



The Newsletter for Employees of the University of Louisville Libraries
Vol. 23, No. 5 * Summer, 2007

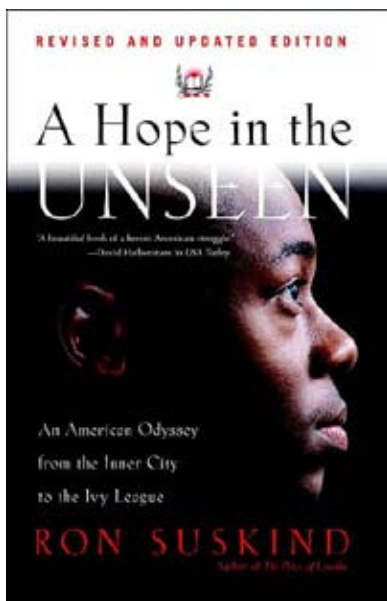
The Owl

“The Owl of Minerva takes flight only as the dusk begin to fall.” — Hegel

SUMMER READERS' PICKS

By Anna Marie Johnson, Information Literacy

Reading an ACRL blog post by Marc Meola (*sigh* yes, I finally joined the 21st century and am using Google's Reader to access some RSS feeds from a few library-related blogs) that talked about why and what students read and calling for more study of reading habits. (<http://acrblog.org/2007/05/31/why-do-students-read/>). This post was in response to another post by Barbara Fister mulling how conflicted some academic librarians feel about promoting reading (<http://acrblog.org/2007/05/19/reading-in-the-vulgate/>). Both of these posts stem from an article that appeared in RUSQ (Reference & User Services Quarterly — <http://www.ala.org/ala/rusa/rusapubs/rusq/referenceuser.htm>) called “Academic Libraries and Extracurricular Reading Promotion” which surveyed academic libraries and found that the lack of time and staff and the focus on new technologies have resulted in a decline in reading promotion but highlighted some creative and inexpensive efforts by some libraries (<http://www.rusq.org/index.php/2007/05/07/academic-libraries-and-extracurricular-reading-promotion/>). I think of our Readers' Picks *Owl* editions as part of our efforts at reading promotion.



I'm pleased to see a renewed interest on reading in the professional literature because I think librarianship tends to focus on computers and electronic access. This is of course understandable, but I still think reading (along with thinking and quietly reflecting) has an important role to play in education (and life!). This is one of the reasons I was so thrilled that we were a part of LFPL's Big Read of *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (what a wonderful book—one of my picks for sure!) which was a response to a National Endowment for the Arts survey that reading was on the decline in the U.S. It is also the reason I've been delighted to learn that UofL has a pilot book in common project this fall with entering first-year students using Ron Suskind's *A Hope in the Unseen: An American Odyssey from the Inner City to the Ivy League* (Ekstrom LC2803.W3 S87 2005). The subject of the book, Cedric Jennings, survived an inner-city Washington D.C. high school and then attended and graduated from Brown University and will be on campus this fall.

After I re-read *Their Eyes* for the Big Read, I wanted to know more about Zora Neale Hurston, so I picked up *Dust Tracks on the Road* (Ekstrom PS 3515 .U789 Z5 1971). I found it to be lively and interesting as Hurston is the consummate storyteller. She seems an artist at self-promotion before the era of Oprah, but clearly she was smart and driven and very talented. Chapters include “Love,” “Religion,” “Research,” “Books and Things,” “Wandering,” and “My People, My People.”

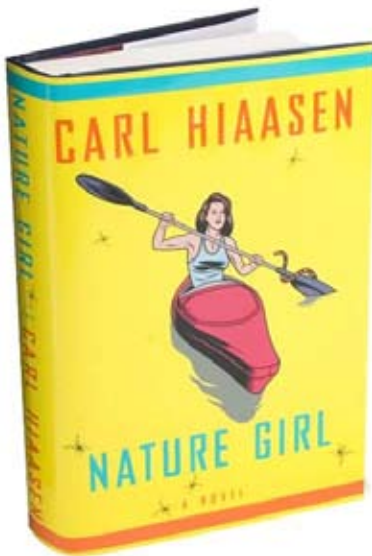
I'm working on reading more Kentucky authors so two of my picks are by Chris Offutt. The first is *Out of the Woods* (Ekstrom Browsing PS 3565 .F387 O98 1999) which tells beautiful stories about Kentucky natives. My favorite

musings of one of the characters is how rather than time marching on, people move through time. Time is the constant. The characters in Offutt's stories are marked by Kentucky—whether they live there still or in Idaho or some other far-off place. His characters know how to shoot, skin an owl despite a hangover, and most importantly, always find their way back home.

My second Offutt pick is *Kentucky Straight* (Ekstrom PS 3565 .F387 K4 1992), his first short story collection. The stories in this book were more troublesome for me than *Out of the Woods*. These all take place in Kentucky and the people are heroic and dignified despite their less than desirable living circumstances. My favorite was “The Leaving One” about a boy who forms a relationship with his grandfather shortly before his grandfather's death, but the story that sticks with me is “Old of the Moon,” a story within a story where the inner story involves three men hunting the bear who killed the daughter of one of the three. Only two of them survive the adventure, but not for the reasons that immediately come to mind.

Although memoirs are a tricky genre, *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls (Ekstrom Browsing HV5132 .W35 2005) is a stunning one about resilience. Walls is the product of two very eccentric (or neglectfully abusive, depending on your point of view) parents, an artistic mother and a brilliant but alcoholic father who can't keep a job. The family is essentially homeless and moves constantly during the first years of Walls' life and has almost nothing. Still, Walls adores her father, Rex, and in his more lucid moments, he does seem to manage to rise to the occasion. When the family moves to West Virginia though, things take a turn for the worse (although to say “worse” doesn't really do the whole story justice) and Walls and her sisters and brother all realize that they need to get away from their parents in order to have the kind of life they want. Two moments symbolize for me the complexity of the relationship between Walls and her father: at one point during her teen years, he takes her to a bar with him and essentially uses her to distract the pool players so he can hustle them. When she confronts him and says that she could have been hurt, he says basically that he knew she could take care of herself. Alternately, years later as she about to drop out of college because she can't make the \$2000 tuition payment, her father shows up at her door with \$1500 in crumpled small bills and a fur coat and says, “there are some really bad poker players in New York.”

Three much less serious books that are well suited to summer reading. *Nature Girl* by Carl Hiaasen (Ekstrom Browsing PS 3558 .I217 N39 2006). Fun, fun, fun, sweet, and sentimental. The good guys are slightly wacky but really good-hearted and the bad guys are, well, really disagreeable. Here's the lineup: Boyd Shreave, telemarketer; Honey Santana, kind-hearted, concerned mom; Lilly, rich and creepy wife of telemarketer; Dealey, the PI; Perry Skinner, Honey's ex; Fry, her son; Eugenie, Boyd's mistress; a half-Seminole named Tigertail; his volunteer, sorority-girl hostage Gillian; Louis Piejack, the creepy and perverted fishmonger; and the spirit of a drunken, dead tourist Wilson. My husband and I both suspect that Hiaasen actually makes up very few of these stories up and that he culls them from local newspapers in Florida.



Slightly less wacky but with good plot twists is *The Interruption of Everything* by Terry McMillan (Ekstrom Browsing PS 3563 .C3868 I58 2005). Marilyn, the 44-year-old wife and mother is suffering a bit from empty nest (except that her nest is still occupied by her loveable but slightly busy-body mother-in-law Arthurrine and her little dog Snuffy) and is going through perimenopause, according to her two friends Bunny and Paulette. She heads to the doctor to find relief for her

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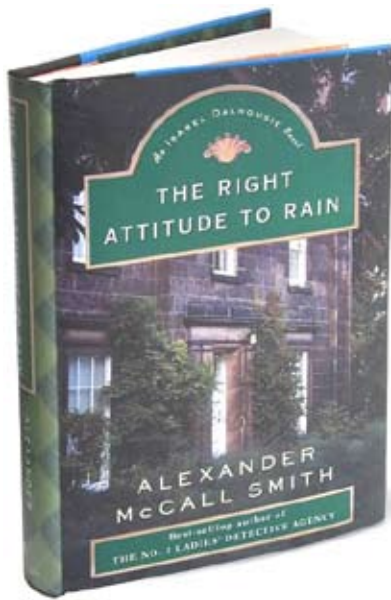
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The Owl's purpose is to promote communication among the various libraries in the UofL system.

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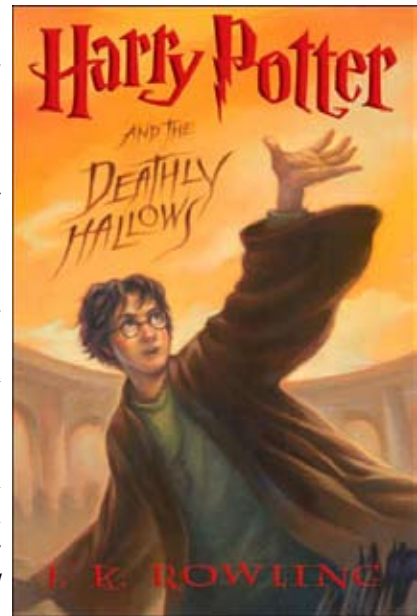


symptoms and has a little surprise; meanwhile, her engineer husband Leon decides he is bored with their life, and maybe with her, and takes off to Costa Rica for a month. All the while Marilyn is dealing with her increasingly forgetful mother and her adopted and sometimes drug-addicted sister Joy and her two children. The dialogue is typically snappy Terry McMillan—except for a few places when I lost for a bit the flow of who was talking. The ending wasn't what I expected, given the way the story seemed to be headed, but I was pleasantly surprised. Finally, *The Right Attitude to Rain* by Alexander McCall Smith (Ekstrom Browsing PR 6063 .C326 R54 2006) is the third installment in the Isabel Dalhousie series set in Scotland. This one doesn't really have a mystery *per se*, although it does have an American couple who intrigues Isabel because the man, Tom, has Bell's palsy and the woman, Angie, is quite a bit younger and doesn't seem really in love with him despite their engagement. Isabel, though, is soon busy pondering the affairs of her own heart as her relationship with Jamie, her niece's rejected suitor, turns into something more. This one has a surprising and fun plot twist at the end which I won't give away. I like this series as much as I like McCall Smith's Botswana series.

James Adler, Kornhauser Library

Like countless others, I'm eagerly awaiting the final installment of J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series — *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, to be released July 21 — in which many mysteries will hopefully be solved. (My two predictions: Neville Longbottom plays an absolutely crucial role, and Sirius returns). In the meantime, I'll be re-reading the previous volumes and watching the upcoming movie. I'm by no means a Potter fanatic, but this is really a stellar series of books, and I'll be sorry to see it come to an end.

In case you haven't read 'em, what're ya waitin' for? My fifty-eight-year-old aunt thought she wouldn't like them, but ended up reading them last winter, one after another as fast as she could finish them; they're not just fer kids! In order: *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* (Ekstrom Browsing PZ7.R79835 Har 1998), *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* (Ekstrom Browsing PZ 7 .R79835 Har 1999), *Harry Potter and The Prisoner of Azkaban* (Ekstrom Browsing PZ7.R79835 Ham 1999), *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* (Ekstrom Browsing PZ7.R79835 Har 2000), *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* (Ekstrom Browsing PZ7.R79835 Har 2003), *Harry Potter and the Half-blood Prince* (Ekstrom Browsing PZ7.R79835 Halh 2005).



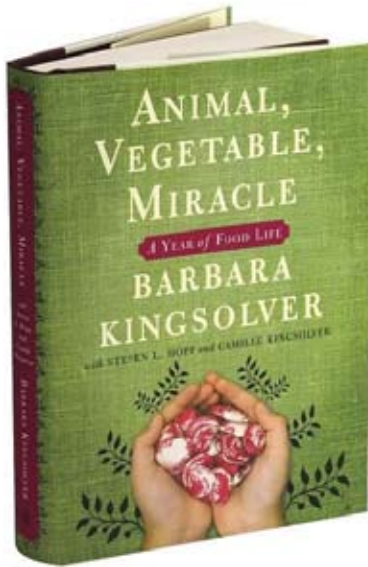
On a totally different level of escapism comes Sam Keith and Richard Proenneke's *One Man's Wilderness: An Alaskan Odyssey* (Ekstrom F912.T85 P76 1999). Proenneke, at 50, decides he wants to move to the Alaskan back-country and build his own cabin, and so he does. He fells his own timber, cuts logs, rips boards from the logs, and basically constructs whatever he needs using the simplest hand-tools, and takes advantage of whatever the Alaskan environment provides him. His supplies are augmented by intermittent plane deliveries of groceries/hardware, but basically he spends an entire year by himself. Based on Proenneke's journals, the book is quiet in tone, yet quite engrossing. It's a quick read, and embellished with photographs of the author at work and the intensely beautiful Alaskan landscape. Ekstrom also has a second, companion volume, *More Readings from One Man's Wilderness* (Ekstrom F912.T85 P75 2005).

Shlomo ben-Avraham, Law Library

I am reading a two-volume history of the Hawaiian Kingdom by Samuel M. Kamakau (1815-1876) [not owned by UofL]. This history covers the period from birth of Kamehameha I through the death of Kamehameha III. Kamakau wrote this history as a series of columns in the Hawaiian language newspaper, *Ku'oko'a (Independent)* from October

1866 - February 1868. I have just started reading volume I, *Ke Kumu Aupuni (The Foundation of the Nationhood)*. This volume offers the reader a unique contemporary's point of view of the reign of the first two kings of Hawaii. It will also give this reader extensive practice reading a classic treatise in the Hawaiian language.

By the way, *The Ku'oko'a* was one of many daily newspapers in Hawaii at this time. By the mid nineteenth century, only a single generation after adopting a written form for its language, the Hawaiian kingdom had more daily newspapers than the entire territory of the United States west of the Mississippi River.



Gwendline Chenault, Ekstrom Library

I'm reading Barbara Kingsolver's *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle* (Ekstrom Browsing S521.5.A67 K56 2007) and enjoying it thoroughly. It's a flashback on all the books I read years ago about food production and distribution. Kingsolver has abandoned the Arizona desert and relocated along with her family to a Virginia farming community. The book champions locally grown food, family, community, environment and co-existence. It's quite revealing, informative and funny.

Mark Dickson, Music Library

I am happy to report that I did indeed finish both of my Fagles translations of Homer's *Illiad* and *Odyssey* (Ekstrom PA4025 .A2 F33 1990 and PA 4025 .A5 F34 1996, respectively). Now, *The Aeneid* by Virgil, Bernard Knox (Introduction), and Robert Fagles (Translator) [Ekstrom PA6807.A5 F25 2006] loom on my nightstand. Fagles just recently won the Harold Morton Landon Translation Award of the Academy of American Poets for his translation of Virgil's *Aeneid* (Viking), so the three make an inspiring set.

I also have José Saramago's *Blindness* (not owned by UofL) setting next to Virgil and Harry Potter 7 pre-ordered, so the candle will be stout before the summer is out.

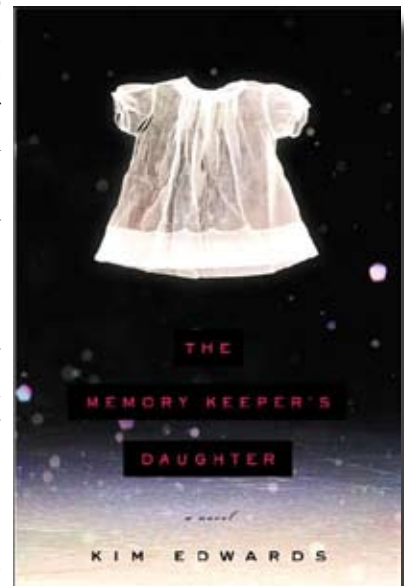
Leslie Farison, Ekstrom Library

A librarian's worst nightmare is finishing a book without another waiting to be read, and a limited availability of reading material in English. The first book is one I took on a trip, the second one was given to me by a kindred soul and the third is another by the same author that I was lucky enough to find in a café bookstore.

The Memory Keeper's Daughter by Kim Edwards (Ekstrom Browsing PS3555.D942 M46 2005b). Human motivation, the simple question of why we do what we do, is often very complex. So many times in our lives we make a decision or choice that will alter our lives forever without really understanding why. *The Memory Keeper's Daughter* is a story about how a split second decision affected the lives of two families for over a quarter of a century. A doctor is forced by a blizzard to deliver his own twins. His son, born first, is perfectly healthy. Yet when his daughter is born, he sees immediately that she has Down's Syndrome. He tells his wife the baby died and asks his nurse to take the baby away to an institution and never to reveal the secret, but she disappears into another city to raise the child herself.

This deeply moving novel explores the way life takes unexpected turns and how secrets at the center of the family can affect the one who keeps the secrets as well as those from whom secrets have been kept. The author, Kim Edwards, currently teaches writing at the University of Kentucky.

The Virgin Blue by Tracy Chevalier (not owned by UofL). Set in France and Switzerland during the 16th-century Reformation in France, *The Virgin Blue* explores the persecution of French Huguenots through the lens of a contemporary American



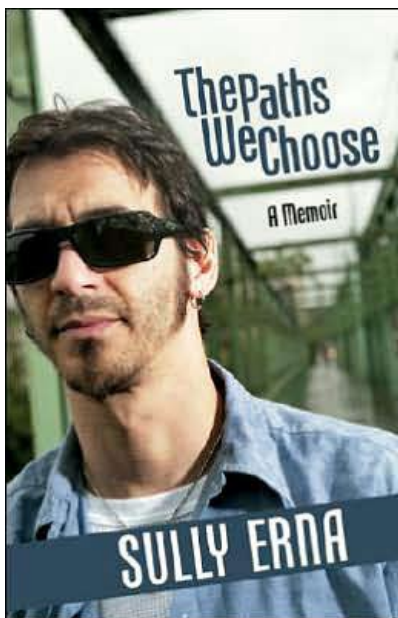
woman. Two women, Ella and Isabelle, born 400 years apart, are bound by a fateful family legacy. In split-narrative fashion, this story follows a transplanted American woman in southwestern France as she connects through dreams with her distant Huguenot ancestors and unravels their puzzling secrets with the help of a local librarian. Religion is a major theme as a vehemently anti-Catholic Calvinist sect overthrows the village's cult of the Virgin, who is depicted in paintings as red-haired and wearing a blue dress. Because of her own red hair and midwifery practice, Isabelle is suspected by her husband of witchcraft and punished accordingly. Ironically, it is he and his family that secretly adhere to heinous, superstitious practices believed to guard their home against the intrusion of enemies.

Girl with a Pearl Earring by Tracy Chevalier (Ekstrom PS3553.H4367 G57 2003). History and fiction merge in this tale of how the Dutch artist Vermeer painted his masterpiece in seventeenth-century Delft, the Netherlands. During this period of religious and social change throughout Europe, there was a strict social order — rich and poor, Catholic and Protestant, master and servant — and all knew their place. After her father loses his sight and his trade in 1664, 16-year-old Griet becomes a maid in the household of the painter Johannes Vermeer. Her role is housework, laundry, and the care of the children. But her quick perceptions, sense of color, composition, and orderliness lead Vermeer to entrust much of the labor of creating the colored paints to Griet. This work, inappropriate for a maid's station, was done in secret, raising the suspicions of the household. When eventually he asks her to sit for a portrait wearing his wife's pearl earrings, her life is nearly destroyed. The rigidly defined and inflexible class system, the grinding poverty of the working people, and the prejudice against Catholics among the Protestant majority make it clear that to members of the wealthy elite, every member of the servant class is expendable.



Sarah Frankel, Ekstrom Library

Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix by J.K. Rowling (Ekstrom Browsing PZ7.R79835 Har 2003). Even though I own all the Harry Potter books, I've only recently begun reading them and I have finally caught up to the point where I am reading a book before the movie comes out! *OotP* chronicles Harry's fifth year at Hogwart's school, the aftermath of Harry's traumatizing confrontation with Lord Voldemort in *Goblet of Fire*, and the opposition he faces from those who do not want to believe this encounter really took place. After finishing this book, I will read *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* (Ekstrom Browsing PZ7.R79835 Halh 2005) and then the seventh and final book, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, to be released July 21, 2007.



The Paths We Choose by Sully Erna (Ekstrom Browsing ML420.E74 A3 2007). I have had an autographed copy of this book on my shelf since its February, 2007 release, but have yet to read it. Hopefully, after finishing up the *Harry Potter* series, I will have more time for books such as this. Sully Erna is the lead singer of the Boston-based hard rock band Godsmack (of which I am a huge fan), but this isn't your average rock star tell-all book. *The Paths We Choose* is a memoir that follows Erna through the trials of his childhood and adult life pre-Godsmack, growing up on the mean streets of Lawrence, Massachusetts in the 1970s and '80s. From what I've heard, it's a great example of how success in the music business, for some, does not come overnight and how our choices in life can determine our destiny. This book is available for purchase at Borders stores or online at www.amazon.com or the publisher's website www.thepathswechoose.com.

Gail Gilbert, Art Library

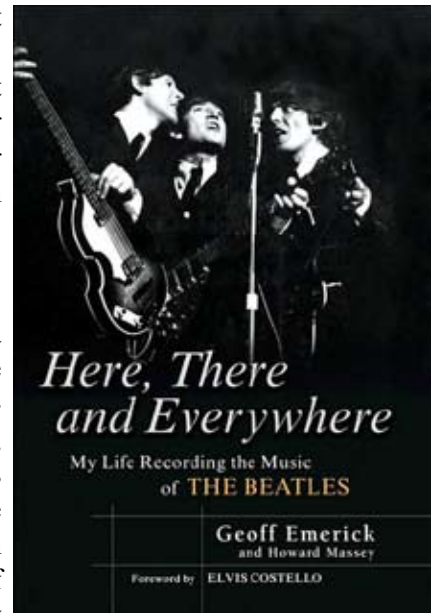
White Teeth by Zadie Smith (Ekstrom PR 6069 .M59 W47 2000). From Amazon: "The scrambled, heterogeneous sprawl of mixed-race and immigrant family life in gritty London nearly overflows the bounds of this stunning, polymathic

debut novel by 23-year-old British writer Smith. Traversing a broad swath of cultural territory with a perfect ear for the nuances of identity and social class, Smith harnesses provocative themes of science, technology, history and religion to her narrative. Hapless Archibald Jones fights alongside Bengali Muslim Samad Iqbal in the English army during WWII, and the two develop an unlikely bond that intensifies when Samad relocates to Archie's native London. Smith traces the trajectory of their friendship through marriage, parenthood and the shared disappointments of poverty and deflated dreams, widening the scope of her novel to include a cast of vibrant characters: Archie's beautiful Jamaican bride, Clara; Archie and Clara's introspective daughter, Irie; Samad's embittered wife, Alsana; and Alsana and Samad's twin sons, Millat and Magid. .. Smith contrasts Samad's faith in providence with Magid's desire to seize control of the future, involving all of her characters in a debate concerning past and present, determinism and accident. A remarkable examination of the immigrant's experience in a postcolonial world....”

Robin Harris, Law Library

Here, There and Everywhere: My Life Recording the Music of the Beatles (not owned by UofL) by Geoff Emerick and Howard Massey (Gotham Books, 2006). If you want an in-depth peek at what really went on when the Beatles were at their peak, look no further than this 400-page account by recording engineer Geoff Emerick. Now I know this probably strikes some of you as “just another book about the Beatles” (and there are hundreds), but many among us remain fascinated by the details of how the Beatles produced their incredible music. If you fall into that category, this book is the perfect summer read for you.

Emerick became the group's head sound engineer at the age of 19 and was a major player in the making of some of the Beatles' most revered albums. He reveals details about the innovative (and often bizarre) techniques that produced masterpieces *Revolver*, *Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*, and *Abbey Road*. (He quit during the recording of *The White Album*, but his recollections of those recording sessions alone are worth the price of the book. Ultimately, he returned to engineer the stunning *Abbey Road*). Much of the information in this account has never appeared in print before. Best of all, Emerick sticks to what he knows and avoids the “tell-all” tactics of many other Beatles' chroniclers.



After reading Emerick's book (or maybe *while* reading it), you'll want to listen again to your favorite Beatles' albums. And you may just hear them in a whole new way.

Sarah Jent, Ekstrom Library

Merrick by Anne Rice (both UofL copies are lost): Intriguing but not quite as enjoyable as others in this series.

Mumbo Gumbo by Jerrilyn Farmer (not owned by UofL): A fun, light culinary mystery, but sadly, did not include any recipes.

We Were the Mulvaney's by Joyce Carol Oates (Ekstrom Browsing PS3565 .A8 W4 1996): An emotionally engrossing novel.

Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt (Ekstrom E184 .I6 M117 1999): Not to be missed; very memorable.

The Time Traveler's Wife by Audrey Niffeneggar (Ekstrom PS3564 .I362 T56 2003): The most captivating book I have read in a long time.

Comfort Me With Apples by Ruth Reichl (Ekstrom TX649 .R45 A3 2001): A memoir written by former *New York Times* restaurant critic.

Kitchen Confidential by Anthony Bourdain (Ekstrom TX649 .B58 A32 2000): A behind-the-scenes look at the restaurant industry written by an outspoken chef.

Vicki Niehaus, Ekstrom Library

Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life by Barbara Kingsolver (Ekstrom Browsing S 521.5 .A67 K56 2007) is a true story of novelist Barbara Kingsolver's family exodus from Arizona to a Virginia farm to attempt one year

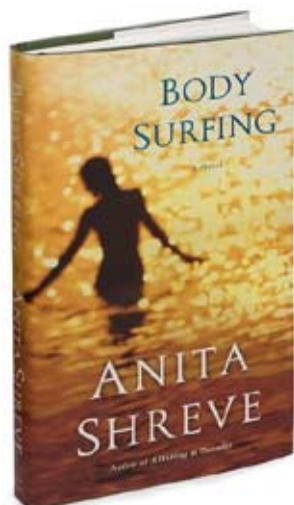
of eating only locally produced food. The story is presented in diary form with contributions from her husband the biology professor and essays and recipes from her 19-year-old daughter. Short essays addressing such issues as corporate agribusiness and its impact, nutrition, seasonality and why it is important, sustainable agriculture, feedlot food production, finding local resources, etc. are interspersed. My favorite chapter concerned Barbara's earnest attempts at turkey sex ed. This is a compelling read that made me aware of the environmental impact and fuel costs associated with the way I eat. The book contains practical advice and realistic small steps for those of us who cannot relocate to Virginia to grow most of our own food. More information is at <http://www.animalvegetablemiracle.com>.

Chad Owen, University Archives & Records Center

I first picked up Robert Pirsig's *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* (Ekstrom CT 275 .P648 A33 2000) ten years ago while working at the Library of Virginia. I'd heard the title years before and it seemed like something I'd be interested in because, well, I've studied Zen and love motorcycles, so it seemed natural. The book starts off very much like you'd expect it...with the story of a father-son motorcycle trip from Minneapolis to San Francisco. However, it then takes a turn, and eventually comes around to using the motorcycle trip, and the topic of motorcycle maintenance, as a framework around which Pirsig explains his "Metaphysics of Quality." I've read ZAMM probably once a year every year since then, and gave it to my groomsmen at my wedding, because I believe it has something important to say about caring about what you're doing, whether you're building a wall, running a country, or just tuning up an old motorcycle. It's the attitude that counts. And while there's a lot more to the book that I couldn't go into in a paragraph, that's the part that's important to me. Okay, I admit, I eat up the motorcycle-trip narrative too.

Amy Purcell, Ekstrom Library

I've recently read books by two authors whose new books I always look forward to: Elizabeth Berg and Anita Shreve.



Dream When You're Feeling Blue by Elizabeth Berg (Ekstrom Browsing PS3552.E6996 D74 2007). This story is set in Chicago during World War II and centers around three Irish Catholic sisters who are doing their part at home for the war effort. Two of the sisters have boyfriends who have gone to war. They write letters to several soldiers (sometimes consulting the pamphlets put out with suggestions of what to write about), they go to dances and one sister ends up working in a factory. It's an intimate look at how the war affected those left behind.

Body Surfing by Anita Shreve (Ekstrom Browsing PS3569.H7385 B63 2007). Once again, the reader learns about a new family to inhabit the cottage on the New Hampshire shore. Her novels are generally dark and this is no exception. It's a story of love and betrayal that starts in a family cottage at the beach with Sydney, a widowed and still grieving tutor, her pupil Julie, a young woman who is intellectually slow, Julie's two brothers, her kind father and bitter mother.

I will be going on vacation soon and, as usual, I look for a small stack of books to bring with me. There's lots of reading on the dock time. I plan to check out the latest Alexander McCall Smith book. I like his series of stories about the Number One Ladies Detective Agency run by Botswana detective Precious Ramotswe. Mme. Ramotswe loves Africa and the old ways and very patiently solves cases with understanding. I also want to check out *Water for Elephants* by Sara Guen (Ekstrom Browsing PS3607.R696 W38 2006). This is a story of Jacob and his life with the circus, told by Jacob when he is around 90 years old. And the last book on my list is *The Glass Castle: A Memoir* by Jeannette Walls (Ekstrom Browsing HV5132 .W35 2005). It was recommended to me because if I liked *Running With Scissors* by Augusten Burroughs (Ekstrom Browsing PS3552.U745 Z477 2003), then I'd like this one. Actually I enjoyed *Dry* by Burroughs more (Ekstrom Browsing PS3552.U745 Z465 2003). It was a lot funnier and not quite so tragic. *The Glass Castle* got some great reviews.

Aaron Rosenblum, Ekstrom Library

Fortress of Solitude by Jonathan Lethem (Ekstrom Browsing PS3562.E8544 F67 2003) Jonathan Lethem began

his career writing science fiction, but broke into mainstream fiction with his 1999 novel *Motherless Brooklyn* (also highly recommended, though not in our stacks, and more of a Fall read...), which he followed in 2003 with *Fortress of Solitude*. *Fortress* follows its narrator, Dylan Ebdus, from childhood to adulthood while simultaneously chronicling the growth and gentrification of Brooklyn's Boerum Hill neighborhood between the 1970s and today. The story is told through rich reminiscences of the best and worst moments of childhood, while also questioning how and why we remember what we remember. A great summer read.



Raymond Slaughter, Ekstrom Library

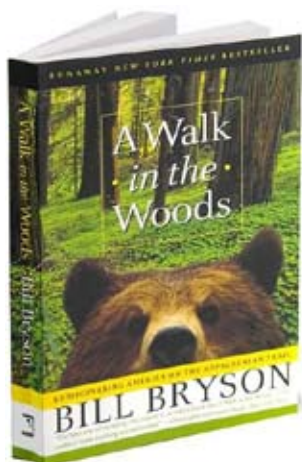
For those of you who like mystery, suspense, and horror in both poetry and short stories, then check out *The Complete Works of Edgar Allan Poe* (Ekstrom Stacks PS2600.F08). You will not be disappointed.

Elizabeth Smiegelski, Kornhauser Library

Body Brokers: Inside American's Underground Trade in Human Remains by Annie Cheney (available at LFPL). This is an expose on the largely unregulated, for-profit world of the cadaver and tissue industry, wherein massive profits frequently lead to corruption and abuse. Considering that animal researchers must account assiduously for every bit of tissue used, yet one can ship arms and torsos via Fed Ex, this can be excused. Note: this may difficult reading for those who have recently lost someone.

Female Chauvinist Pigs: Women and the Rise of Raunch Culture by Ariel Levy (available at LFPL) Levy analyzes the current culture wherein women are turning themselves and other women into sex objects, thus causing the re-emergence of the sexy bimbo, the sexualization of young girls, and the commercially-driven prevalence of porn/raunch throughout our culture. This book hits the nail on the head of a trend I've become increasingly dismayed to see, and I'm neither an ardent feminist nor a prude.

1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus by Charles Mann (Ekstrom Browsing E61 .M266 2005). This coherent, easily readable book completely alters the assumption of pre-Columbian culture in the America's and debunks just about everything believed, and taught, previously. Instead of an ecologically balanced world, Native Americans radically altered their environment to meet their needs. Most surprising, is that the evidence was completely overlooked by archeologists until the last decade.



Virginia Smith, Law Library

Eat, Pray, Love: One Woman's Search for Everything Across Italy, India And Indonesia by Elizabeth Gilbert (Ekstrom Browsing G154.5.G55 A3 2006). Following a devastating divorce, Ms. Gilbert sets out on a path of pleasure-seeking and personal exploration that takes her and her readers to three exotic locales. A year later she returns home with a lasting souvenir — peace of mind.

A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail by Bill Bryson (Ekstrom F 106 .B92 1998). The characteristically humorous Bryson, outdoes himself again by describing his adventures hiking the entire length of the Appalachian Trail. I encourage everyone to read this book and then go see this natural wonder for yourself, while it lasts.

Amrita by Banana Yoshimoto (Ekstrom PL 865 .O7138 A4813 1997). Ms. Yoshimoto is one of my favorite authors and a unique voice of my generation. I have adored her work since I picked up her first novel, *Kitchen*, from the sale table at Hawley-Cooke shortly after having returned from a semester abroad in Japan. *Amrita* tells the tale of Sakumi's summer sojourn in Saipan, where she discovers an island rich in history and paranormal activity.

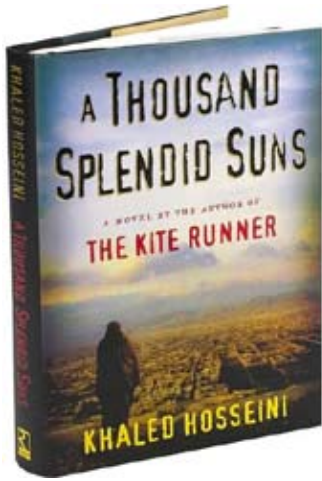
Chasing Cezanne by Peter Mayle (Ekstrom PR 6063 .A8875 C48 1997). Peter Mayle has been delighting readers

for years with his tales of Provence. In *Cezanne*, he creates a nice little adventure caper involving shady art dealers and an inquisitive photographer, set in the South of France.

Democracy by Joan Didion (Ekstrom PS3554.I33 D4 1984). I was first introduced to Joan Didion's *Slouching Towards Bethlehem* in my high school English class and have since read practically everything she's published. Her journalistic writing style does more to transport me to another place and time than most authors I've read. Set in Hawaii in the early 1970s, *Democracy* is a provocative story about a woman burdened by a life of power and politics.

Barbara Whitener, Ekstrom Library

A Mighty Heart by Mariane Pearl with Sarah Crichton (Ekstrom PN4874.P37 P43 2003). The tragic story of Wall Street Journal reporter Danny Pearl written by his wife. Pearl was kidnapped and murdered in Karachi, Pakistan in 2002. A very compelling book that has been made into a film.



The Namesake (Ekstrom Browsing PS3562.A316 N36 2003) and *Interpreter of Maladies* by Jhumpa Lahiri (Ekstrom PS 3562 .A316 I58 1999). *Interpreter of Maladies* is a collection of short stories that won the Pulitzer Prize. Both the *Interpreter of Maladies* and *The Namesake* are wonderful books that deal with the first and second generation immigrants and cultural identity.

A Thousand Splendid Suns (Ekstrom Browsing PS3608.O832 K58 2007) is an extraordinary book by Khaled Hosseini (author of *The Kite Runner*; Ekstrom Browsing PS3608.O832 K58 2003). The novel follows the lives of two women through forty years in a turbulent Afghanistan. It's difficult to read at times because of the subject matter but impossible to put down. This is not a book that will be forgotten when finished.



**Picnic in Mercer County, Kentucky ca. 1900,
from the Arthur Y. Ford Albums**

The Arthur Y. Ford Albums were assembled in 1904 for display in the Kentucky Building at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis. After the Exposition, also known as the St. Louis World's Fair, the albums remained in the hands of Arthur Y. Ford who had been the chair of the Kentucky Committee for the fair. Two of the Ford albums contain 313 photographs of Kentucky scenes from the Appalachian, Bluegrass and Western portions of the state. The third album contained photographs of the Louisiana Purchase Exhibition, including views of the Kentucky Building and exhibits. Arthur Younger Ford, a graduate of Brown University, was the seventh president of the University of Louisville. He was the University's first full-time president from 1914 until his death in 1926.

From the Dean of Libraries . . .

By Hannelore Rader, Dean, University Libraries

On May 9 the Administrative Coordination Council (ACC) discussed residency programs in other ARL libraries, Deyta Employee Survey results and PORTICO. During the June 6 meeting ACC shared information on LOCKSS, CLOCKS and PORTICO in terms of preserving e-journals. ACC is inclined toward utilizing LOCKSS/CLOCKSS pending further investigation. ACC approved a policy on "research in libraries." This policy deals with conducting surveys, experiments or other research project on library premises.

May 9 was Suzy Palmer's last day at the University Libraries as Associate Dean for Collections. On the same day the Library Associates Board held a reception with Cardinal Football Coach Steve Kragthorpe, hosted by Dick Wilson, chair of the Board.

On May 22 the Associate Deans discussed the current faculty vacancies and the future searches for them.

From May 23-25, I attended the ARL (Association of Research Libraries) meeting in St. Louis along with 175 colleagues. As usual, this was an information-rich meeting and featured much new information in the area of digital information, preservation, global resources, quality assessment in research institutions, research infrastructure, accreditation and accountability. Other programs featured related information from the United Kingdom academic libraries and updates related to SPARC (Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition). A major part of the meeting was dedicated to the new Research, Teaching and Learning Committee, of which I am a member. Crit Stuart from Georgia Tech was just appointed program director for this new initiative. The group is focusing on the fact that research libraries are increasingly seen as essential to the teaching and learning agenda of their institutions. As part of the meeting the participants toured Washington University's Olin Library and the Film and Media Archive which houses rare collection of film, videotape, audiotape, and other materials related to civil rights and African American life. The Henry Hampton Collection is a major feature of the archives and includes all the Blackside Films.

On May 29 the libraries were visited by Roger Schonfeld, who spoke to us about the research project with Ithaka (<http://www.ithaka.org/about-ithaka>) to study the impact of digitization on print acquisition and space management. Roger is working with 15 research libraries on that project including the University of Arizona, the University of Michigan, Vanderbilt, the University of Chicago and several colleges such as Berea College.

On May 30 we had visitors from the Tennessee State Department of Libraries and Archives and from June 4-8 we hosted five visitors from the Perm State University Library in Russia. These librarians were here to study our library management, services and space use.

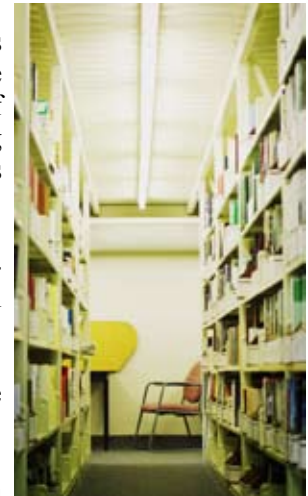
From May 31 to June 2 the NASIG (North American Serials Interest Group, Inc.) Conference was held in Louisville at the Galt House. More than 570 persons attended from North America and several of our librarians helped to organize this major event. I gave the welcome to the group on May 31.

The Library Associates Board met on June 7 and addressed new opportunities related to fundraising issues. During this day we also met with representatives from SOLINET to discuss our future needs related to SOLINET.

On June 18 Andy Clark, started his challenging job in the libraries as facilities coordinator.

On June 21 I attended an Advancement workshop on Shelby campus, held for U of L's administrators, to provide us with insight into philanthropy and new ideas for fundraising.

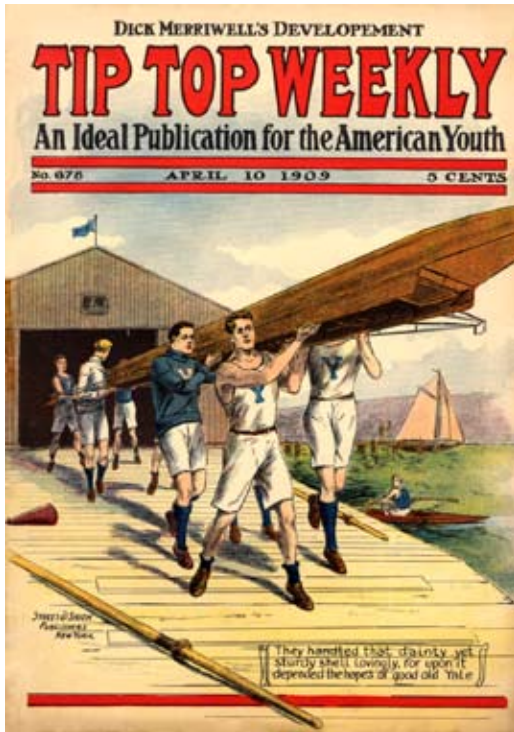
Be sure to explore our online gift shop (<http://library.louisville.edu/giftshop/>) to help support the purchase of books for the U of L Libraries' collections.



COOL THINGS ABOUT COOL BOOKS

By William F. Meehan III, Senior Fellow for Rare Books
with Katelyn Widener and Caitlin M. Williams, Special Collections interns

The dime novel was the leading form of popular fiction in 1860-1915. Inexpensive for the consumer and cost-effective for the publisher, dime novels were amazingly well-received by avid American and adults young at heart who turned to the sensational yarns for entertainment and escape. The cheap but thrilling paperbacks, priced initially at a dime and later a nickel, featured numerous heroes. But Street & Smith's *Tip Top Weekly* and leading man Frank Merriwell remain icons of the dime novel genre.



After Francis Scott Street and Francis Shubael Smith bought a fiction magazine and started a publishing company in 1855, they developed so particular a specialty that the firm was called “the fiction factory.” Rival publisher Irwin Beadle & Co. introduced the dime novel but Street & Smith broke new ground producing and marketing the ten-cent paperbacks.

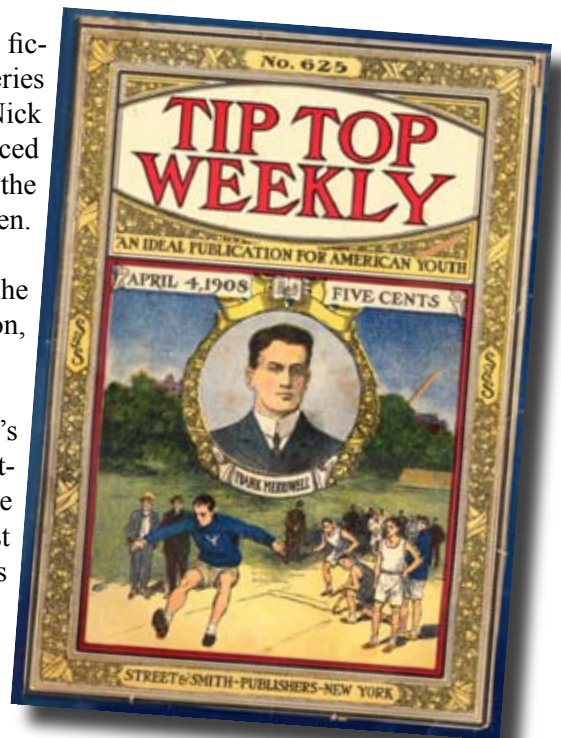
Printed on cut-rate paper, but prior to the advent of pulp fiction, the 8.5 x 11, 32-page dime novels at first were issued in black and white covers, but Street & Smith saw covers as an outlet for artistic innovation that could help boost sales. Full-page color images, accompanied by captions or succinct plot teasers, became standard after Street & Smith initiated the successful marketing strategy.

Street & Smith viewed fiction as a commodity, and the firm stipulated formulaic story lines in series featuring a recurring hero. Frontiersman Buffalo Bill and detective Nick Carter were hits, but the company's star was Frank Merriwell. Introduced April 18, 1896, in the new dime novel *Tip Top Weekly*, Merriwell was the creation of writer Burt L. Standish, a pseudonym for William G. Patten.

Standish thought the name Frank Merriwell represented the qualities he wanted in a hero: “Frank for frankness, merry for a happy disposition, well for health and abounding vitality.”

Merriwell--famous in football, baseball, track, and rowing--was “Yale's greatest hero” who always performed a spectacular feat known in literary sports lore as “the Merriwell finish.” He also made good in the classroom and in life, solving whodunits and making the dishonest honest. The Merriwell stories, in short, encouraged exemplary morals and ideal sportsmanship.

Promoted as “An Ideal Publication for the American Youth,” *Tip Top Weekly* sold 200,000 copies every Saturday for sixteen years. The Merriwell series, which also starred Frank's younger brother Dick, made *Tip Top Weekly* the most successful dime novel in the genre's fifty-five year span.



Top left: *Tip Top Weekly*, No. 678, April 10, 1909
Above: *Tip Top Weekly*, No. 625, April 4, 1908

Library and Department News

Ekstrom Library

Office of Libraries Technology

ILLiad Upgrade

The server has been upgraded with new hardware and a new version of database management software.

Media Server

A new server has been purchased to support streaming audio. The first project is with oral histories to be included in the libraries' Digital Collections – <http://digital.library.louisville.edu>.

MetaLib (Search Express) Upgrade

MetaLib (Search Express) will be upgraded to version four this summer. New features of this version include faceted searching and better integration with SFX.

New SFX A-Z List

A new A-Z list was released with May's monthly update. The SFX/MetaLib Implementation Team is working on the customization. A new A-Z list and Journal Finder interface will be available for review soon. Stay tuned for the deployment timeline and other details.

PCs

PCs on the East side of the first floor have been re-imaged and rearranged in Ekstrom Library with access limited to UofL users. Eighty-eight PCs and laptops were purchased to replace the public PCs in Art and Music Libraries, laptops in Ekstrom Library and some staff PCs.

Office of the Dean

Ramble for the Roses 2007

Walking enthusiasts Karen Nalley (Administrative Office) and Sarah Frankel (Technical Services) participated in the Ramble for the Roses this year. They walked five miles and for that day and had a total of 26,000+ steps. It was a good walking day for them. They did their normal three to four miles at lunch and then the five miles in the evening. (Karen and Sarah are members of Two Dozen Feet, one of the libraries' Trek the Appalachian Trail teams.) They were tired! Pictured are Sarah, Karen, and Karen's sister Kellye Petty.



New Hire

Andrew Clark accepted the position of Facilities Coordinator Senior effective June 18, 2007. He will report to Diane Nichols.

Special Collections

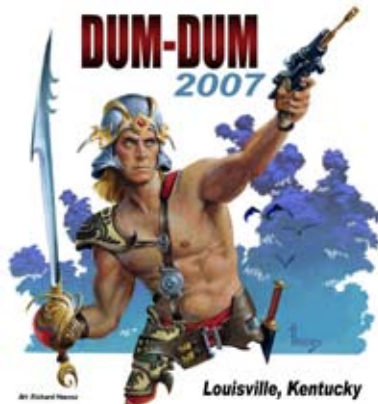
Bill Carner went on wagon rides in Perry and Spencer counties in Indiana with the Southern Indiana Draft Horse & Mule Association on Memorial Day weekend and again in June. He doesn't have a team these days but he's thinking about mules. He did ride old Jack for part of each wagon ride which gave Bert of Jim Stevens' team Bert and Ernie a good laugh.

When Bill wasn't horsing or muling around, he's been working on photo exhibits and events. He curated two large format photography exhibits, *A Large Format Photography Primer* at the Speed Art Museum and *Film, Plates and Camera Movements...* in the Photo Archives gallery. These exhibits coincide with the *View Camera Magazine* Large Format Photography Conference at the Brown

Hotel June 28 -July 1 and the Fifth Louisville Photography Biennial in Louisville art galleries this summer. He also coordinated scanning, alternative photo processes and wet plate photography workshops to be held on the UofL campus during the conference. Bill served as "curator in charge" of *The Best of Photography and Film from the George Eastman House Collection* at the Speed Art Museum. A "curator in charge" works with the local museum staff on the installation of the exhibit and has to get up at 4 a.m. to be on morning TV. All the really hard work and actual curating was done at the Eastman House. *The Best of Photography and Film...* continues through Sunday, September 16. UofL students and employees can enter the exhibit at no charge by presenting their ID at the museum entrance desk to receive an admission ticket. Admission for non-members is \$10.



Photo by Mary Ceridan



Art by Richard Hescoc

Dum-Dum at UofL

The 46th Dum-Dum (the annual Edgar Rice Burroughs convention), the fourth to be held in Louisville, will take place on the first weekend in August, 2007. UofL is sponsoring the dedication ceremony of the Bob Hyde collection which he donated to us just before his death in April, 2006. A major exhibition of his collection will be mounted in the Richard Kain Gallery, Rare Books, and the ceremony will take place on Friday afternoon, 3 p.m., at the Ekstrom Library's Chao Auditorium. This and other activities in Ekstrom Library (beginning at 10 a.m.) are free and open to the public. Guest speakers will include Hannelore Rader, Delinda Buie, and the three children of the donor, Bob Hyde. For more information, contact George McWhorter, Curator Burroughs Memorial Collection (852-8729) or visit the web page <http://erb.louisville.edu/> and click on Activities (under Dum-Dum 2007).

UARC

Kathie Johnson had a fun girlfriend weekend in Newport, Rhode Island, May 31-June 3. Newport is a well-known New England tourist spot on the Atlantic Ocean and Newport Harbor, but most people up there were surprised that we had traveled from Kentucky to visit. Newport was the summer home of many of the country's richest families in the late 19th and early 20th century, where they build summer "cottages" such as the Vanderbilt's 70-room Breakers, now open to the public. We toured two of the mansions, took a harbor tour by boat, visited Fort Adams, shopped, and ate wonderful seafood.

In more good news, Kathie (and her entire family) are thrilled to announce that on June 28 in Jefferson County Family Court, grandson Cole (born December 26, 2006) was legally adopted by daughter Kira and son-in-law Todd, and ruled to be their child. The judge stated that this is a "final decision with no appeal." A four-year-old cousin stated that this meant that "no one could ever take Cole away from us," for which we are very happy.

DARE TO SAY THANK YOU!

“Thanks to **Ann Collins, Amy Purcell, Courtney Hughes** and all my comrades in Special Collections for all their help getting the Film, Plates and Camera Movements...exhibit installed.” — *Bill Carner*



“I would like to thank **Samantha Sand** for her diligent and excellent work in RRS audits. Please come back in the fall (wink, wink). And to **Margo Smith** and **Ben King** for letting me borrow her away from Technical Services for the month.

Thanks to all the auditors: **Colleen Eubank, Angela Ren, Martha Parry, Rachael Elrod, Katie Meyer,** and **Gideon Scott**. You folks are a big reason our catalog is slowly improving for our patrons. And to **Pat Waters**, a former auditor, who now helps me with the clean-up. You are a true gem.

Thank you to **Martha Parry** and students in Stacks Maintenance for collaborating with the ILL folks to get our lending books pulled from the stacks. We would be hopelessly behind without your helping hands.

Thanks to **Lisa Ortega** for never complaining and working consistently to get those pesky circulation backlog lists that I keep pushing her way to slowly disappear. Awesomeness in action!

Thanks to **Mark Paul** for providing the RRS room with four of our preferred scanners--ones that actually work, and work well! Bravo!

A huge thanks, with hugs and kisses, to **Diane Nichols** for being so supportive and responsive to the never-ending needs of the circulation department!

And last, but certainly not least, thank you **Tyler Goldberg** for your patience with me while you teach me some cataloging skills. I think I might be developing a crush!” — *Melissa Horrar*



“A big thank you to **Adam Lawrence** (OLT) and **Justy Engle** (Media) who saved the day by getting the EndNote trainer and her laptop up and running with a connection to our projector in room 103 AND UofL wireless access on May 31 in about 10 minutes time. You guys were really professional and made us all look like we had our act together. I’m really grateful!”

and...

“Thank you to **Calvin Miracle** and **Eric Lair** who helped me get my computer connected back to the server. I appreciated your quick and dogged response to my problem!” — *Anna Marie Johnson*



“A huge thank you to **Angel Clemons** for helping me organize the recent series of faculty development workshops on research productivity, **Carrie Daniels** for agreeing to facilitate an ongoing research topics discussion group and **Suzy Palmer, Michel Atlas** and **Anna Marie Johnson** for their presentations.” — *Melissa Laning*



“I would like to thank **Melissa Horrar** for being a department head who GETS THINGS DONE! Thanks, Melissa, for having the strength and perseverance to change our department for the better.” — *Lisa Ortega*



Library Exhibits

Ekstrom Library

East Lobby – Media Resources

Tarzan Around the World
 Seven posters from various Tarzan movies from 1936-1957
 Courtesy of the Burroughs Memorial Collection

Photo Archives Gallery

Film, Plates and Camera Movements: Large Format Photography from the 19th through the 21st Century
 The Walker Evans photo at right is featured in the exhibit.
June 4 – September 14, 2007

West Wing First Floor Display Cases

Evolution of the University Libraries
 and



Roadside Sandwich Shop, Panchatoula, Louisiana. Photograph by Walker Evans for the Farm Security Administration, 1936.



19th Century Caricatures from Vanity Fair, a Weekly Show of Political, Social and Literary Wares
 (left: Sir John Everett Millais, June 8, 1829 – August 13, 1896)

Richard Kain Gallery, Rare Books

Bob Hyde Memorial Collection
 Bob Hyde (1925-2006) was president of the Burroughs Bibliophiles and life-long collector of Edgar Rice Burroughs material.
July 9 – October 1, 2007

Music Library

First Floor

Celebrate With Us — 75th Anniversary of the School of Music & the Grawemeyer Awards in Music
 Includes memorabilia of the school and works of the 2007 Grawemeyer award recipient, Sebastian Currier.
Through August 2007