7-2016

Collections and Connections (Spring/Summer 2016)

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SOKY Book Fest delivers literary talent for readers & writers of all ages and interests

The 18th annual Southern Kentucky Book Fest was held April 22 and 23 at the Knicely Center in Bowling Green. With more than 140 authors presenting, readers and writers were able to take advantage of panel discussions, presentations, and writers workshops in addition to talking to and getting books signed by their favorite authors and illustrators.

“We were very pleased with this year’s turn out,” said Sara Volpi, literary outreach coordinator for WKU Libraries and Book Fest organizer. “Children’s Day alone brought in nearly 1,000 elementary and middle school students, along with 500 high schoolers. There is a big interest in young adult books; we were thrilled to have such a great response to the writers conference for teens as well as the Kentucky Writers Conference for our adult attendees.” J.A. Jance, Garth Stein, Jay Asher and several other well-known, bestselling authors had great turn outs at their presentations and book signing tables. WKU PBS was on hand to interview several authors who can be seen on the WKU PBS Youtube channel under “Outside the Book.”

“My students look forward to this event every year,” said Renee Hale, school media librarian, formerly at Moss Middle School. “It’s a great chance to meet many authors in one convenient location. We love to discover new books and chat with the authors about what motivates them to write.”

SOKY Book Fest is made possible through sales the day of the event along with fundraisers and financial support from the community. “We truly appreciate the generosity of our supporters,” said Connie Foster, dean of WKU Libraries. “This event would not be possible without donors, patrons, and volunteers.”


To view Book Fest photos, find us on Facebook at SOKYBookFest.
It would be a serious understatement to say the weeks leading up to finals week are a bit stressful for students, and even faculty. In an attempt to alleviate some of that stress, WKU Libraries teamed up with the Testing & Counseling Center to bring in Star, the therapy dog. Counseling and Testing Center Outreach Coordinator Betsy Pierce brought Star to Helm Library and stationed her in the Java City café where dozens of students, faculty and staff stopped by to greet the mild-mannered Aussiedoodle.

“We were very pleased with how the morning visit turned out,” said Carol Watwood, Library Public Services assistant professor and event organizer. “Hopefully she’ll return next semester.”

During the week of finals, a coloring table was available for anyone to take a stress break and color a page or two. According to Literary Outreach Coordinator Sara Volpi, this was a new idea that came out of a donation of the books from Dover Publishing Company. “Coloring books for adults are very popular right now. It was great to see students take advantage of the free activity,” said Volpi. “Some took them home, and others stopped and colored right at the table.”

Gemini jazz bands were a fixture in the WKU Music Department from 1966 through 1979. Originally organized as an all-female jazz band, a few good men (Larnelle Harris, John Carpenter, & Jeff Jones) soon became members. The band leader David “Doc” Livingston partnered with the USO to give his students touring experiences in the Caribbean, Europe and through the Pacific command.

WKU Archives received donations of Gemini materials from former members of the bands and has digitized two videotapes regarding the band, thanks to an internal grant through WKU Libraries. Materials can be viewed at an online exhibit titled Gemini Jazz Bands (http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/gjb/).

As part of Women's History Month, WKU Library Special Collections organized a premier viewing of recently digitized Gemini 1975 concert video. Former band members from as far away as Charleston, South Carolina enjoyed the viewing with family and friends. Former band members Nancy Cron, Jamie Daly, and Pam Thurman donated over 300 items to the collection.

Well-known business leader David Garvin was featured last spring in an exhibition in his honor.

The late Robert Penn Warren is featured in newly interpreted space in the conference room, Kentucky Library.

Tiny Treasures: Miniature Books exhibition is now open at the Jackson Gallery through December 8, 2016.

Sue Lynn McDaniel presented a program and designed an exhibit on leap year.
Former garment industry workers needed!

Library faculty Lisa K. Miller is embarking on a new oral history project this summer, “Garment Workers in Kentucky.” Interviews will be collected at least until the end of the summer. Anyone who worked in a garment-related industry anywhere in Kentucky is eligible. If you know of any potential interview subjects, please ask them to contact Lisa at lisa.miller@wku.edu or (270) 745-6122. When completed, the interviews will be archived on TopScholar and freely accessible.

Helm renovations underway
Helm Library is closed this summer to install new air units and to restore the historic decorative murals of the building. Helm 100 will also have a fresh look with new furniture later this fall.

Lorge closes speaker series
Dr. Peter Lorge, assistant professor of History and Asian Studies at Vanderbilt University, presented “Chinese Martial Arts: from Antiquity to the Twenty-First Century” as the season finale to the Far Away Places Speaker Series at Barnes & Noble.

“Genealogy Workshop” to a dozen participants at the WKU-Elizabethtown-Fort Knox campus.

• Laura Bohuski is traveling to Japan this summer to participate in an intensive Japanese language school.

• Suellyn Lathrop and Joe Shankweiler represented WKU Libraries at a Library of Congress preservation/digitization workshop for “Train the Trainers,” held at Northern Kentucky University in June.


In Memory of Strickler & Farley
Library Student Assistant Graduates
Amber Archey, Jessica Henao Barragan, Sara Carrico, Sherri Cook, Ye Duan, Katie Gamble, Bria Granville, Sidney Hirsch, Falon Keith, Zhanpeng Liu, Soumya Marri, Miranda Matthews, Abby O’Bryan, Alyssa Pointer, Chia Shen, Brian Steiner, Amy Wolterman

Carrie Jacoby
Student Assistant Scholarship Recipient

Benjamin Watson

Hannah Garrett
Student Research Award Winners with Sara McCaslin

CONGRATULATIONS!

Cherry Society Recognition
At the spring Library Advisory Council meeting, John Paul Blair, associate vice president for Advancement (center), recognized Libraries Dean Connie Foster and Department Head of Library Special Collections Jonathan Jeffrey for becoming members of the Cherry Society, a program honoring supporters who have given $25,000 or more.

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