Winter 2013

Collections & Connections

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A Tribute of Silence
(an edited excerpt from Ann Denes Wagner)

It was cold and damp as only it can be in Bowling Green in late November. After the band played the National Anthem, the crowd that filled the football stadium was subdued as they took their seats for the game that was about to begin. Only the flap of leather, whistles from the referees, and the hushed voices of the coaches and players calling out plays could be heard.

My dad, Nick Denes, was head football coach at Western Kentucky State. The Western Kentucky vs. Murray State football game was to be played on Saturday Nov. 23, 1963. It was shortly after noon on Friday, Nov. 22, 1963 when my husband came home with the news that President Kennedy had been assassinated in Dallas, Texas.... [My dad] conferred with his assistant coaches (Jimmy Feix, Turner Elrod, and Frank Griffin); Kelly Thompson, the President of Western; and the coaches from Murray State. Should the game be played or should it be cancelled? After a long discussion of pros and cons, it was decided that the game would be played as planned. It was also determined that there should not be any cheering or clapping as the game was being played. The fans must be silent as a sign of respect for our fallen president.

On the day of the game, the crowd was informed of the rule of silence as they arrived at the stadium and took their seats. They watched in silence as the Hilltoppers won the game that would ensure their invitation to the first Tangerine Bowl. The fans were elated by the win and saddened by the horrible act of violence that ended the life of President Kennedy. Their tribute of silence was something I will always remember.

Ann Denes Wagner, Louisville, KY

JFK Memory Project: Remembering JFK 50 years later

To commemorate the life of John Fitzgerald Kennedy, WKU Manuscript/Folklife Archives Coordinator Jonathan Jeffrey is collecting remembrances of Kennedy’s visit to Bowling Green on October 8, 1960 as a presidential candidate, and/or memories of his assassination on November 22, 1963.

According to Jeffrey, more than 100 remembrances have been submitted, both in print and through oral interviews. “I’ve been thrilled with the quality of the ones we have received,” said Jeffrey. “There have been many touching memories, and several books, photographs, and other pieces of memorabilia have been added to the collection.”

Simply put, Jeffrey said that we will lose these memories if they are not collected. “His assassination was of international importance and it affected the people of our area,” said Jeffrey. “It is imperative that we collect local reactions to international and national events. It takes one generation to forget and only a select number of people—those in their 60s or older—that recall this event with clarity.”

Jeffrey will be collecting memories through President’s Day 2014. Anyone who has recollections of events on either date is encouraged to submit remembrances to jonathan.jeffrey@wku.edu or by calling 270-745-5265.

Above: Kennedy riding in a Bowling Green motorcade in front of The Presbyterian Church.
Picture donated to WKU Special Collections Library by Gerald Givens.
Holocaust survivor and professional violinist Samuel Marder spoke to a standing room only crowd at Barnes & Noble on Thursday, October 17 as part of the WKU Libraries’ Far Away Places speaker series.

At the age of ten, Marder was a victim of the Holocaust where he lost his father during his 3 and a half years in a concentration camp in what is now Ukraine. Marder, his mother, and sister survived and eventually moved to New York. His discussion focused on the ill effects of prejudicial attitudes and behaviors and how our world continues to repeat history. He ended his program with a poem he wrote about a dream he had the night his father died and a display of photographs from the Holocaust. Mr. Marder currently plays the violin for the Radio City Hall orchestra and gives presentations on prejudice and its consequences.

Faculty in New Roles

Electronic Resources Librarian – Laura DeLancey
Elizabethtown/Ft. Knox Librarian – Tony Paganelli
Glasgow Librarian – Chris Robinson-Nkongola
Owensboro Librarian – Jennifer Wright
Visual & Performing Arts Librarian – Kath Pennavaria

Smith speaks on Wallace at two conferences

Dr. Charles H. Smith, WKU Professor and Science Librarian in Library Public Services, attended a two-day discussion on Alfred Russel Wallace organized by the Royal Society of London, held October 21-22 in London, England. Smith, a leading international expert on Wallace, was one of sixteen speakers invited to talk at the conference marking the centenary of the death of the naturalist-explorer.

Smith was also one of ten scholars to present at a conference at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City on November 12. His program was titled “‘Final Causes’ in Wallace’s Science and Cosmology.”

Library Advisory Council member Cindy Gaffney received the 2013 Volunteer Award at the annual Summit Awards banquet at the Knicely Conference Center during Homecoming Week. Gaffney (center in picture) received the award for her contributions to the Libraries and SOKY Book Fest from President Gary Ransdell and Libraries Dean Connor Foster.

WKU Libraries co-sponsors International Film Series

WKU Libraries teamed up with the WKU International Student Office, and Student Affairs to provide “Faraway Flix,” a series of international films to the campus community every month during the 2013-14 academic year. Students who attend the Friday night movies are offered light snacks from the featured country, and at the end of each film, there is a brief scholar-led discussion. For more information, go to wku.edu/library.

Students enjoying Indian cuisine of samosas and bread pudding during the November film “Kahaani.”
TopSCHOLAR® exceeds one million downloads

WKU Libraries’ TopSCHOLAR® research and creative activity database has reached one million full-text article downloads since its launch in May 2007. “We are very pleased to learn we’ve reached and exceeded the millionth mark,” said Connie Foster, Dean of WKU Libraries. “This milestone signifies the value of WKU’s intellectual capital and global reach.”

WKU Libraries participates in Homecoming events

Libraries faculty, staff, and students showed their campus spirit by donning book character costumes and walking the WKU Homecoming Parade.

Crystal Bowling, organizer for WKU Libraries, credits a great team of people that contributed to the evening’s success.

“It was a great turnout and I have to thank everyone who was involved,” said Bowling. “A special thanks goes to Amanda Hardin and Paula Bowles for rallying student assistants and encouraging them to participate.”

Saturday morning of Homecoming, former and current students, faculty, staff and friends attended an open house in the Commons at Cravens, fourth floor. Visitors enjoyed light refreshments, watched a PowerPoint displaying images of Homecoming memories from past decades, and toured the Libraries.

Same Sun Here receives the 2013 Evelyn Thurman Young Readers Book Award

WKU Libraries selected Same Sun Here, written by Silas House and Neela Vaswani, as the winner of the 2013 Evelyn Thurman Young Readers Book Award. The national award was created to honor the memory of former WKU librarian Evelyn Thurman, who made significant contributions to children’s librarianship and literacy. House and Vaswani visited youth in the area to talk about the book and answer questions about being an author and how to write a novel.

Above: House and Vaswani signed their book for council member Pat Porter Miller.
SOKY Reads! community “one book” read featured *Man in the Blue Moon*

The SOKY Reads community “one book” reading project featured *Man in the Blue Moon* written by award-winning author Michael Morris. Free copies of the featured book were given out to book clubs, community members, and students. Morris led a workshop “Writing Southern Fiction” at WKU, spoke and signed books at the Warren County Public Library, and attended lunch with a local book club. SOKY Reads was funded by Jim & Darlene Johnson, Jim Johnson Nissan, Jim Johnson Hyundai, WKU English Department, Friends of WKU Libraries and all participating Book Fest partners (WKU Libraries, Warren County Public Library, and Barnes & Noble.)

Welcome new Library Advisory Council officers and members!

Laura Eason, Chair
Pat Porter Miller, Vice-Chair
Vicki Fitch
Amy Schneider
Gayla Warner
Miki Wiseman

Above: Morris leads WKU creative writing class.

Left: Morris visits with local book club at Brickyard Café.

Pictured above: The Library Advisory Council met in the Guillaume Executive Board Room at Augenstein Alumni Center for the Fall 2013 meeting.
A Message from the Dean

The 2012-2013 annual report presents brief summaries of key areas of library services. Our collections, outreach, support of donors, and embracing change keep us focused on two concepts. WKU Libraries is a place Where Knowledge Unfolds. WKU Libraries is Your Research Partner. The library faculty and staff are challenged to explore new ideas and to embed themselves in residence halls, in student groups and clubs, in classrooms, and to be proactive in assisting students. We strive to enrich the learning experience, to engage for success, and to extend ideas and collaborative efforts into innovations that will push us technologically, help us grow professionally, and strengthen our influence in this dynamic academic community.

Patron numbers soar with newly renovated Commons

Cravens Fourth Floor, now known as the Commons at Cravens, was completely renovated to better fit the needs of the students and faculty, and the result has been nothing but positive. With the addition of significant table, booth, and computer spaces, the numbers using the fourth floor area increased 550% in the late night counts, and the overall patron count for both computer lab areas in Helm and Cravens increased dramatically from 2012 (2,373) to 2013 (3,607). The increase of 52% for computer usage is significant considering the Cravens area was closed for a few months due to the renovation.

Reference statistics are equally significant. Total reference transactions increased more than 56% from the previous fiscal year with a total of 10,747.
Contributions: $114,241

Contributions include financial and in-kind gifts.

Community Outreach

WKU Libraries values community outreach and partnerships. WKU Libraries continued to team up with Warren County Public Library and Barnes & Noble to bring in several valuable programs, including one of the largest literary events in the state—SOKY Book Fest. More than 130 authors and illustrators from around the country joined headliner Henry Winkler to offer workshops, panel discussions, and book signings to eager readers. SOKY Reads, a “one book” community read, brought in award-winning author Neil Whitemore to highlight his book Sanctuary of Outcasts.

Far Away Places and Kentucky Live series' brought in fourteen speakers during 2012-13, enlightening hundreds of community members in Warren and surrounding counties. WKU Librarians also had the pleasure of offering the unique program “America’s Music: A Film History of our Popular Music from Blues to Bluegrass to Broadway.” The six-week program was grant-funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and led by scholars from each musical genre.

Fiscal Year 2013 Statistics

- Henry Winkler headlined Southern Kentucky Book Fest
- Special Collections added over 100,000 manuscript pages
- Users have access to over 37,700 unique journal titles.
- Research instruction reached more than 8,000 students
- TOPCAT has nearly 975,000 bibliographic records
- The average cost of an annual e-journal subscription is $800-$1,000
- Total Patron Count exceeded 490,000

- 77% of journal purchases were electronic
- 14% increase in patrons during spring finals week with a total of 15,845 visits
- More than 350,000 TOPSCHOLAR downloads
- LibGuides (research guides) hits increased by 38%