



The Owl



"The Owl of Minerva takes flight only as the dusk begins to fall." — Hegel

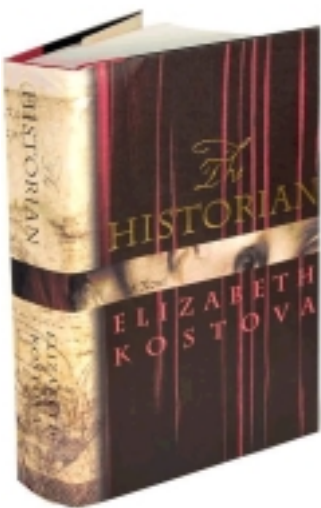
Readers' Picks Winter 2005

By Anna Marie Johnson

The Owl Book Editor

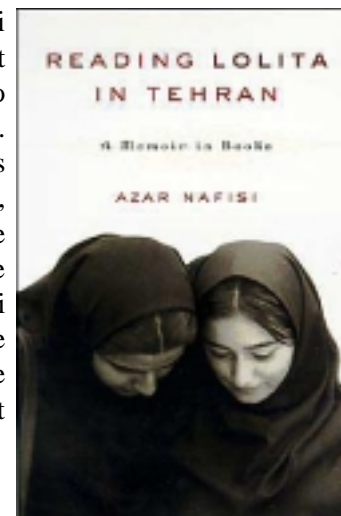
Between mothering a two-year-old and teaching a class of twenty-three freshman and sophomore English 102 students (which many, many times during the semester felt like mothering), my reading time has dropped to almost zilch. I find myself scheming to find time to read, often it is a page at a time, which is quite unsatisfying. So essentially, I have three picks this time—down from my usual six or more. I did read *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* but my guess is that everyone else has too!

One book that slowed me down considerably, but was well worth it, was Isabel Allende's *House of the Spirits* (Ekstrom stacks PQ8098.1 .L54 C313 1986). Even though I studied comparative literature in my masters program and some literature for my undergraduate creative writing degree, I'm discovering so much that I was not required to read or could not find time to read. Sometimes these gaps are embarrassing! Allende's work is one of those gaps. I started with *House of the Spirits* because I owned it in paperback and paperbacks are easier to hold with one hand (since I am always trying to read while doing something else, like lying next to a sleeping two-year-old or stirring our dinner). O.K., so maybe it's not the best way to go about systematically rounding out one's literary education, but it is all I can do at the moment. However I came to it, *House of the Spirits* defies description in some ways. It is a multi-layered story of Chile told through three generations of women: Clara (mother, and wife of Esteban), Blanca (daughter of Clara), and Alba (daughter of Blanca) and Clara's husband Esteban Trueba. It has elements of the magical realism style of Gabriel Garcia Marquez (Clara communicates with spirits and can often predict events), but I found it much more accessible and easier to follow. The characters were also more sympathetic—even the landowner tyrant Esteban has redeeming qualities by the end. The story demonstrates how the political events shape and change the lives of the story's characters: the fights between the landowners and peasants and then later the communists and the capitalists, like Trueba, have profound effects on the entire Trueba clan. The only reason it took me so long to finish the book is because it is a complex novel with lots of characters and historical events; reading it a couple pages at a time made it difficult to remember who was who and who was doing what.



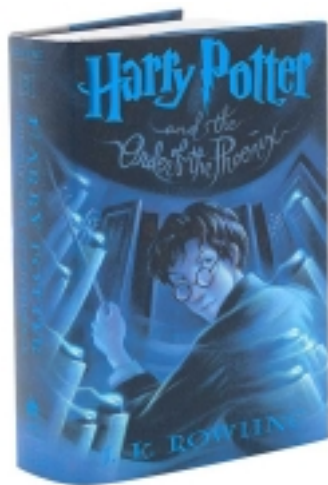
Another pick is also history-related. Thanks to Cathy Hoover who seems to have a knack for knowing what I'll like, I read *The Historian* by Elizabeth Kostova (Ekstrom Browsing PS3611 .O74927 H57 2005). Kostova proposes a new concept of Dracula (or Vlad the Impaler, his more historically accurate title)—Dracula as historian. This book is rich in history and is written as if it were pieced together from the narrator's own experiences, her father's letters to her, the letters of her father's mentor, and various other historical and archival sources. I am not a fan of Dracula or horror novels in general, but this was so rich in historical detail that the slightly campy Dracula scenes were bearable. Nice twist at the end too.

Finally, I just finished *Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books* by Azar Nafisi (Ekstrom Browsing PE64 .N34 A3 2003). I believe this was someone's pick this past summer. It is a lovely book about books—one of my favorite genres. The author, who lived in Iran for 18 years, spoke this year at UofL in our very own Ekstrom auditorium. She was so charming and articulate that I immediately put this book on my list of books to read. She divides this memoir of her time in Iran into four sections: Lolita, Gatsby, Henry James, and Jane Austen. Fed up with the restrictions placed upon her while teaching at an Iranian university, the author decides to hold a secret class at her home for a select group of women where they will read and discuss works of fiction. Nafisi weaves her own story, the stories of the women in her class, and the experience of the Islamic Revolution in Iran into her analysis of the fictional works. The results are compelling. Nafisi is a born teacher—her discussion of the books made me decide that I needed to read Austen, James, Nabakov and more Fitzgerald.



Mark Dickson, Music Library

After taking my sons to see *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* over the holidays, I was compelled to start reading *Order of the Phoenix* (Ekstrom Browsing PZ7 .R79835 Har 2003) for the first time after we got home. I am behind, I admit. We won't go there.



I was startled, after reading 300 or so pages, to discover why I will never be able to be a fiction writer. The ability of Rowling to take this charming and comfortable group of characters in their charming and comfortable wizarding world and inject a pervasive tension both internally and externally is outside of my genes. My desire for harmonious control would never allow it. That being said, I am amazed at how believable the story becomes and continues to be.

After I finish the next book in the series (probably this summer) I will be interested to see if the theory I am formulating now for Harry's future comes to bear fruit. For now, however, I am enjoying this story in spite of the sheer cliffs of tension all around it.

Joe Dresselhaus, Kornhauser Library

While I can never really read all that I want to, some books I have been trying to chip away at lately have been: *Why God Won't Go Away: Brain Science and the Biology of Belief*, by Newberg, D'Aquille, and Rause (Ekstrom stacks BF773 .N48 2001), which explores the biological and neurological basis of mystical and religious experience.

This Is My Best, ed. Kiernan and Powers (not owned by UofL; available at LFPL). For this book, the editors asked dozens of modern writers, poets, essayists, and cartoonists to submit their own favorite work, and the results are wonderful.

Granta (Ekstrom Media & Current Periodicals x PN 2 .G68), a quarterly journal of new writing. The only bad thing is that it is not monthly.

Seed (UofL does not subscribe) is a magazine focusing on science and how it intersects with culture (<http://www.seedmagazine.com/>).

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The Owl's purpose is to promote communication among the various libraries in the UofL system.

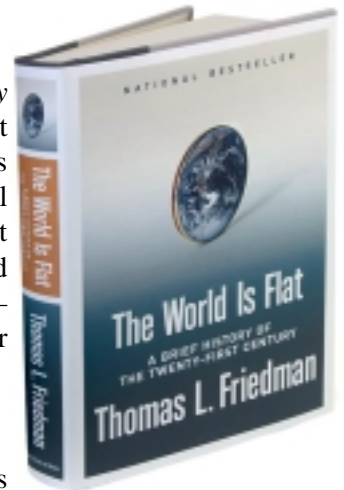
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Opinions expressed in The Owl are not necessarily those of the University Libraries or the University of Louisville.



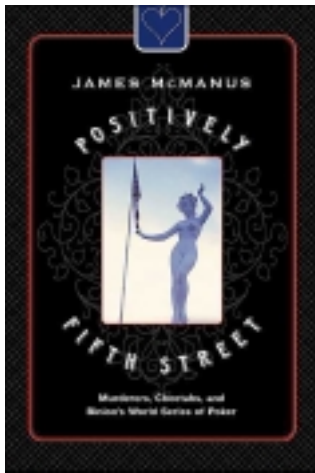
Gail Gilbert, Art Library

Here’s a book I plan to read: *The World is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-First Century* by Thomas Friedman (Ekstrom Browsing HM846 .F74 2005). I read an extended excerpt of the book in the *New York Times Magazine* and found it fascinating. Friedman contends that technological forces flatten the playing field and change the nature of global competition. “Globalization 3.0, as he calls it, is driven not by major corporations or giant trade organizations like the World Bank, but by individuals: desktop freelancers and innovative startups all over the world (but especially in India and China) can compete—and win—not just for low-wage manufacturing and information labor but, increasingly, for the highest-end research and design work as well.”—Amazon.com.



Melissa Laning, Ekstrom Library

Positively Fifth Street: Murderers, Cheetahs, and Binion’s World Series of Poker by James



McManus (Ekstrom Browsing GV1254 .M37 2003) is a true story of drugs, murder and high stakes poker. The author is a journalist who is sent to cover the 2000 World Series of Poker tour and the trial for the murder by burking (you have to read the book to find out what this is) of Jack Binion, the son of the World Series founder. In order to cover the story, the author actually enters the tournament and makes it to the final table. Very entertaining reading even if you have no interest in poker.

Carolyn Gettler Miracle, Music Library

I invite you all to peruse *Kneeling Orion: Poems* by Kate Barnes (Ekstrom Bingham Poetry PS3552 .A6812.K58 2004) or her earlier collection: *Where the Deer Were* (Ekstrom Bingham Poetry PS3552.A6812 W54 1994). Tagging her poems as “nature poetry,” or “New England nature poetry” would be accurate, but does not satisfy. Likewise, Barnes’ poems remind me of Maxine Kumin’s.

If allowed only one sentence to support my recommendation, I’d say I treasure Barnes’ poems because they express how I feel about animals, those creatures so superior to us. Better would be to share the following from *Orion*:

Why Do You Ask?

I can’t make
any story
about my life
tonight. The house
is like an overturned
wastebasket;
the radio
is predicting
more snow,
I ask my dog
to tell me
a story, and she

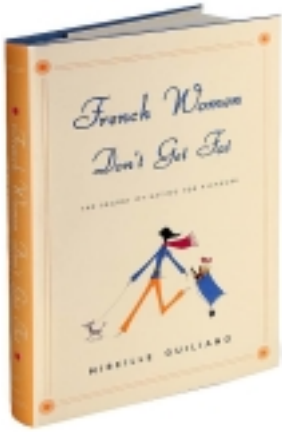
never hesitates.
“Once upon
a time,” she says,
“a woman lived
with a simply
wonderful dog...” and
she stops talking.
“Is that all?”
I ask her.
“Yes,” she says,
“Why do you ask?
Isn’t it enough?”



Copyright © 2003 by Kate Barnes

Glenda Neely, Ekstrom Library

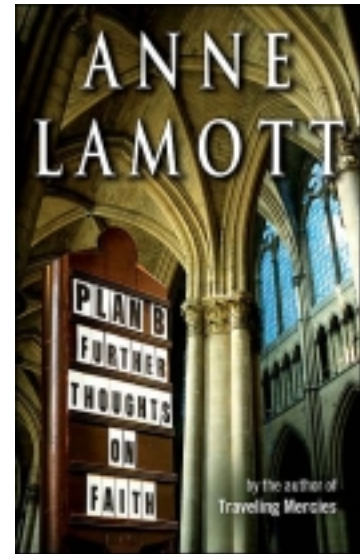
French Women Don’t Get Fat: The Secret of Eating for Pleasure by Mireille Guiliano (Ekstrom Browsing RM222.2 .G785 2004). A delightfully funny and sensible book, aimed especially at Americans, in which she recommends bread, chocolate, champagne among other more practical dishes and methods for keeping healthy and maintaining your best weight. She has kept an extra 30 pounds off (which she gained as a visiting student in America) for 30 years



after re-learning to eat the French way. Guiliano, the CEO of Clicquot, a champagne company, has been heard on radio and appeared frequently on TV shows (*Oprah*, *Today Show*, NBC's *Dateline*, CNN and profiled in the *New York Times*, *Travel & Leisure*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, and *Business Week*). Her advice comes down to basically one recommendation: "eat only good food, and relax and savor every bite." Nutritionists who have read her book have given it their enthusiastic approval. According to Guiliano the big difference between the French and Americans is how they view food. "We should not eat like we're robots or on autopilot." She advocates eating with all five senses, allowing less to seem like more. Many of her favorite personal and family recipes are dispersed throughout the book, and the last chapter is the meat of the entire book, where she summarizes all her best tips.

Judith Niles, Ekstrom Library

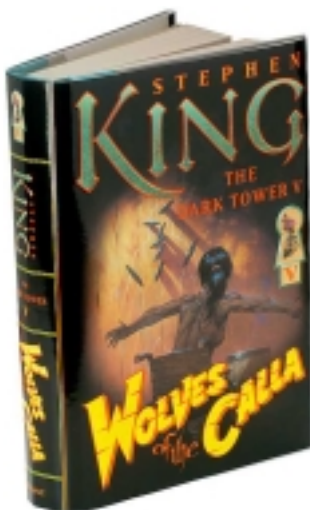
I recently finished reading *Plan B: Further Thoughts on Faith*, by Anne Lamott (Ekstrom Browsing PS3562.A4645 Z467 2005). Ms. Lamott has written several novels (*Rosie*, *Blue Shoe*, *Hard Laughter*, *Crooked Little Heart*, *Joe Jones*, and *All New People*, which are all in Ekstrom, either in Browsing or in the stacks). However, I prefer her non-fiction and autobiographical works. I first read *Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life* (Ekstrom stacks PN147 .L315 1995), and then *Operating Instructions: a Journal of My Son's First Year* (Ekstrom stacks PS3562 .A4645 S26 1993), followed by *Traveling Mercies: Some Thoughts on Faith* (Ekstrom stacks PS3562 .A4645 Z47 1999).



All the non-fiction works focus on Anne and her family, especially her son Sam, whom she is raising as a single mother. Sam arrives in *Operating Instructions*, and Anne describes the wide ranges of emotions she goes through during the first year, from hysterically funny to just plain hysterical. What shines through, though, is her deep, deep bond to Sam, and how he contributes to her spiritual growth. In *Plan B*, Sam is a teenager, with all that that implies, and the focus is on how they maintain the bond between them, despite those changes.

Remarks from critics sum up the things I love about her writing and her willingness to open her mind and heart to her readers:

- "Even at her most serious, she never takes herself or her spirituality too seriously. . . she has soaked up the details of her existence, equally of mirth and devastation, spirit and grief. . ." — *New York Times Book Review*.
- "Anne Lamott is walking proof that a person can be both reverent and irreverent in the same lifetime. Sometimes even in the same breath." — *San Francisco Chronicle*
- "Lamott writes about subjects that begin with capital letters (Alcoholism, Motherhood, Jesus). But armed with self-effacing humor and ruthless honesty—call it a lowercase approach to life's Big Questions—she converts potential op-ed boilerplate into enchantment." — *Newsweek*.



Mark Paul, Ekstrom Library

I'm reading *Positively Fifth Street* by James McManus (Ekstrom Browsing GV1254 .M37 2003). I am not very far into it yet, but can say that reading just the excerpt available at Amazon.com immediately caught my attention and confirmed I wanted to read it. It was recommended to me by a librarian who shall remain nameless. It is a story of deceit, murder, poker, and, of course, sin...in Sin City. The author, by the way, ended up winning a quarter of a million dollars at the final table.

Raymond Slaughter, Ekstrom Library

Here are a couple of books that I found interesting. Stephen King's *The Wolves of the Calla* (Ekstrom Browsing PS3561 .I483 W6 2003) is the fifth installment of the *The Dark Tower*

series. In this book, Roland and his fellow gunslingers are requested by a town committee to help fend off evil supernatural wolves that come and steal children from the townsfolk every so many years and return the children in a retarded state of being. There is a lot of support and opposition from the townspeople who are mostly farmers and landowners and are not used to having gunslingers in their town and are hesitant to welcome them.

Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix (Ekstrom Browsing PZ7 .R79835 Har 2003) is also great reading for those Harry Potter maniacs! In the fifth installment of the Harry Potter series, the battle is on as Lord Voldemort has made his return and seeks revenge and to regroup all his evil forces behind him. A special group of wizards and witches form a group called the Order of the Phoenix to battle Lord Voldemort and the dark forces. Harry Potter, once again, gets in the middle of things and there is plenty of adventure to be had!

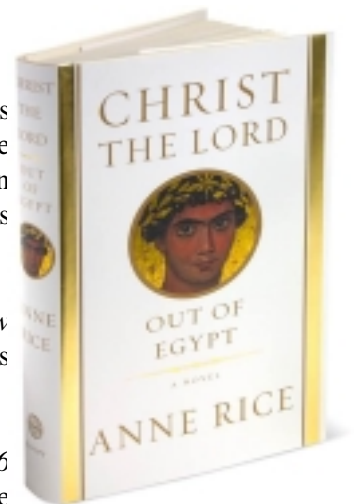
Elizabeth Smigielski, Kornhauser Library

Continuing with my “Western Dictators of the 20th Century” theme: *Defying Hitler* by Sebastian Haffner (Ekstrom stacks DD86.7 .H26 A3 2002; also on tape at the Crescent Hill branch, LFPL). This memoir, written in 1939 and published in 2000, illustrates the lives of ordinary German citizens during the period between the wars and the subsequent rise of Nazism. Haffner had such insight into the subtle changes occurring around him, that critics accused the work of being written after the fact. Highly recommended for anyone who wants to understand how political forces can create pervasive and profound individual and societal shifts.

Franco: a Biography by Paul Preston (Ekstrom stacks DP264 .F7 P74 1994; also on tape at the Main Branch, LFPL). Written by one of the leading scholar’s of 20th century Spanish history, this is the definitive biography of Franco, “the least known dictator of the 20th century.” From *Library Journal*: “a marvelously researched, abundantly detailed—and very readable—story of the dictator’s life. Preston refrains from fanciful speculation, documenting his assertions with 131 pages of notes.”

Barbara Whitener, Ekstrom Library

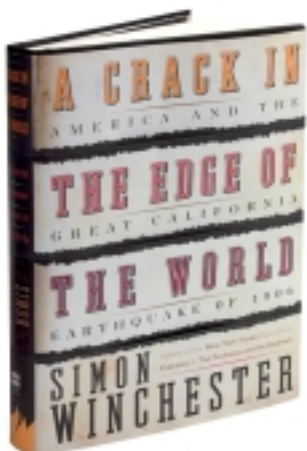
Christ the Lord: Out of Egypt (Ekstrom Browsing PS3568 .I265 C48 2005) is Anne Rice’s latest book. It is a quite a departure for the author of the various “Vampire” books. The book is told from the perspective of the seven-year-old Jesus. The novel, based on extensive research and the Gospels, gives the reader an interesting view not only of Jesus but of the times in which he lived.



Charles C. Mann has written a new book about pre-Columbian America: *1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus* (Ekstrom Browsing E61 .M266 2005). This book challenges many of the assumptions we have learned in school and our reading.

A Crack in the Edge of the World: America and the Great California Earthquake of 1906 by Simon Winchester (Ekstrom Browsing F869.S357 W56 2005). Winchester is the

author of *The Professor and the Madman* (Ekstrom stacks PE 1617 .O94 W56 1998) and *Krakatoa*. (Ekstrom stacks QE523 .K73 W56 2003) This time he is researching the San Francisco earthquake. Along the way we get lessons in geology, seismology, and California history (and a really cool foldout book jacket).

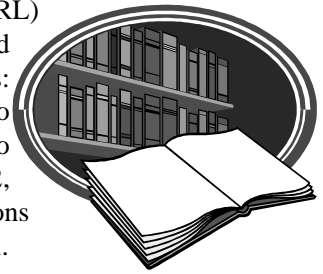


Judy Wulff, Kornhauser Library

John Chenault recently lent me *The Time Traveler’s Wife* by Audrey Niffenegger (Ekstrom Browsing PS3564 .I362 T56 2003). I suspect it’s been in this list before, but I think it bears repeating. Several people will get a copy from me for Christmas. A librarian at the Newberry Library suffers from a genetic problem: Chrono-Displacement Disorder, which causes him to fall in and out of his own time. The story is about his relationship with the woman he meets as a little girl in her own time, who eventually grows up to marry him, told from alternating perspectives. The story is intricate and beautifully crafted.

From the Dean of Libraries . . .

On October 26-27 I attended the fall meeting of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) in Washington, DC. ARL is restructuring its committees; there be will six board committees, four self-funded initiatives and three strategic direction steering committees: Scholarly Communication, Public Policies and Research, Teaching and Learning. Also reviewed were principles and procedures of membership in ARL. ARL's initiative to recruit a diverse workforce will hold a second leadership symposium January 20-22, 2006. As usual the meeting was packed with useful information and I found the discussions related to the role of research libraries in research, teaching and learning most helpful.



After the ARL meeting on October 28, I attended a special workshop, "Managing Digital Assets: Strategic Issues for Research Libraries," sponsored by ARL, CNI (Coalition of Networked Information), CLIR (Council on Library and Information Resources), and DLF (Digital Library Federation). Discussed were institutional policy issues, emerging federal policies for asset management, and tools for managing text and visual digital assets.

November 14 and 15 I attended the ASERL (Association of Southeastern Research Libraries) meeting in Atlanta. The Education Committee of which I am a member, met before the conference to discuss possible training and education needs for non-MLS professionals in the profession. The meeting addressed possible collaborations with the Historical Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) group. Discussion centered around institutional repositories, virtual reference, Kudzu initiatives, LOCKSS initiatives and collection development and e-resources. Lorcan Dempsey from OCLC presented a preview of coming technologies and services.

I presented my annual progress report to the Board of Overseers on November 9 and to the Board of Trustees on November 10. It was well-received by both groups.

On November 16 we held a most successful celebration of our two-millionth volume acquisition, *GOAT* or *Greatest of All Time: A Tribute to Muhammad Ali*. More than 300 persons attended this very special event. The photo below was taken shortly after the unveiling by President Ramsay (center) and Al Herring (Executive Director of the Muhammad Ali Institute for Peace and Justice—soon to be moving into the Ekstrom Library).

The new Library Associates Board held their business meeting on November 17 at which they allocated \$28,408 from their endowment income to the Libraries for the purchase of books.



Photo: Amy Purcell

Library and Department News

Ekstrom Library Office of the Dean

New Employee

Lisa Ortega has accepted the position of Library Assistant in Circulation/ILL. Lisa will report to Bettie Lewis. Lisa was previously a student assistant in Circulation.

Special Collections

Life Works of Jan Carew

Special Collections is honoring the life work of Jan Carew with the current exhibit, "Message from Manaharva: Save Our Rainforest." Celebrated as a pioneer in the field of Pan-African Studies, Professor Carew has achieved renown as an activist, poet, actor, author, teacher, scientist and historian, as well as being on the forefront of many political and cultural movements concerning race relations. On November 29, Rare Books held a reception that included a program of readings of Professor Carew's poetry and a short story by his friends and colleagues. As an added bonus, his life-long close friend Dr. Ivan Van Sertima gave a powerful reading of one of his own poems (photo, below). The exhibit has been extended to December 13. If you haven't yet had a chance to see this exhibit, give yourself a treat and visit the Rare Books gallery to view Jan Carew's artwork and read about his life and teaching.



Photos: Amy Purcell, Special Collections

Technical Services

Bon Voyage, Angela!

Congratulations to Angela Slaughter, Library Assistant in Serials Acquisitions, for being chosen as a recipient of a 2006 Bon Voyage grant from Endeavor Information Systems. As grant recipient, Angela will receive funds to cover expenses to attend the EndUser 2006 conference in Chicago in April, 2006. Only ten people are chosen each year to receive the grant based on essays submitted to the EndUser grant selection committee. The 2006 recipients hail from New Zealand, Scotland, Finland, Georgia, Arizona, North Carolina, Washington, Michigan, and, of course, Kentucky. Congratulations, Angela!

Kersey Library

Workshop

Jan Kulkarni arranged a Database Training Workshop with Ruth Woolfish from IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers) at Kersey Library on Friday, November 18. This provided training on *IEEE Xplore* database. Participants included undergraduate and graduate students, staff and faculty members and librarians.

Holiday Season

It's that wonderful time of the year again! (That is a matter of opinion, according to some!) We may not have the snow to put us in the mood, but then again we are getting verrrry negative reactions to that possibility! Some of us enjoy this time of the year by visiting our families for the holidays. Jan Kulkarni and his wife will be going to Atlanta to be with their son and family. Kathryn Rudolph will be going home to Fort Wayne to be with her family, and Steve Whiteside will be headed to Indianapolis to be with his mother and family. The rest of us at Kersey will be home for the holidays, right here in Louisville or just across the bridge in Indiana.

December Birthdays

Jan Kulkarni and Adam Lawrence will be celebrating their birthdays in December. For those of you who don't know, Jan Kulkarni's birthday is December 25. He was born under a very special star! We would like to extend birthday wishes to the rest of you celebrating your very special day in December.



Holiday Wishes

Kersey Library wishes all of you Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year! See you next year!

Law Library

Welcome, Tami!

The Law Library welcomes Tami Sexton, who joined us on November 15 (as fate would have it, the day UofL closed at 4pm due to a tornado watch). Tami is working in both Public and Technical Services, and brings a wealth of experience to the job. Many of you will remember Tami from the years she worked in Serials with Tyler Goldberg. We appreciate Tami's extensive knowledge of Voyager and are grateful to have such a talented new addition to our staff.

A decorative rectangular box with a blue gradient background, white stars, and a dotted border. The text inside is white and reads:

**Libraries Annual
Holiday Party**
Thursday, December 8, 2005
2 PM - 4 PM
Bingham Poetry Room
Ekstrom Library

DARE TO SAY THANK YOU!

“Thanks to **Jim Ryan** for covering odd hours while we were interviewing candidates for our vacant position! Jim always comes through for staff and deserves our utmost thanks.” — *Bettie Lewis*

“Thank you to **John Spivey** for sharing his expertise with ASERL! His query for statistical reports is on the ASERL web page and will be used by ASERL libraries to report ILL statistics in the same format for all KUDZU libraries. You can see his work at: http://www.ASERL.org/projects/kudzu/KUDZU_ILLiad_Link.pdf” — *Bettie Lewis*

“I give sincere thanks to **Jessie Roth** who has posted dozens of notices to *UofL Today* for me, on time, and with a virtual smile, regardless of when I send them to her. Thanks, Jessie, for making Kornhauser, and me, look good time and time again.” — *Elizabeth Smigielski*

“Thanks to **Katrina, Ryan, Callista, Jason, and all the Ekstrom Circ staff and students** who worked to save the bound journals after the plumbing leak over the Thanksgiving weekend! They did a terrific job. **Felix Garza** also stopped by to lend a hand while he was here using the library. Kudos to Katrina for showing great presence of mind in a bad situation and leading the effort to save *Modern Railways* and its kin!” — *Susan Knoer*

Thank You



Alice Abbott-Moore
Angel Clemons
Rachel Hodge
Anna Marie Johnson
Marcia Kotlinski
Hannelore Rader

Exhibits

Art Library
Belknap, Gallery X
Fall BFA Exhibitions

Gallery X
Asma El Waddidi, MA Exhibition
December 1, 2005 – January 8, 2006

*When you're visiting the Galleries in Schneider Hall, plan to stop by the Art Library to see more artwork. Drawings, prints, watercolors and sculpture are interspersed throughout the 80,000 volume collection. Highlights include a collage by nationally known artist **Alma Lesch** and several works by UofL faculty, past and present.*

Ekstrom Library
Lobby

Kentucky Quilts: Images of Quilts from the Collection of the Kentucky Historical Society
October 31-December 30

Special Collections:
Photographic Archives

There Is No Beauty Without Perception: The Arts Through the Lens
November 7, 2005- January 13, 2006

Rare Books

Message from Manaharva "Save Your Rainforest"
Life Work of Jan Carew
November 7 – December 13, 2005

Kersey Library

2005 Nobel Prize Winners in Chemistry and Physics
November 1 - December 15, 2005

Music Library

First Floor

Györgi Kurtág - Works of the 2006 Grawemeyer Award for Music Composition Winner
Through December 2005

Second Floor

New Books

