

October 2008  
Volume 1, Issue 2

# MANE LINES



## A Message from the Library Director

Change is inevitable. People change. Styles change. Technology changes. As Gail Sheehy wrote, “If we don’t change, we don’t grow.”

Sims Library is changing. This is nothing new; the Library continually experiences change, both in ways that are invisible to the patrons and in very noticeable ways. In winter we removed the old round information desk from the lobby and replaced it with an inviting reading area featuring bestsellers and popular books. Much of the carpeting throughout the building was

replaced. Every year we add more electronic resources, changing from the previous sole reliance on print materials. Even the faculty and staff change from year to year. Change is natural.

Our changes this year will be the first in a series of changes that will cumulatively turn Sims Library into a library of today and tomorrow, reflecting the needs of today’s students, the manner in which they use a library, the way in which they study and do research, and the new roles that libraries have undertaken in the past ten years. The Government Documents Department will be moving closer to the Reference area, with the collection relocated to the Reference room, the third floor periodical stacks, and the fourth floor book stacks. The Center for Southeast Louisiana Studies will occupy the Morrison Room on the third floor vacated by Government Documents. A new Math Lab to assist students in the introductory math courses will be installed on the second floor. The Interlibrary Loan unit

will move to a more prominent space in the Circulation Department. The Reference Department will begin its long-planned transformation into a more technology-rich Information Commons, with additional electronic resources and more computers for students and patrons to use.

All of this can’t happen overnight, of course, but work to accomplish these changes will be taking place throughout the year. Arnold Bennett tells us that “any change, even a change for the better, is always accompanied by drawbacks and discomforts.” We’ll try to effect these changes in a manner that involves the least amount of inconvenience to our users, but there may be times when noise or activity gets to be a little overwhelming.

Believe me, the change will be worth the inconvenience.

**By Eric Johnson**

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## November 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
23/30	24	25	Thanksgiving	Thanksgiving	Thanksgiving	29

## December 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	Christmas	Christmas	Christmas	Christmas	Christmas	Christmas
Christmas	Christmas	Christmas	Christmas	Christmas	Christmas	Christmas

### Schedule of Events

- Presidential Closure  
November 26
- Thanksgiving  
November 27
- Presidential Closure  
November 28
- Last day of classes  
December 5
- Final Exams  
December 8—12
- Commencement  
December 13

To publicize in the next issue of **Mane Lines**  
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## Presenting.....The Sims Library Presentation Practice Studio

For students preparing a presentation for class, scholarships or job interviews or needing a group study room with a computer, Sims Memorial Library's new Presentation Practice Studio is the answer.

The Library hosted an Open House to showcase this new service on Wednesday October 1 and Thursday October 2 from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM. At the event, Access Services librarians demonstrated the studio for students and an-

swered questions. Students who attended were also entered to win one of two \$10 University Bookstore gift cards.

Partially funded through a Student Technology Fee grant, the Presentation Studio, located in room 256 in the Media Department on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, is equipped with standard office production software, including PowerPoint 2007, audio-visual equipment, and a digitally interactive whiteboard. The Presentation Practice Studio

## **The Sims Library Presentation Practice Studio cont...**

is a convenient group space on campus where students across a variety of academic disciplines can work individually or in groups to rehearse timing and slide transition or develop oral presentation skills. The practice space can also help prepare students for success beyond the classroom by providing them with intensive time to practice the presentation skills that are neces-

sary in the modern workplace.

As the largest group study room in the Library, the Presentation Practice Studio will accommodate up to 15 persons. The studio is available on a first-come, first serve basis during all hours that the Library is open and may be reserved by students up to two weeks in advance. An online reservation form and further information about the Presen-

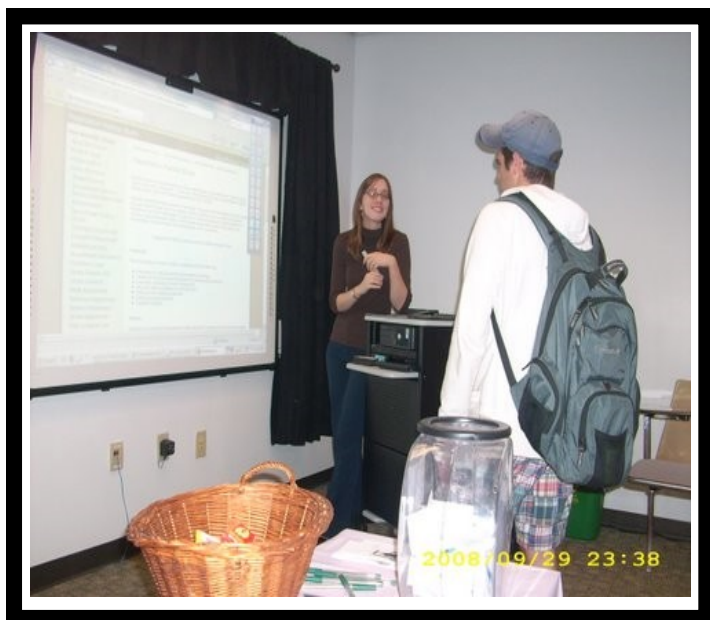
tation Practice Studio is available on the Library's web site at: <http://www.selu.edu/library/directory/media/presentation/index.html>

For more information please contact Karen Jung, Head of Access Services ([kjung@selu.edu](mailto:kjung@selu.edu)) or Kathryn Munson, Asst. Access Services Librarian ([kmunson@selu.edu](mailto:kmunson@selu.edu)).

**Kathryn Munson**

*Left: Students are welcomed to the new Presentation Practice Studio.*

*Right: Prizes are drawn for students who came to the grand opening by Eric Johnson and Kathryn Munson.*



## Sims Library Ventures into the Virtual World of Second Life

Recently, on September 26, Southeastern Louisiana University held a ribbon cutting ceremony to launch its virtual campus on 'Second Life', and the library actively participated in this venture. What is 'Second Life'? How can the University and the library benefit from its use, and who else uses 'Second Life'?

'Second Life' (SL) is an Internet-based open source 3D Virtual World platform developed by Linden Research Inc., and launched June 23, 2003. Since then, over 15 million accounts have been registered in SL.

The users of SL are called *residents* and their appearance is their *avatar*. The basic avatar can be animal or human in appearance. It may also be of either gender, and have a wide range of physical attributes.

### ***Use by Southeastern Louisiana University***

Dr. Merrill Johnson, the Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts at University of New Orleans (UNO), and

Dr Richard Speaker, also of UNO, applied for and obtained a Select grant to establish SL islands with some other area colleges and universities. Gayle Campbell of Southeastern became aware of this grant, and contacted Dr. Johnson, who enthusiastically added Southeastern as one of the universities on the SL grant. Several other Southeastern faculty, including Dr. Lynette Ralph, comprise an interest group designated to develop activities which will promote SL on the campus, and in their specific areas of discipline. Access is restricted to the Southeastern Island. Anyone who visits the Southeastern Island has to first become a member of the "University of New Orleans" Group.

Southeastern hopes to attract students who are taking Internet courses but miss the "presence" and the sense of community found in a regular classroom. It is believed by some researchers that SL is more personal than traditional

distance learning.

In addition, with a growing market for international activity, Southeastern could enrich its global reach by using SL, since SL facilitates making coursework available to students from abroad.

SL enhances the teaching of certain disciplines such as foreign languages because students in this country can actually speak, through their avatars, with the people of a foreign country, thus approximating accents and nuances more accurately.

SL also provides additional administrative and teaching resilience in the event of disasters such as Hurricanes Katrina, Rita or Gustav. Thus, should the New Orleans area be affected by another significant hurricane that forces students, teachers and administrators to disperse for an indefinite period, 'Second Life' will allow teachers to set up online classrooms, thus maintaining the functions of the campus

## Second Life cont...

and holding classes as well as answering questions in a timely manner. This could appreciably aid retention.

The objective of Sims Library is to offer both virtual reference service and virtual classes. Sims will begin by conducting a pilot study which will explore the potential of offering these services, and discover what resources and training are required to offer such services. Since it is a pilot project, the library will initially offer a few hours of reference services, and select modules of classes. This will provide enough experience to determine the level of training and need required.

Whatever happens, Sims Memorial Library will be ready.

(Lynette.Ralph@selu.edu)

**Lynette Ralph**



*Left: Lynette Ralph (Real Life)*



*Right: Lynette Ralph AKA  
Mighty Lynagh (Second Life)*



## LET'S TALK: ART Lecture Series

Interested in the splendors of Late Gothic Altarpieces in which solemn religious figures appear in jewel-toned robes surrounded by ethereal gold? Ever seen a photo of an ultra-modern architectural wonder and ask yourself, "What in the world is going on here?" Fascinated by the mysterious boy-king of ancient Egypt, one of the most famous monarchs of all time?

These topics are the first three presentations in a new series of one-hour art talks sponsored by the Department of Visual Arts and the Friends of Sims Memorial Library. In "Late Medieval Panel Painting: Visualizing the Divine," Dr. Amy Morris, Assistant Professor of Visual Arts, discussed the unique visual qualities of medieval panel painting, offering an explanation for these through an examination of contemporary artistic practices and the function of religious art.

Future talks by Dr. Irene Nero and Roy Blackwood, scheduled for the Pelican Room at the Student Union, will focus on

Frank Gehry's Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain (November 6th, 12:30) and the untold story of Tutankhamen (November 19th, noon). More "Let's Talk: Art" lectures, including programs on pottery and Gaudi's Barcelona, are scheduled for the spring semester.

**By Eric Johnson**



### A Bit About Mane Lines

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce our new members. The Publication Committee's new members this year are: **Bethany Simpson, Patty Ponder, and Melanie King.** Continuing this year are: **Penny Hecker, Leslie Davis, and Chairman/Editor James Lovitt.** We are hoping to continue bringing 'Mane Lines' to you with updates and news on current events, relevant happenings, and news specific to the Sims Memorial Library.

**By James Lovitt**

*We have several librarians who began their first year at Sims in 2007. Mane Lines will be running a series of first year memories at Sims from these relatively new librarians. This issue presents Penny Hecker.*

My first day of employment at Sims was June 18, 2007. Prior to that, I worked at Howard-Tilton Memorial Library at Tulane and Nunez Community College. Before obtaining my library degree I worked many years as an associate in both the Slidell and Mandeville branches of St. Tammany Public Library.

My first day at Sims consisted of taking care of paperwork and other administrative details with no actual work duties being performed. That was the rare exception—every day since then has been quite full, busy, and rewarding.

As a reference and instruction librarian at Sims, my days largely revolve around teaching 2-3 sections of Library Science 102: Introduction to Information Research, working on the reference desk (you can see me there most consistently Mondays-Thursdays from 4 or 4:30 until 5:30), and doing my Virtual Reference Desk duties a few times a week. In addition

## A Year of Memories at Sims

to that I create or modify content for my classes, grade assignments/projects/exams, teach BIs (one-shot, course-integrated introductions to library resources) serve on various library committees, attend professional development functions at the Center for Faculty Education when possible, attend departmental meetings, serve on library committee meetings, attend and or present at professional conferences, serve as library liaison to Sociology and Criminal Justice, and generally work on my ultimate goal of achieving Tenure and Promotion.

I live in Slidell and commute to Hammond daily with the

intent of moving closer in 2009 because the commute is somewhat costly and time-consuming (round-trip commuting runs about 100-120 minutes depending on traffic situations). Although the commute can be lengthy and costly, it's worth it because I work in a great place full of friendly, intelligent, hard-working colleagues and co-workers. Thanks for giving me a wonderful first year!

**By Penny Hecker**

**AKA. Paisley Scribe**



***Left: (Actual) Penny Hecker***



***Right: (2nd Life) Paisley Scribe***