Book Fest was being named a "Top Ten Festival or Event" by the Kentucky Tourism Council. Criteria for selection include popularity of the event, its impact on the local tourism economy as well as cultural and historical significance. (Jayne Pelaski)

### **Deana Groves Helps DLTS Get Provost's Initiatives for Excellence Grant for a KERA Project**

Deana Groves, Education Catalog Librarian, Department of Library Technical Services, applied through the Provost's Initiatives for Excellence for a grant for a project, "Making the KERA Legal Document Available Online." Through lots of hard work and support from Connie Foster and Dr. Binder, Deana was awarded this grant for the 2005/2006 academic year. She and a student worker will be scanning and posting on the University's KERA Website the KERA, House Bill 940, Chapter 476 of the Kentucky Acts 1990, from which KERA was born. This project is expected to be started by September, 2005 and will be completed within a year's time. (Katy Roe)

### **Brian Coutts and Sean Kinder Are University Libraries' Award Winners**

Michael Binder

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Dr. Brian Coutts, Head of Department of Library Public Services, has won the 2005 WKU Award for Research/Creativity and **Sean Kinder**, Social Science Librarian of the same department has won the 2005 WKU Award for Public Services. Both were candidates for the university awards in those areas. Brian, a nationally-renowned scholar in librarianship, has just published one more book while working on still another. Meanwhile, he is reviewing reference books and web sites and publishes lists of Best Reference Books and Best Web Sites annually on the *American Library Journal*. Sean is dubbed as one of the best reference librarians by patrons and has been contributing tremendously to the WKU and the Bowling Green communities. (Haiwang Yuan)

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### **Jack Montgomery Authored a Book on Conflict Management**

Jack Montgomery, WKU Libraries Collection Services Coordinator, and Eleanor I. Cook, Serials Coordinator of Appalachian State University, recently have co-authored a book titled *Conflict Management for Libraries: Strategies for a Positive, Productive Workplace*. Using national survey data, case studies and professional conflict consultants, Montgomery and Cook take a unique and innovative approach to this difficult and often hidden topic in libraries. Published in American Library Association Editions, the book emphasizes the manager's role of internal management and self-responsibility in the management of interpersonal conflict. (Sue Lynn)

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### **Haiwang Yuan Contributed to an Encyclopedia of Chinese Culture**

*Encyclopedia of Contemporary Chinese Culture* has just been published by Routledge. Haiwang Yuan has contributed 27 articles on such topics as holiday economy, leisure culture, socio-political values, and Western-style Chinese medicine. (Haiwang Yuan)

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### **MARCIVE Marches On**

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The Government Documents Retrospective Conversion Project (see Katy Roe's article in Spring, 2005 Collections & Connections, "[Government Documents Retrospective Conversion Project](#)") marches forward! New milestones achieved during the 2004-2005 academic year include the completion of profiling of the Government Documents collection and compatibility analysis on a test file of bibliographic records. The profiling process involved the scrutiny of a vast number of bibliographic records and then choosing which ones to incorporate into computer files customized by MARCIVE, Inc.

As a result of the profiling or filtering process, 216,802 bibliographic records along with 107,637 authority records were identified for integration into our Endeavor Voyager system. The file have now been sent via the Internet for Nelda Sims to load in suppress mode into Voyager. After some additional work has been done to these records, they will be matched to our federal documents holdings. The documents will be made shelf-ready, and then the bibliographic record will appear on TOPCAT. This project will bring tremendous visibility to a rich collection of resources available at the library. WKU will join the ranks of the University of Kentucky, University of Louisville, Morehead State, KDLA, Vanderbilt, and the University of Tennessee, among others, who have used MARCIVE records. (Rosemary Meszaros)

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### **Artist in Residence Receives Woman of Achievement Award**

The Bowling Green Human Rights Commission recently recognized Lynne Hammer Ferguson, Kentucky Library and Museum's artist in residence, for her contribution to the Arts during the 14th annual Women of Achievement Awards banquet at the Carroll Knicely Conference Center. (Sue Lynn)

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### **Paula Owens Chosen to Attend Staff Leadership Institute**

Paula Owens, Secretary, Department of Library Technical Services, was chosen in the fall of 2004 to attend the Staff Leadership Institute. Meeting once a month beginning in September, Paula has been attending all day class sessions at various locations in and around campus. After putting in lots of hard work and dedication, Paula graduated from the Institute on Wednesday, May 18, 2005. (Katy Roe)

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*Behind the Scenes*

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## Debbie LaMastus: Multitalented and Multi-terrific!

By Rosemary Meszaros

I'll bet you know that the Kentucky's State Horse is the Thoroughbred, but did you know that the State Wild Animal is the Grey Squirrel—hey, don't tell that to Western's famous white squirrels!—or that the State Tree is the Tulip Tree? All you have to do is ask Debbie LaMastus. She knows Kentucky! Debbie has been the Kentucky State Documents Specialist for the last 16 years at WKU Libraries. During those years she has earned her Associates degree in Paralegal Studies and is currently pursuing a B.A. degree in interior design at Western. Debbie is the mother of three WKU graduates: Jeannie, Kim and Tyra, and the grandmother of two future Hilltoppers: Cannon and Chapel.



Debbie LaMastus and her daughter Tyra

As part of her position in the Government Documents & Law Information unit, Debbie supervises a student staff, manages the documents and law bindery operations, accumulates Kentucky state documents for our collection, and catalogs both Kentucky and Federal Documents. Debbie is an excellent resource for law and government information. Having gone through the Paralegal Studies Program, she has a thorough background in legal research and shares that knowledge with our patrons. In addition, Debbie participates in the web group that manages the KERA, Resources on the [Kentucky Education Reform Act](#) web site.

On the national scene, Debbie created and maintains a web site on Kentucky for [the Browse Topics web](#), a partnership between Oklahoma State University and the U. S. Government Printing Office.

For several years Debbie has been the Kentucky contributor to the annual Notable State Documents feature article in the referred *Journal of Government Information*, and she co-authored an article on KERA for *Kentucky Monthly*. Western recognized her outstanding public service with the Margie Helm Staff Award in 1993.

Debbie is a familiar face down at the National Corvette Museum, too. She has worked there in the gift shop part-time since the museum opened in 1994. She's even developed a taste for NASCAR racing herself. She and husband Don traveled to Daytona recently to cheer on Jeff Gordon to victory.

The need for speed isn't confined to the four-wheeled variety, Debbie is an avid horsewoman. Over the years, she and Don have raised, trained and shown champion quarter horses. Miss Sonny Bee won the Kentucky Breeders Futurity. So, if it's about horses, Corvettes, law, or Kentucky, consult our expert, Debbie LaMastus.



## Authority File Work: Where Are We? We Are Coming Along!

by Katy Roe



In the last issue, I wrote about a project that had been started in the Department of Library Technical Services (DLTS) called our Authority Control Project. This project was started in February 2004 by the Bibliographic Access Unit to work little by little to clean up authority files in the WKU TOPCAT system and add new ones as needed. After attending several workshops and training sessions, we started working with our series authority files. At the time the first article was written, we had already done over 5,000 records in just a few months, which, given our other duties and responsibilities, was quite an accomplishment.



Despite the renovation of our floor last fall, we concentrated on updating these titles. After finishing the first 5,000 records, a huge start for us, we have entered over 15,000 in the past fifteen months. Working with these records has been a slow and tedious process because the series titles have to be searched in TOPCAT and OCLC, the records have to be imported from OCLC to TOPCAT, and finally adjustment has to be made to any of the records in TOPCAT that were attached to those particular series titles.



Since all of the Bib Access unit and a few others have been working on the authority file titles, the DLTS faculty decided to host a pizza party in celebration of our accomplishments on this project. We also thought it would be fun to "honor" two people, the person who worked on and entered the 10,000th record, and the person who had entered the most records. Our departmental party was held on April 26, 2005. Linda Davis and Ann Brown were our "queens for the day." Linda happened to be the one who entered the 10,000th series authority record, and Ann has entered over 4,000 series authority records.

We have accomplished quite a lot with this series authority file control project because over 15,000 records is quite a feat. However, there are still many to do. TOPCAT records are being entered and cleaned up on a daily basis, and we certainly hope that searching a series now in TOPCAT is an easier task. We are all working hard to complete the series phase of this project, but as you can see, this will be an on-going project for some time yet to come.

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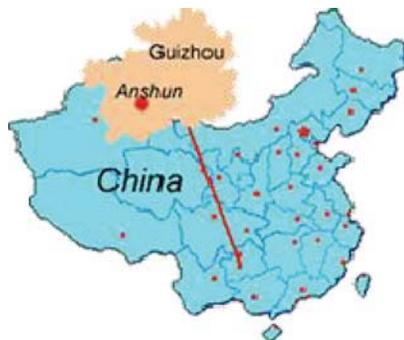
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Michael Binder

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**Jonathan Jeffrey**, Special Collections Librarian, visited China this summer to assist Chinese natives that taught English to junior high students. He spent ten days in Anshun in the Guizhou Province, where he gave presentations to teachers on three topics: American history and government, American music, and American holidays. He also spent two hours each day with students in the classroom discussing American culture. In the evenings, Jeffrey had the opportunity to work in the city's English corners, where Chinese natives could practice their language skills one-on-one.

In March, Jonathan Jeffrey delivered the Preston Arts Lecture in Henderson on the topic of Kentucky sculpture. In April he delivered a similar presentation for the Muhlenberg Historical Society in Greenville and was the keynote luncheon speaker for the Kentucky Association for Gerontology in Owensboro. Jonathan has been appointed by Mayor Elaine Walker to serve on the Hobson House Commission for a three year term.

**Earlene Chelf** recently accepted a three-year term on the Board of the Bowling Green-Western Choral Society; she will be providing expertise in the areas of marketing and fundraising.

**Rosemary Meszaros** hosted and moderated a panel discussion entitled "E-Reference Services: What Are Our Users Telling Us?" on June 26, 2005, at ALA in Chicago. Featured speakers were Sara Weissman, Charles McClure and Sharon Morris. Rosemary chaired the committee (RUSA-MARS 2005 Chair's Conference Program Committee) that put the program together.

**Roxanne Spencer**, assistant professor and coordinator, WKU Libraries' Educational Resources Center, and Dr. Cynthia Houston, assistant professor, Library Media Education program, received travel support grants from WKU to Barcelona, Spain. They were researching and building library activities programs and an English language K-12 collection for SEK Catalunya, a private boarding school.

**Carol Watwood** has been recertified as a member of the Academy of Health Information Professionals by the Medical Library Association for Oct. 1, 2004 through Sept. 30, 2009. This requires submitting a portfolio showing that membership standards and continuing education requirements have been met. ▶

**Haiwang Yuan** has become Chair-elect of the KLA Information & Technology Roundtable and Vice President/President-Elect of Chinese American Librarian Association (CALA) Midwest Chapter. He presented a paper titled "Becoming an Author: A Beginner's Guide to Landing a Book Contract" at CALAMW annual conference in Indiana University, Bloomington on May 14 and was on a research trip to China for his book project about Chinese folklore in the summer. ▶



Haiwang was collecting folktales in China

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Developed by Haiwang Yuan and the [Collections & Connections Editorial Committee](#).

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**Sue Lynn McDaniel** University Archivist and Records Officer, participated in the Society of American Archivists' seminar, "Archival Perspectives in Digital Perspectives." Drawing on a growing technical literature defining digital preservation requirements, the seminar explores how concepts such as integrity, authenticity, and trust are embedded in specific digital preservation development programs." ▶

**Jue Wang** has been awarded a Junior Faculty Scholarship for her research project in Beijing, China. She spent two weeks in Beijing this summer working on "Chinese Electronic Information Resources for Researchers and Scholars." Her proposal titled "Design and Implementation of a Data Driven Application Using Cold Fusion—A case study of the Mammoth Cave National Park and WKU joint project" has been selected as a poster session at the Library and Information Technology Association (LITA) National Forum 2005 in San Jose, California this October. ▶

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## Remembering Evelyn Thurman

by Brian Coutts

Known to countless thousands of Kentucky school children as Mizz Thurman, Evelyn began turning kids on to reading from her very first teaching assignment in Simpson County schools in 1951. A native of Burkesville, Kentucky, she was born in 1921. In 1946 she obtained a Diploma in Bookkeeping from the Bowling Green Business University. Five years later she received an A.B. from Asbury College in Wilmore, Kentucky. While teaching in Simpson County and Franklin elementary schools, she enrolled at George Peabody College in Nashville, from where she received an M.A. in Library Science in 1962. In between, she pursued her interest in all things international by teaching for the Defense Department in schools in Japan, from 1954-1956; Germany, 1957-1959; and Bermuda, 1965-1966.

Her career as a librarian began with a stint at Fort Knox High School from 1962 to 1965. In 1966 she joined the library faculty at Western Kentucky University serving in a variety of positions as General Reference Librarian and Juvenile Bibliographer. In 1984 she became the first librarian to win the University Public Service Award. In 1988 she was

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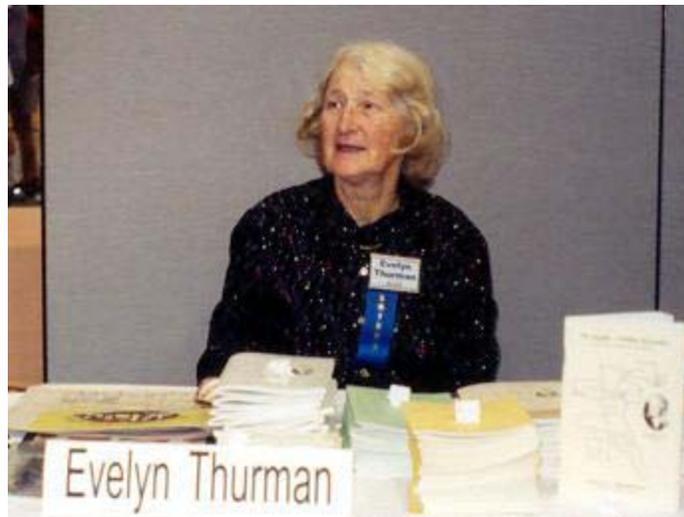
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promoted to Professor in recognition of outstanding teaching, public service and research. In 1989 she received the Sara Elizabeth Tyler Merit Award for outstanding service to the profession of librarianship. In a letter of October 25, 1989, Sara Tyler commenting on her award wrote: "I express my appreciation to you for your creative writing, your sharing of time and experiences with many groups, and your aggressive persistence in getting things done." A former student of hers wrote that same year "in his acceptance speech for Nobel Prize—John Steinbeck said that in your lifetime you'll probably have only two or three teachers that will shape your history. You have been one of mine!"

For most of her career at WKU, Evelyn taught courses in Children's and Young Adult

Literature and Storytelling for the Library Media Education program in the College of Education. By all accounts, she was an extraordinary teacher. A student from her 1981 LME 411 class wrote: "this course has been the highlight of my time spent at Western." Said another: "I will be half finished my Master's this summer and this has been the first course I feel to really benefit me." Another student in a LME 288 class commented: "this is the most enjoyable class I've ever had."



Ms. Thurman at the 2002 Southern Kentucky Book Fest

Evelyn's success as a teacher was enhanced by her love of research. She developed a passion for the stories of Laura Ingalls Wilder. After several research grants she visited all of the many sites where the Ingalls or Wilder family had lived and wrote about it in her *Ingalls-Wilder Homesites*, which went through six editions and was a bestseller at Wilder museums in Minnesota and Wisconsin. She published five other books including: *Little Houses on the Prairie with Search and Find the Word Puzzles*, *The Canary Who Wants to Talk*, *Christmas in Kentucky With Little Bernel*, *A Pioneer Civil War Story for Molly and Ben*, and *Rebecca Caudill: Kentucky Author*. She wrote hundreds of reviews of children's books for the *Bowling Green Daily News* and other regional papers and was a frequent writer for the *Franklin Favorite*.

Over the years, Evelyn perfected her storytelling skills. She would begin by reading a book to a group of children, changing her voice for each character, and mimicking the sounds of animals, and then get the group so involved in the story that they would be on the edge of their seats waiting for the next event or the ending, but she would stop just before the climax of story refusing to go on—telling them that if they really wanted to know the "rest of the story," they'd have to read it themselves. The students would make a mad dash to the library shelf so they could get the book before anyone else. She also used props to great effect. Her rendition of "There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed A Fly" was particularly memorable. For most of the 1980's, she gave upward of 20 presentations a year to more than 4,000 students. Her calendar in 1989 included presentations in Bowling Green; Monticello; Breckenridge County; Owensboro;



Central City; Pepin, Wisconsin; Spring Valley, Minnesota; Butte, Montana; Tillmook, Oregon; Portland, Oregon; Monmouth, Oregon; Reno Nevada; Scottsville, Kentucky; Louisville; Atlanta and back to Hartford. She covered these distances by bus or in her aging VW car.



When not traveling, she could be found on one of her epic walks across the city, checking out her rental properties, picking up interesting objects for future stories, or even dispensing coupons to needy students. Careful with her money—she spent almost none of it on herself. Instead, she endowed a series of scholarships at Western to support graduate students in elementary education; to tutor athletes in the men's and women's basketball programs; and to support students in Library Media Education. She established a library reference fund, an endowment for the radio station, a Glasgow Library Fund, and the Evelyn Thurman Children's Author Fund to bring a distinguished children's author to Western each year.

Following her retirement from the library in 1990, she returned to teaching in the College of Education until finally retiring again in 1995. In 1996, she toured Australia and New Zealand, where she visited countless libraries and wrote about her travels in a series of articles in the *Franklin Favorite* in 1997. While her mind remained sharp almost till the end—a series of falls and a stroke made life difficult. She died, January 12, 2005 in Woodburn. Kentucky.

I think a Maryland schoolboy summed up our feelings about Evelyn in this 1990 letter to her:

Dear Ms. Thurman:

Thank you for tell [sic] us about Laura Ingall Wilder. I think I'll write something. I wonder what I need to write a children's book. I told my Grandma about what we learned & she said that she might take my cousins & sisters & myself to see a homesite of Mrs. Wilder. Can you write back and give me some advice on how to write a book.[sic] You have really inspired me. Thank you!!!

Sincerely,

James Juba

P.S. Thank you.

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## WKU Libraries Celebrated Lucy's Retirement

by Dan Forrest

Lucy Daniels, longtime supervisor of the Circulation Desk in the Cravens Library, retired in January after more than 31 years of service to Western. A retirement party was held in her honor January 28th. The attendance by so many of her coworkers, family members, and even some former student workers is a testimony to how much she was

loved and respected, and to how much she will be missed by all of us. Staffers who have spoken to her since her retirement say she is enjoying spending more time with her family, church, and being involved with her many other activities.

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## **WKU Libraries Celebrated Laura Harper Lee's Retirement**

by Jonathan Jeffrey

Laura Harper Lee, Kentucky Library and Museum's Education Curator, retired in March 2005 after twenty-eight years of service. She will be missed for her teaching and grant-writing experience. Laura worked tirelessly to interpret the Kentucky Museum's exhibits for children and adult audiences. Her programming triumphs ranged from open hearth cooking demonstrations, to art classes, to musical and theatrical events. Each year she also supervised students from WKU's Folk Studies program who interpreted new facets of Kentucky's history for museum visitors. Besides being committed to activities at Christ Episcopal Church, Laura was heavily involved with the Bowling Green Historic Preservation Board, the Landmark Association, the Bowling Green Beautification Commission, and the Friends of Riverview.

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**Gary Whittle** has been promoted to Circulation Desk Supervisor for the Helm-Cravens Library.. He replaces Lucy Daniels who retired after 32 years of service.

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**Paula Bowles** replaces Gary Whittle as Senior Circulation Assistant with responsibility for obligations (fines and overdues). Paula formerly held two part-time positions in Reference/Periodicals.