

April 2008

Volume 1, Issue 1

MANE LINES



An Introduction from the Library Director

Spring is definitely here. Trees are green, flowers are blooming, the days are longer and warmer, and there's a feeling of change in the air. Change is certainly in the air

and all throughout Sims Library. Over the winter break and into the spring semester, new carpeting was installed on three of the four floors of the building, making the Library more attractive and welcoming. The information desk in the lobby was removed and replaced with a popular reading area, and our subscription to a current best-seller service will provide our students, faculty and staff with new popular fiction and non-fiction every month. The old computers in the Reference area have been replaced with new desktops which offer more software, including

Microsoft Word and SPSS. In the months to come we will be opening a practice presentation classroom where students can rehearse class presentations using state-of-the-art equipment, and new areas for group and individual study will be created. All of these improvements are designed to enhance the research possibilities at Sims, and to make the Library even more user-friendly and technologically rich. I hope you will visit the Library and enjoy all these improvements!

By Eric Johnson

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Special Points of Interest:

- Information Commons
- Friends of the Library
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- Special Dates to Remember
- An Introduction to Kathryn Munson.

A Bit About Mane Lines

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves to the staff, students, and G.A.'s who work here at the Sims Memorial Library. The Publication Committee is composed of members including: **Amy Baptist, Leslie Davis, Kevin Travis, Penny Hecker, Michael Webster, and Chairman/Editor James Lovitt.** We are hoping to begin bringing 'Mane Lines' to you about six times a year with updates and news on current events, relevant happenings, and news specific to the Sims Memorial Library.

May 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	Retreat	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Schedule of Events

- Research Patents and Trademarks Session May 2
 - Annual File Due May 7
 - Commencement May 17
 - Library Retreat scheduled for May 21.
 - Presidential Closure May 26
 - Summer Courses Begin June 4th
 - Birthdays to Remember
 - Kathryn Munson—May 3
 - Mary Francis Marx—May 8
 - Jean Caswell—May 9
 - Bethany Simpson— June 11
 - Beth Stahr— June 13
 - Rose Galofaro—June 18
 - Erin Bellam—June 20
 - Janie Branham—June 27
- To publicize in the next issue of Mane Lines Please contact Mr. James Lovitt ext. 3070

Information Commons

This past November, the Information Commons committee developed a proposal for upgrading the Library's computer equipment and furnishings so that all four floors of the Library could function as a continuous Information Commons. The plan was presented by Director Eric Johnson and Assistant Director Lynette Ralph and was accepted by university administration days before Winter break.

Parts of the Information Commons plan have already been set in motion and more upgrades are soon to follow. The first floor information

desk, commonly referred to as "the doughnut", has been replaced by a user-friendly leisure reading area that is nearly always bustling with activity. Most areas of the Library have already been re-carpeted while furniture and signage have been moved around to create a more active learning environment.

Even more importantly, technology upgrades are well underway; new computers have arrived for the Reference department that will feature productivity software like Microsoft Office, making the Library a one-stop-shop for research and

Information Commons cont.

writing at the university. Space planners and campus architect Ken Howe of Facility Planning will also be involved in implementing future stages of the Information Commons initiative.

Without the hard work of Library faculty and staff serving on the Information Commons and Space Planning committees none of these marvelous transformations would be possible. As the Library grows and changes, please join me in

thanking these extraordinary individuals:

Space Planning
 Betty Burroughs, (Chair)
 Janie Branham
 Jean Caswell
 Linda Higginbotham
 Herb McGuin
 Kim Pinion
 Lynette Ralph
 Cathy Tijerino

Information Commons
 Kathryn Munson, Chair
 Amy Baptist

Janie Branham
 Jean Caswell
 Angela Dunnington
 Ladonna Guillot
 Penny Hecker
 Karen Jung
 Lori Smith
 Kevin Travis
 Dayne Sherman
 Beth Stahr
 Cathy Tijerino
 Michael Webster

By Kathryn Munson

National Library Week: April 14—18

From April 14—18, 2008 National Library Week occurred in Sims Memorial Library. This accompanied the library book sale which managed to raise over an astounding \$1300 to benefit the library.

Also during this week we held book readings by people like Dr. Natasha Whitton and Ms. Megan Eddy which were well attended.

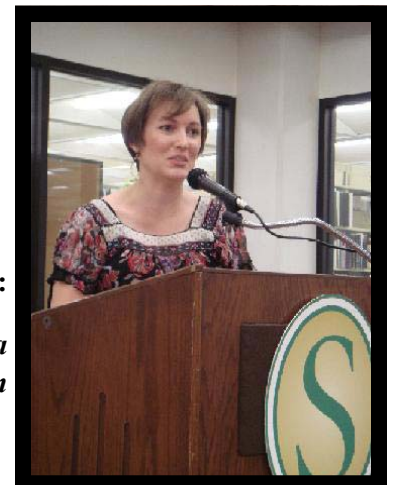
A scavenger hunt also man-

aged to attract approximately 150 participants. Prizes of a \$50 and a \$30 prepaid VISA card, as well as several Southeastern Lions T-shirts donated by the Alumni Association were awarded. The week was overall a resounding success!



Speakers

Left:
Megan Eddy



Right:
Dr. Natasha Whitton

The McNaughton Collection

Yes Virginia, there was a man named Nelson McNaughton. Approximately threescore years ago, McNaughton approached Art Brody with the proposition that they offer a book lending service to public libraries. At that time Brody's company (Brodart) marketed only book-covers and supplies. But Brody saw the potential in McNaughton's proposal, so he formed a 50-50 partnership with him. Their business flourished, and when McNaughton retired, Brody made McNaughton a division of Brodart.

Over time this lending service was extended to academic li-

braries and rechristened "leasing plan." Academic libraries recognized the need to provide their patrons with leisure reading material, but they did not want to encumber large sums of money for materials that would not be of enduring value. The McNaughton Plan offers them a solution. Academic libraries can acquire a reasonable number of bestsellers in fiction and nonfiction for a fraction of their retail cost. In addition, these libraries have the option of keeping titles that they want to add to the permanent collection while returning the remainder to Brodart.

Experienced selectors at Brodart produce a list of over 200 titles

each month that librarians can choose from. There are various levels of participation, and Sims Memorial Library has elected to receive 30 new titles each month. From the monthly lists Eric Johnson, Library Director and notorious bibliophile, selects the titles that he believes will be of most interest to students, faculty, and staff.

To launch the program, Brodart provided the Library with a core collection of recently published titles. Because books arrive fully processed, the McNaughton Plan provides libraries with the ability to offer their patrons a selection of the bestsellers in fiction and nonfiction at the same time that these publications appear in bookstore displays.

As soon as individuals enter the Library, they encounter the newly created leisure reading area where the McNaughton collection is prominently displayed. The message is clear. We invite you to read: Enjoy!

By Michael Webster



Friends of the Library

In the early seventies, then Library Director Dr. Landon Greaves formed the Friends of Linus A. Sims Memorial Library, a group of library devotees who worked to support the Library by raising funds for resources and programs. Over the years, the activities of the Friends decreased until the name was used for those patrons not connected with the University who purchased a library card to borrow books. This past fall, a committee of Library faculty and staff headed by Janie Branham, Head of Serials, set out to revive the original Friends group, and called on community leaders and Southeastern faculty to form an executive committee of FOSL, Friends of Sims Library.

Interestingly, the executive committee is chaired by Landon Greaves. Other members are Margaret Adelman and Dr. Louise Plaisance, both from Southeastern; Joe Smith and Dr. Roger Fox, community members; and Marjorie Morrison, a well-known community leader and wife of the

late Congressman James H. Morrison. Eric Johnson and Janie Branham sit in on all committee meetings as well. Among the first tasks were to revise the by-laws of the group, to create membership levels, and to assist with the Library's annual book sale, held in conjunction with National Library Week.

The committee is now ready to begin to publicize FOSL, attract new members, and plan lectures and programs. Membership levels begin at \$25.00 for Associate Membership, which includes borrowing privileges for one person.

Higher levels provide additional benefits, such as book sale discounts, special invitations to events, and books placed in the collection in honor or memory of designated individuals.

For more information on becoming a Friend of Sims Library, contact Janie Branham at: 985-549-2186.

By Eric Johnson

Friends of the Library Include: L to R Janie Branham, Eric Johnson, Dr. Roger Fox, Margaret Adelman, Joe Brown, and the Chair Dr. F. Landon Greaves. Missing are Marjorie Morrison and Dr. Louise Plaisance.



We look forward to bringing you another issue of Main Lines in the coming months. Please forward any interesting news items or material to Leslie Davis for inclusion.

Sincerely,

Publication Committee

Kathryn Munson (second from left) joins the 'Dewey Decimators' for the 2007 Annual Quiz Bowl. Other librarians included, from left to right are: **James Lovitt, Lori Smith, Dayne Sherman, and Herb McGuin.**



A New Staff Member Joins Sims Memorial Library

Kathryn Munson is a native of New Orleans, LA and a graduate of Ben Franklin High School and the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA), where she studied classical vocal music.

She then went on to earn a BA from Louisiana State University in just 2 1/2 years. At LSU, she participated in the Honors College and conducted an independent study in Teaching and Instruction in which she co-taught several sessions of Honors Western Civilization. Her major field of study was English, Writing & Culture with a focus on linguistics and she obtained a minor in French. Her first Library position was as a student assistant in the Acquisitions department at Middleton Library.

For graduate school, Kathryn went on to attend the Univer-

sity of South Florida School of Library and Information Science in Tampa, FL and earned her MA in December 2006. During this time, Kathryn published a research study she conducted at USF on "Retro-technophobia: a new view of older technologies". For her final semester of graduate school, Kathryn returned home to Louisiana and began an internship at the New Orleans Museum of Art Library, where she organized a complex inventory and shifting of the Library's print serials collection.

Upon graduation from USF, Kathryn accepted a position in the Archives of the St. Tammany Parish Clerk of Court where she trained in archival preservation methods and created indexes of original documents, dating as far back as 1790, which were previously unclassified for researchers.

Kathryn joined Sims Library in October 2007 as an Assistant Professor/Assistant Access Services Librarian. She works with the Circulation, Reserves, Media/SGA Computer Lab, and ILL departments, serves as the Library's liaison to the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures and maintains and creates new pages for the Library's website. Kathryn will begin teaching LS102 in Term II of Fall 2008

Outside of work, Kathryn is a regular performer with the Northlake Performing Arts Society choir and is active in her community as an Elections Commissioner and a volunteer at the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum's Wooden Boat Festival.

By Kathryn Munson