

Mane Lines

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From the Director

by Eric Johnson



Volunteerism is on my mind these days, possibly because many of us at the Library volunteer for local charitable, religious, educational, professional, or arts organizations, or possibly because a colleague and I penned a book chapter last year about volunteering in academic libraries, and the book is about to be published. At any rate, given the seeming trend of the country's population away from volunteering, combined with feelings of discontent and a distinct anti-intellectualism, it is heartening to see that millennials are passionate about volunteering their time (money being scarce for many of them). Southeastern holds an annual "Big Event" day on which thousands of students give of their time and talents at the University and all over the area. Our Library also depends on volunteers, such as JoAnne Barry, who has volunteered at the Library working on music-related materials for the past

seven years, and who is now heading off to South Dakota with her husband as he accepts a new academic position. Such as the Friends of Sims Library executive board, a group of community people headed by artist Michael Ledet, who unselfishly support the Library by planning events and fundraisers. Such as librarian Angela Dunnington, who serves as faculty advisor for the Alpha Sigma Tau sorority, and librarian Janie Branham, who is active in both her church and her community. And there are many more.

The benefits of volunteering are two-fold. The organization benefits greatly from the efforts and talents of people they could not afford to have on their payroll. And the volunteers benefit as well, knowing that they are giving of themselves in areas which interest them, and getting in return the gratitude of others while knowing that they are, in ways small and large, making a difference.

I encourage everyone to find the time, whether it is one hour or ten, to volunteer. And most especially, I salute those who already do so, because in a definitive way, you are making the world better for so many people.

Happy summer, everyone!



Editor's Welcome

by Angie Balius

As the Editor, I am pleased to bring you this newest issue of Mane Lines. Thanks to all who provided content.

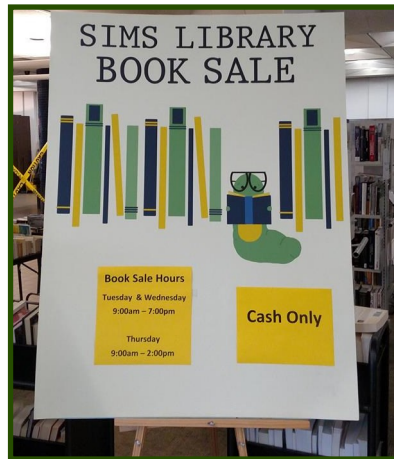
We hope you enjoy learning about the latest news and events at Sims Library!

National Library Week

As is traditional, Sims Library celebrated National Library Week (April 11-15) with author readings, the annual book sale, and “fine free week,” during which overdue materials could be returned without paying overdue fines.

The book sale was held each day from April 12-14. This annual event raises money for the Library to use in purchasing materials and funding special projects. A total of \$3240 was raised this year.

Many thanks to all who participated in National Library Week 2016.



Readings at Sims Library



At Southeastern, the highlight of National Library Week for the past 16 years is Readings at Sims Library. This annual event has become a showcase of writing talent from campus and our community. **Dayne Sherman**, a librarian and writer, serves as organizer and host. This year’s event was the biggest yet. What follows is the lineup of writers/readers:

Karen Shields teaches SE 101 and works as an Academic Advisor in the Center for Student Excellence at Southeastern. She is also a New Orleans-based actor and founder of Break the Mold Productions, a theatre company specializing in touring educational productions.

After narrowly escaping from Albany High School with TOPS in 2010, **Carey Brooks** enrolled in the Mass Communication program at Southeastern where he was self-proclaimed as the “bad boy of journalism.” He is currently pursuing his master’s degree in English and creative writing at Southeastern.

A beleaguered English graduate student with more debt than sense, **Jessica Mina** is in the throes of the final semester of her master’s degree. Equipped with a coffee and wine-stained stacks of verse, she plans to hurl herself into “the real world” with a savage hunger for the written word and self-deprecation.

Marley Stuart is an MFA candidate at the Bennington Writing Seminars. He lives in New Orleans with his wife.

Dusty Cooper is an English instructor at Southeastern. While working as a photographer in New York, he became inspired by the many lives he encountered in the city and returned to his love of writing. He is currently working on a novel set in Thailand, based on a story forthcoming in *Pleiades*, June 2017.

Lori Smith is the Government Information Librarian at Sims Library. Her mother, Leona Smith, was an elementary school teacher from Indiana who wrote poetry all her life. Leona spent most of 2015 compiling her poems into a manuscript for publication, then sadly passed away on December 26th. Lori completed the project for her mother and carries on the family tradition of writing poetry.



Q&A with Lori Smith, Government Information Librarian



What are government documents and why are they important for academic libraries?

Government documents are informational resources published by local, regional, state, and national governments, as well as by international governmental bodies like the World Health Organization. They produce many types of things, including annual activity reports, statistics, laws, regulations, maps, and publications intended to educate people about epidemics, scams, product recalls, disaster recovery, and other topics.

One reason documents are important is that the U.S. government is the largest publisher in the world. Another is that documents contain information that can't be found anywhere else. No entity other than the federal government has the resources to do a complete count of the U.S. population every ten years as the Census Bureau attempts to do. No other entity has the ability to launch satellites and maintain weather monitoring equipment nationwide so the public can be warned when storms are approaching. Keeping the public informed is a vital function of the government, and documents are how they do it.

What are some of the most used government resources?

Statistical sources are very popular. Until it ceased publication in 2012 and was picked up by a commercial publisher, the most heavily used government document was [The Statistical Abstract of the United States](#). It's an annual publication that provides statistics from many agencies on a wide variety of subjects. Other useful statistical sources include [Health United States](#), [Crime in the United States](#), and the [Digest of Education Statistics](#). The legal and regulatory documents are also used pretty fre-

quently. Those include the [Federal Register](#), [Code of Federal Regulations](#), [Public Laws](#), and the [United States Code](#).

The Government Documents department is often overlooked now that so many resources are online. Can you name resources that would be helpful to library users, if only they knew about them?

Certainly, I can. One is the [United States Government Manual](#). It gives a brief history of each agency of the federal government along with a list of current office holders and contact information for national and regional offices. In the front of each volume users will find the text of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

The [Catalog of United States Government Publications](#) is a searchable database that includes a brief description of every government document about which the U.S. Government Publishing Office (GPO) is aware. Most titles in the Catalog were published from 1976 to the present, but GPO is now adding information about publications issued prior to 1976.

The third is [USA.gov](#). This is the official "web portal" for U.S. government information and it functions as a search engine for federal information on the web. It also searches the sites of most state governments.

Sims Library is celebrating its 50th year in the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP)... explain why this is important to Sims Library and the university.

Because we've been in the FDLP since 1966, Sims Library has important documents relating to civil rights, military history, the space program, and other events in which the U.S. government played a key role. And, while we don't receive many tangible publications these days, the Library is adding records to its online catalog which will lead users

Q&A with Lori Smith, continued...

to the full text of publications on the Zika virus, identity theft, climate change and other topics of current interest.

One important benefit the Library has as a participant in the FDLP is access to the training provided by the GPO. GPO's webinars and conferences will help new staff members become more familiar with government resources so they'll be able to help the University community find those resources.

After 25 years, you are retiring from the university. What are some of your proudest accomplishments/memories from your career at Sims Library?

My most physically taxing accomplishment was the relocation of the Documents Department from the Morrison Room on the 3rd floor, where it had been located since the building was occupied in 1986, to remote corners all around the building in 2009 to prepare for the addition of the Math Lab. Prior to the move, my staff and I had to reduce the size of our print collection by about 50%. It was a monumental task.

My professional accomplishments include a number of publications, one of which was named an Outstanding Academic Title, and a smattering of awards. However, my most important achievement may have been in 2012-2013 when I served as Coordinator of the Federal Documents Task Force of the American Library Association's Government Documents Round Table. During my tenure I spearheaded a resolution that was passed by the Association urging the federal government to allow GPO to take a greater role in managing the lifecycle of digital government publications. GPO is now attempting to do that, and as a result more publications that are "born digital" may be preserved and accessible for the use of future generations.



Wendy Cascio (left) with daughter Regan and Roomie. Photo by Jennifer's Captured Moments Photography.

Two spring graduates have special ties to Sims Library. Wendy Cascio and her daughter, Regan, are both graduating with bachelor's degrees in general studies. Wendy is Administrative Coordinator for the library and Regan is a former student assistant in Serials and Administration. They are pictured here with mortar boards they decorated for the commencement ceremony.

Congratulations and farewell to Lori Smith



In her 25 years at Sims Library, Lori Smith served under three library directors. They are (left to right) Library Director Eric Johnson, Kay McIntyre, Lori Smith, and Lanny Greaves, pictured at her retirement reception.

Celebrating Our 50 Years as Federal Depository

On Wednesday, April 6, Sims Library celebrated its 50th anniversary as a Federal Depository Library with a reception in the first floor lobby. Speakers included Eric Johnson, Library Director, who welcomed attendees; Lori Smith, Government Information Librarian, who spoke about the history of the Federal Depository Library Program; C. Howard Nichols, Professor Emeritus of History, who related stories about the history of Southeastern and Sims Library; and Joe Burns, Professor of Communication, who gave a presentation that highlighted popular music in each decade since 1966.

Congressman James H. Morrison sponsored the Library's designation as a Federal Depository in January 1966. Since then the library has been receiving and making available selected publications from all three branches of the Federal government. These publications are accessible by the general public and the full text of many recent titles can be seen online via links in the library's catalog.



Commemorative plaque from the U.S. Government Publishing Office.



Professor Joe Burns



Historian C. Howard Nichols

Graduating Student Employees



Student employees are a vital part of Sims Memorial Library. We would like to congratulate our May 2016 graduates.

Best wishes and thank you!

Katy Clayton, Administration
Candace Jackson, Reference
Erin Larsen, Reference
Whitney Martin, ILL
Jose Morales, Reference
Iana Obolenska-Moran, Serials
Sagar Pokhrel, Circulation
Kayla Scurich, Administration
Brett Williams, Cataloging
Kayla Wilson, Media

Librarian Presentations

In March, several Southeastern librarians attended and presented at the Louisiana Library Association's Annual Conference in Baton Rouge.

Beth Stahr and Eric Johnson presented "Showin' Your Stuff: Poster Session Success from Concept to Presentation." Elizabeth Sanders, Angie Balius, and Stephen Sanders presented "Road Conditions: Increasing Experiential Learning in Information Literacy." Penny Hecker and Angie Balius presented "Embracing the Framework: Tales of Implementation." Elizabeth Sanders was part of a panel discussion, "Libraries and the First-Year Experience." Lori Smith presented "Gov-Stuff 4 U: Promoting Government Information via Social Media." Ben Bell led a panel discussion, "Louisiana Moonlighting Librarians."

A New Librarian Departs



Congratulations to LaQuana Burks as she begins her career as a librarian.

Three years ago, she began working at Sims Library as a graduate assistant in the Reference Department. In 2015, she joined the library staff as Evening Supervisor in Circulation.

This month, she completed her Master's of Library and Information Science at The University of Southern Mississippi. She has also accepted a librarian position with St. Tammany Parish Public Libraries.

Has your experience at Sims Library influenced your decision to become a librarian? "Yes, it did. As a Graduate Assistant, I discovered a passion for helping users with reference questions. This sparked my interest in learning how to use and research scholarly journals and other important resources within the library. In a quest for more knowledge, I found myself enrolling in a Master of Library and Information Science program."

Tell us about your new job? "My title is Children's Services Librarian. I will be conducting story time for small children, completing community outreach activities, and serving as a reference librarian during evening hours."

What will you remember about Sims Library and Southeastern? "I am going to truly going to miss Sims Memorial Library and the beautiful Southeastern campus. The library has provided me with professional experience and growth. I have been afforded the opportunity to be strengthened by a group of individuals who share common values and identify strongly with the necessary nutrients for success.

I would like to thank everyone at Sims Library for their support of all my academic and educational endeavors. Again, thanks. I will miss you all!"