Library Focus (Fall 2009)

University Libraries

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THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

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CENTENNIAL EXHIBIT

the university of southern mississippi libraries

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illustrating the history of MLA.

display will be photographs, documents, and memorabilia

in honor of the Centennial. On

Collections department, which recently became home to

In 2009, the Mississippi Library Association celebrates

what:


when:

Library Focus is published during

Cleanth Brooks Reading Room

Nicholas Sparks (PS 3563.O594 Y68 2007),

The Choice

by Eric Dickey (PS 3554 .I319 C465 2006),

by

Chasing Destiny

Some of the titles include the following:

Family in Corduroy and Denim by David Sedaris (PS3569. F363 C47 2007), Dress Your

Tired of your textbooks? Want something fun to read

to escape from it all? The Library’s Popular Reading

Collection on the first floor of Cook Library offers some-

—tracy englert, information services librarian

Library Focus is published during the spring and fall semesters by

University Libraries.

www.lib.usm.edu

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Gunter Library

228.872.4264

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

www.lib.usm.edu/about_us/library_hours.html

the mississippi library association

1909-2009

100th Year

305

Room 305


WHAT:

The University of Southern Mississippi Museum of Art

will host an exhibit from Oct. 21 – Nov. 12, showcasing

works of art created by library employees from across

the state. The exhibition coincides with the Mississippi

Library Association’s annual conference, held this year

on the Hattiesburg campus. Artists in Mississippi Libraries

will include pieces from the University Libraries’ Special

Collections.

the mississippi library association

October 21-23, 2009

Hattiesburg, Mississippi

MEDICAL LIBRARY

The conference keynote speaker is Louise Schaper, director of the Fayetteville Public Library. Ms. Schaper imagined a library environment that has become an inspiration to her community in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Arkansas has many of the same budgetary challenges as Mississippi. In spite of all the reasons one can feel defeated before starting a new and visionary plan, she successfully introduced progressive ideas to address the need to better manage the library’s resources. A new library was designed with a vision of being environmentally sustainable. Even trees

FALL EXHIBITS BY THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

THE MISSISSIPPI LIBRARY ASSOCIATION CENTENNIAL EXHIBIT

WHERE:

Clearith Brooks Reading Room

McCaIn Library and Archives, Room 305

WHEN:


WHAT:

In 2009, the Mississippi Library Association celebrates

100 years of providing support and leadership to the

librarians of Mississippi. The University Libraries’ Special

Collections department, which recently became home to

the organization’s papers, will present an exhibit from Sept. 14 – Dec. 23, in honor of the Centennial. On

display will be photographs, documents, and memorabilia illustrating the history of MLA.

POPULAR READING COLLECTION

—tracy englert, information services librarian

Family in Corduroy and Denim by David Sedaris (PS3569. F363 C47 2007), Dress Your

Family in Corduroy and Denim by David Sedaris (PS3569. E134 D74 2004), The Road by Cormac McCarthy (PS3563. C337 R63 2006), and You Suck: A Love Story

by

E314 D74 2004),

by Cormac McCarthy (PS3563. C337 R63 2006), and

by

You Suck: A Love Story

by

For more information on this collection, contact Tracy

Englert at Tracy.Englert@usm.edu or 601.266.6396.
from the new building site, one walnut, two cherry trees, and one maple, were saved for use in furnishings for the new building. Due to her efforts, the library received the prestigious Library of the Year Award in 2005, and in the fall of 2006, the new library was awarded the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certification. The building was the first in Arkansas to be registered with the U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED certification program.

Highlights of the upcoming conference include an art exhibit, Artists in Mississippi Libraries, hosted by the Southern Miss Museum of Art. The exhibit will feature works produced by artists who work in libraries around the state. The exhibit will open Wednesday, October 21, from 5 – 6 p.m., in The University of Southern Mississippi’s Museum of Art, in conjunction with the MLA President’s Reception, to recognize the service of the current president, Jan Willis, director of Lee-Statwamba Library System. The exhibit, organized by Dr. Jan Stedding, director of the Museum of Art, will be on display in the art museum until November 12 and is open to the public.

Also, University Libraries take this opportunity to share their time and ideas to make it all happen. I am particularly grateful to Carole Kiehl, dean of Library and Information Science, for her support and to all those who have shared their time and ideas to make it all happen.

The de Grummond Children’s Literature Collection

The de Grummond Children’s Literature Collection invites you to take a sneak peek at what’s new in children’s literature. Each year at the Book Preview, the de Grummond Collection displays hundreds of newly released and upcoming titles for the public to browse. There is no pressure to buy because many of these books are not yet available for sale. This is a great opportunity for teachers and librarians to get ideas for book selections for their classrooms and general collection development. It is also an opportunity for parents to get ideas for books to purchase for holiday gift giving. All visitors will receive a book list with publication and ordering information.

This year’s event will be held in the de Grummond exhibit room on the second floor of Cook Library on Sunday, Nov. 15, 1 – 3 p.m., and Monday, Nov. 16, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

If you have questions, contact Ellen Ruffin at Ellen.Ruffin@usm.edu or 601.266.6543.

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CHILDREN’S BOOK PREVIEW

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If you have questions, contact Ellen Ruffin at Ellen.Ruffin@usm.edu or 601.266.6543.

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Gulf Park College for Women was a private, two-year college founded in 1921. After operating for many years, the campus closed in 1971. In 1972, The University of Southern Mississippi began offering classes on the former GPCW campus, utilizing many of the original buildings. A small collection of Gulf Park College memorabilia was established. Over the years, the collection has grown.

The collection consists of at least one copy of every yearbook from 1922-71. Student handbooks describing campus life (both curricular and extra-curricular) are also available. The Tammy Howl was the campus magazine, and browsing through issues presents a fascinating trip through the decades of Gulf Park. There are also many photographs which depict all aspects of campus life. Dorm life, classes, athletics, parties and dances, theatrical and musical events, graduation—there’s a photo for everything. Each year, some of the students went on a cruise to the Caribbean and through the Panama Canal. Stacks of photos and articles in the campus magazine show the fun that the women had on these cruises.

Here are a couple of highlights from the collection:

In the 1950’s there was a spread in Life magazine about the Gulf Park College for Women. A copy of the article, including the full-color photos of the girls sailing, horseback riding, and practicing their fencing skills is available. In 1965, the movie This Property is Condemned (starring Robert Redford and Natalie Wood) was filmed in nearby Bay St. Louis. Some of the girls in the theater arts program visited the set to watch the filming. They got a firsthand look at filmmaking—meeting not only the actors in the film, but also having “movie makeup” applied by the film’s makeup artist. Later, some of the actors from the movie visited the Gulf Park campus to watch the girls rehearse their latest play. The theater director compiled a scrapbook of photos from the visit to the movie set and donated it to the collection last year.

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In the years prior to 2002, the Gulf Park collection was housed in the first floor of Hardy Hall. After the new library was built, the collection was moved to the first floor of that building, and the library assumed responsibility for the collection’s preservation. When Hurricane Katrina’s storm surge rushed through the building, some of the materials received water damage. Luckily, the damage was less than expected, since most of the materials were shelved above the flood waters. During the time that the library was closed for renovation, most of the collection was sent to the Hattiesburg campus for evaluation, preservation and safekeeping. Materials were returned to the Coast in 2008. Today the collection is located on the second floor of the library. The collection was moved to the second floor in order to insure that it would remain safe from future storms.

Each July, graduates of Gulf Park College return to the Mississippi Gulf Coast for a reunion. One of the highlights of the reunion is a visit to the library to browse through the GPCW archives collection and reminisce. The attendees enjoy looking through the many items that are housed in the archives collection. The Gulf Park College for Women alumnae are very aware of the importance of this collection and are eager to help it to grow and thrive. Many of the alumnae have been donating items from their own personal collections for the archives. The Gulf Park Foundation also offers assistance in purchasing materials for the collection’s preservation and display.

There is a visitors’ room where visitors are free to view the items in the room’s display cases and around the wall. The room is furnished with comfortable antique couches and chairs and is available during regular library hours. Although the main collection is not available for general browsing, researchers may make an appointment to use items from the main archival collection. If you have questions about the collection or would like to visit it in your research, contact Allisa Beck at Allisa.Beck@usm.edu or 228.214.3488.

This conference is the fourth in a series of international colloquia focused on fairy tale studies and hosted by various institutions including the University of Colorado, University of Guelph, and the University of Utah. This year’s theme encompasses subjects as wide-ranging as literature, print culture, and anthropology. Special interests for the conference include the cultural and material history of fairy tales, the adaptation of stories orally or for the stage, and folklore across cultures. It will feature presentations from fields in the Humanities, Social Sciences, and Arts. This year at The University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, the conference is part of a semester-long “World of Words” hosted by the Department of English, the Committee on Services and Resources for Women, the Honors College, and the English Graduate Organization, the Group for International Fairy Tale Study (G.I.F.T.S.) conference will bring internationally renowned English, theatre, Italian, and French faculty to Southern Miss.

DUE TO RECENT TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES, THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI DIGITAL COLLECTIONS WEB SITE HAS MOVED. YOU CAN NOW ACCESS THE WEB SITE AT DIGLIB.USM.EDU/INDEX.PHP.

The Southern Miss Digital Collections Web site features a wide variety of materials from McCain Library and Archives. Many new and exciting items have been added to the Digital Collections site in recent months.

Information on this conference, contact Dr. Molly Hillard at Molly.Hillard@usm.edu or 601.266.4199.

Over sixty children participated in the Summer Reading Program hosted by the Curriculum Materials Center during the month of July. Participants ranged from age three to eighteen and were all children of Southern Miss employees and students. Two events were held in conjunction with the program, both consisting of arts and crafts, refreshments and door prizes. A reading list was available for each age group, and top readers were awarded prizes donated by local businesses. The program was quite a hit with nothing but excellent feedback. We are already looking forward to next year’s program.

DURING THE WEEK OF AUGUST 23, A SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR WAS HOSTED BY THE CURRICULUM MATERIALS CENTER (CMC) LOCATED IN COOK LIBRARY. A WIDE ASSORTMENT OF BOOKS AND OTHER ITEMS FOR ALL AGES WERE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE. ALTHOUGH THE FAIR WAS HELD TO PROVIDE QUALITY CHILDREN’S LITERATURE TO THE PUBLIC AT EXCELLENT PRICES, THE CMC WAS ALSO ABLE TO BENEFIT FROM THE EVENT. BASED ON THE NUMBER OF ITEMS SOLD, THE CURRICULUM MATERIALS CENTER WAS ABLE TO SELECT BOOKS FROM SCHOLASTIC’S CATALOG TO ADD TO THEIR COLLECTION AT NO COST TO THEM. OVERALL, THE FAIR WAS SUCCESSFUL WITH NOTHING BUT POSITIVE FEEDBACK.


THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI DIGITAL COLLECTIONS ARE A PART OF THE MISSISSIPPI DIGITAL LIBRARY (MDL), A COOPERATIVE STATEWIDE DIGITAL LIBRARY THAT PROVIDES ONLINE ACCESS TO A GROWING NUMBER OF MISSISSIPPI’S UNIQUE CULTURAL HERITAGE MATERIALS. THE WEB SITE FOR THE MDL HAS ALSO CHANGED DUE TO A TECHNOLOGY UPGRADE. YOU CAN NOW ACCESS THE MDL WEB SITE AT WWW.MSDIGLIB.ORG./

For more information about the Southern Miss Digital Collections and the Mississippi Digital Library, contact Laura Capell at Laura.Capell@usm.edu or 601.266.6493.
The University of Southern Mississippi’s prominent reputation in the field of children’s literature has earned it the right to house the archive of an international organization dedicated to the genre. After reviewing multiple applications from across the country, the Children’s Literature Association (ChLA) announced last month at its 2009 International Conference in Charlotte, N.C., that the de Grummond Children’s Literature Collection at Southern Miss was chosen as the repository for the archive.

The ChLA is considered the major association of children’s literature scholars in North America. The organization was responsible for founding the first peer-reviewed journal and the first scholarly conference devoted to the literary study of children’s literature. Today it produces two peer-reviewed academic journals in addition to co-publishing scholarly monographs.

In need of a home for its archives, the ChLA invited bids from several universities that hold significant children’s literature collections. In June, at the annual conference in Charlotte, N.C., it was announced that de Grummond would receive this significant archive.

“This award further confirms and strengthens the international importance of the de Grummond Collection and its significance for researchers in children’s literature,” said Dr. Carole Kiehl, Dean of Libraries. Southern Miss assistant professor of English, Dr. Eric Tribunella, who also attended the conference, said that having the ChLA archives on campus opens up exciting research possibilities for him and his students and further enhances the University’s reputation in the children’s literature community.

“Southern Miss is already recognized internationally as one of the major research centers for the scholarly study of children’s literature, so the decision to house the organization’s archives at de Grummond reinforces the international prominence of both the collection and the University,” he said.

To learn more about the de Grummond Children’s Literature Collection, go to www.lib.usm.edu/~degrum/html/aboutus/welcome.shtml.

The Katrina Research Center also boasts an active gallery. Between Aug. 27 – Oct. 3, the Center is hosting the exhibit "Opening Doors: A Photographic Legacy." This exhibit was made possible by El Pueblo/The Village of Abriendo Puertas (Opening Doors: A Photographic Legacy). Between Aug. 27 – Oct. 3, the Center is hosting the exhibit "Opening Doors: A Photographic Legacy." This exhibit was made possible by El Pueblo/The Village of Abriendo Puertas (Opening Doors: A Photographic Legacy). This photographic exhibit was made possible by El Pueblo/The Village of Abriendo Puertas (Opening Doors: A Photographic Legacy).

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