



A Newsletter for Employees of the University of Louisville Libraries
Vol. 24, No. 7 ❀ Winter, 2008

The Owl

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

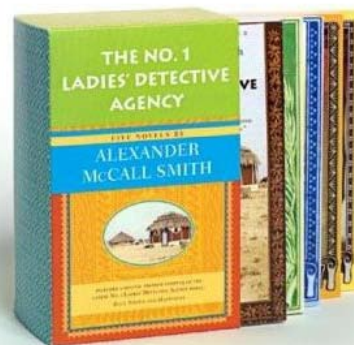
Winter Readers' Picks 2008

*Written & Compiled by
Anna Marie Johnson,
Information Literacy &
The Owl Book Editor*

READING IS SOMETHING I TAKE FOR GRANTED, AND CONSEQUENTLY I'M FINDING IT FASCINATING to watch my kindergarten daughter learn to do it. I was sort of under the assumption that with as many books as we've read to her (thousands) and as many children's books as we own (hundreds thanks to LFPL book sales) that she would simply pick it up. But like pretty much every other assumption I've made about parenting, I was wrong! It has had to be a very intentional process, starting several years ago with the alphabet, then progressing through letters sounds, then writing her name a million times in sidewalk chalk and every other medium imaginable. So, even though Thanksgiving is over, I'm thankful for the ability to read, especially when I consider what an impediment not being able to must be to every aspect of one's daily life. And that's not even counting the hours upon hours I've spent reading to pleasurably pass the time. So, in honor of my daughter who can now read and write sentences such as "I see my Mom," here are my readers' picks.

The Good Husband of Zebra Drive (Ekstrom Browsing PR6063 .C326 G66 2007) and *The Miracle at Speedy Motors* (Ekstrom Browsing PR6063 .C326 M53 2008) both by Alexander McCall Smith. McCall Smith keeps churning these slim but delightful novels out and they just get better. For those who've not read them, here is a sample of why I am addicted to them: "For out here, out in the acacia scrub that stretched away to those tiny island-like hills on the horizon, the concerns of the working world seemed of little weight. Yes, one had to earn a living; yes, one had to work with people who might have their little ways; yes, the world was not always as one might want it to be; but all of that seemed so small and unimportant under this sky."

McCall Smith's other series set in Scotland is also as engaging and I also devoured *The Careful Use of Compliments* (Ekstrom Browsing PR6063 .C326 C37 2007). My favorite part: where Isabel compares herself to Ma-



dame Bovary (because they both have a younger lover) and then thinks “but she was a character in a book and I am not—I’m real.”

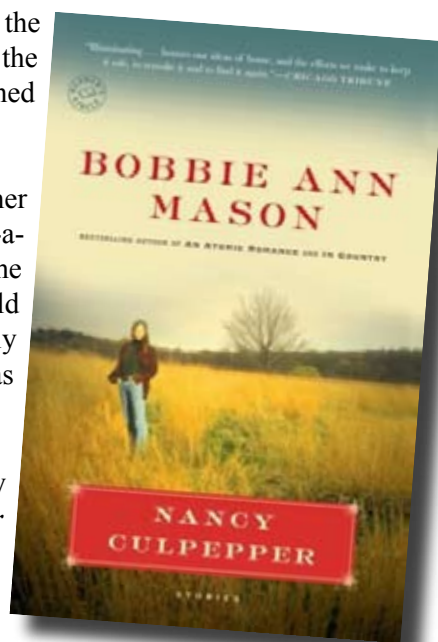
Some other novels I’ve enjoyed recently are *The Last of Her Kind* by Sigrid Nunez (Ekstrom Browsing PS3564 .U475 L37 2006), the 1960’s story of college roommates Georgette George and Ann Drayton. In 1976, Ann is convicted of murdering a policeman and sentenced to life in prison. As Georgette recounts her memories of Ann, the reader sees the influence she has had on Georgette despite a fierce fight that separates them shortly after college. Also figuring in is Solange, Georgette’s runaway, Mick Jagger-obsessed, mentally ill sister who represents a kind of polar opposite to Ann, and yet, not. And finally, Georgette’s true love, found in the strangest of places.

Going even further back in time is the time travel novel (what would a readers’ picks essay from me be without a time travel novel?) *If I Never Get Back* by Darryl Brock (Ekstrom PS3552 .R58 I3 1990). I’ve been waiting to read *The Little Book* by Selden Edwards (Ekstrom Browsing PS3605.D8985 F56 2008) and while looking up reviews of that book on Amazon, I discovered someone who claimed that book was a rip-off of a book called *If I Never Get Back*. The latter is a time travel novel where Sam, the narrator and main character, ends up in 1869 on a train with the Cincinnati Red Stockings baseball team, one of the first professional teams. He spends the next several months with the team, traveling in the eastern U.S. as they play and defeat other, mostly amateur, teams. For someone who doesn’t really love baseball, I found the book and the descriptions of the games (which used no gloves or other protective equipment) fascinating. There is also romance and humor and a lot of history. If *The Little Book* ripped off the plot, I can’t say since I still haven’t read it!

And going even further back (clearly I was on some kind of historical fiction kick; I see that now) is *Pillars of the Earth* by Ken Follett (Ekstrom PR6056 .O45 P55 1989). If I would have known about this book when it was published in 1989, I most certainly would have read it then. I read *Mists of Avalon* and *Sarum* at that time and this fits right in with those. The setting is medieval England and the primary characters are an ambitious but impoverished stone mason and an ambitious monk whose lives intertwine to build one of the most beautiful cathedrals in the history of England. The book at 900 pages has some slow sections and sometimes the characters are more types than real people, but Follet does a good job of making the reader care about them anyway. He recently returned to that world and published a sequel, *World Without End* (Ekstrom Browsing PR6056.O45 W67 2007).

Finally, for those who hate historical fiction, I recommend *Holes* by Louis Sachar (Ekstrom PS3569 .A226 H65 1998) which my 9-year-old niece, an avid, book-a-day kind of reader, recommended to me. Cute story, cleverly told. A curse, some bad luck, and Stanley Yelnats is stuck at Camp Green Lake, digging holes to build his character; only the holes are really about something else which he eventually discovers through a series of coincidences. I’ve heard the movie isn’t as good as the book, but then, when is it?

A couple books set in Kentucky that I’d recommend are *Nancy Culpepper* by Bobbie Ann Mason (Ekstrom Browsing PS3563 .A7877 N36 2006) and *Water Street* by Crystal Wilkinson (Ekstrom PS3573 .I44184 W38 2002). The former story is told through pieces of the title character’s life, moving backward and forward in time. My favorite section though was “Spence + Lila,” who



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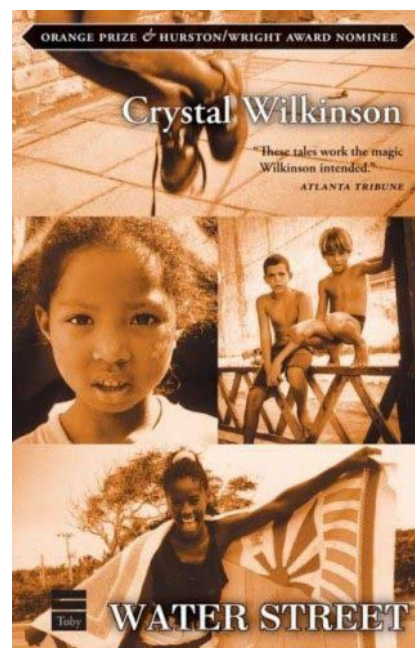
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are Nancy's parents. Their story is told through Lila's experience with breast cancer and her stay in the hospital, but it is the story of their courtship, their marriage, their children, their farm. While Nancy is still, as an adult, trying to find herself, her parents are firmly rooted. At one point, Spence is walking his fields while Lila lays in the hospital bed: "From the rise, he looks out over his place. This is it. This is all there is in the world—it contains everything there is to know or possess, yet everywhere people are knocking their brains out trying to find something different, something better. His kids are all scattered, looking for it. Everyone always wants a way out of something like this, but what he has here is the main there there is—just the way things grow and die, the way the sun comes up and goes down every day. These are the facts of life. They are so simple that they are almost impossible to grasp."

The latter book is a series of vignettes of the residents of one street in Standford, Kentucky. Wilkinson is one of the members of the Affrilachian Poets (<http://www.affrilachianpoets.com/poets2.htm>) and this is her second book. I've not yet read the first one, but I'm eager to. In *Water Street*, the characters voices resonate like those of people you know, whom you meet every day, but there is also a poetry and a lyricism that dances through the vignettes that energizes them and makes them beautiful.



I did read good nonfiction books as well. *The University of Google* by Tara Brabazon (Ekstrom LB2395.7 .B73 2007) is a diatribe against the "business" model of modern higher education where profits drive decisions, students are only valued for their tuition dollars, and terms like "lifelong learning" and educational "outcomes" are not examined for the politics inherent in them. Brabazon comes out of media cultural studies, but she rails against an unskeptical acceptance of technology in higher education and the use of Google as an ending point rather than a tool for cultural analysis. She is complimentary of librarians, thus winning points with this reader.

In a completely different vein, *The Return of the Wolf: Reflections on the Future of Wolves in the Northeast* by Bill McKibben, John B. Theberge, Kristin DeBoer, and Rick Bass (Ekstrom QL 737 .C22 .R475 2000). There are four essays in this book, all dealing with wolf recovery but from different perspectives. I originally got it because I'm a fan of McKibben's writing, but I found that all the essays held something of interest. McKibben's essay discusses the healing of the northeastern forests over the last 100 years and posits that the deer and wolves need wolves to return less than humans do to bring us out of our "intoxication with ourselves." I ended up enjoying Bass's essay the most, even though, in one sense it was really not so much about wolves but about the ecosystems that support them (namely forests). Bass is a Montana writer and environmentalist and he compares the logging situation in Montana to the northeast and sees hope for his own state. He also has a lovely glacier metaphor that I cannot do justice to—you'll just have to read it!

James Adler, Kornhauser Library

Cold weather means big books, mighty books, weighty books with lots of words. Old books. Moldy books. Scarcely ever sold books. So far this autumn my reading has been limited to a selective revisiting of some old favorites, for which I will provide a handful of capsule reviews with few words. I celebrated Halloween by digging out Bram Stoker's *Dracula* (Ekstrom PR6037 .T617 D7 1998) and found it still as enjoyable a read as ever. It must have been a real humdinger in its day! Jonathon Harker visits Transylvania to conduct some business with the sinister Count Dracula and the doors of Hell open! See: Dracula climb headfirst down steep walls like a lizard! Harker deliciously tormented by Dracula's wives! The merry menagerie of mad Mr. Renfield! Uber genius and ultra-learned Dr. van Helsing murder the English language! Incredible density on the part of our heroes (still an integral part of the horror genre) as they struggle to outwit the wily Count! Classic stuff for those of us who like this sort of thing.

Leaving the mountains of Transylvania, we head to sea with Captain Nemo in Jules Verne's *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* (Ekstrom PQ2469 .V4 E5 1993). It's a good old fashioned adventure yarn as Nemo and the crew sail

beneath the Seven Seas exploring the lost ruins of Atlantis, underwater volcanoes, battling headhunters and various other sundry denizens of the deeps. Seek out the edition edited by Miller and Walter for the best translated and most complete version.

Remaining at sea, we journey along with Captain Wolf Larson and the crew of the Ghost in Jack London's *The Sea Wolf* (Ekstrom PS3523 .O46 S4 1962). Effete weakling Humphrey van Wyden gets shipwrecked, and then rescued by the intelligent and amoral Larson who proceeds to make a man out of him. Then alas, a love interest intrudes, but does not mar the novel as a whole. Inspired by Alaska's favorite, Sarah Palin, I wanted to read some London, but rather than the Klondike stories I intended to read, I ended up picking this one. It's real red-blooded, he-man stuff, you betcha, and much better than I'm making it sound.

I'll finish with three quick picks, all perfect for reading along with the currently unfolding economic and socio-political doom. First, Robert Kaplan's *The Coming Anarchy* (not owned by U of L), will tell you "how scarcity, crime, tribalism, overpopulation, are rapidly destroying the social fabric of our planet." Cheery stuff, and the title essay is available online – just Google it!

Then, there's Dmitri Orlov's *Reinventing Collapse* (Ekstrom HC106.83 .O75 2008), containing a comparison of the fall of the USSR with what could happen (the author is convinced it will) in the USA. From the publishers web page: "In the waning days of the American Empire the US administration finds itself mired in political crisis;

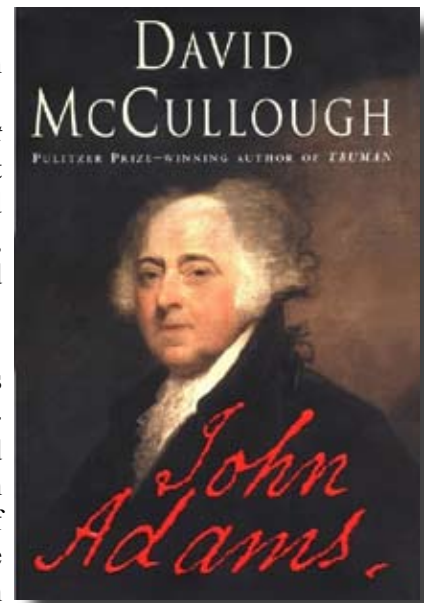
foreign policy has come under sharp criticism; and the economy is in steep decline. These trends mirror the experience of the Soviet Union in the early 1980's. *Reinventing Collapse* examines the circumstances of the demise of the Soviet superpower and offers clear insights into how we might prepare for coming events." Fun stuff!

Last but not least, is *The Great Game: The Struggle for Empire in Central Asia*, (Ekstrom DS329.4 .H67 1992) by Peter Hopkirk. It reads much like a novel, and details the (largely covert) battle for resources and influence in Central Asia — Tibet, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan etc. — between Russia and Great Britain in the 19th and early parts of the 20th centuries. Though the book doesn't cover it, the battle for influence persists into our own age. The author has written several other fine books on the region as well. If you enjoy tales of espionage, geography, adventure, anthropology, and or politics, you'll probably find this book well worth reading.

Jami Allen, Ekstrom Library

Velvet Elvis, a book by Rob Bell (Ekstrom BR115.C8 B395 2005), was recommended by friends and acquaintances of mine. Then, Anna Marie suggested it in *The Owl* so I decided to pick up a copy. *Velvet Elvis* is a thought-provoking book about an interesting branch of Christian thought called the Emergent Church. The book has about 200 pages and is a quick read as it contains very straightforward language. However, its philosophy is deep, stressing the connection between Judaism and Christianity. I highly recommend this book for people interested in religion and/or philosophy.

Additionally, *John Adams* by David McCullough (Ekstrom E322 .M38 2001) is a fantastic read about the founding father who was Secretary of State, Vice President and President. I read part of the book a few years ago but became interested in reading it again after seeing the 7-part HBO miniseries. (If you haven't seen it, you must watch!) McCullough's accessibility to the reader and his depth of detail makes the book come alive in the reader's hands. His research helps the audience understand the uncertainty that swirled around American Revolution



and the operation of the new country. Would the American experiment work? I highly recommend *John Adams* to anyone who is interested in American history or Western thought in the Early Modern period.

Mark Dickson, Ekstrom Library

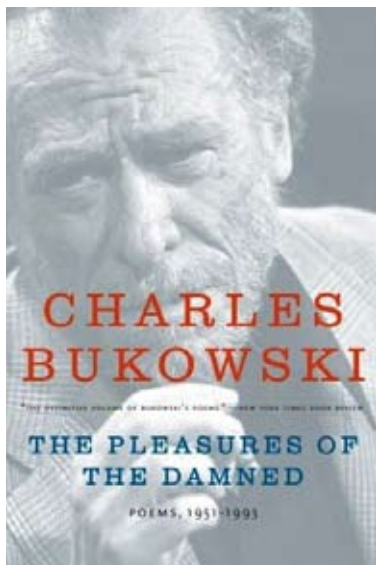
The Art of Ray Harryhausen by Ray Harryhausen and Tony Dalton (not owned by UofL). Ray Harryhausen was my childhood hero. His movie art conceptions for kids growing up in the 60s and 70s were legendary. Adventure classics like *King Kong* as well as *Jason and the Argonauts* were his babies. Everything that came after like *Star Wars* and *Lord of the Rings* would not have been possible without Ray.

The Outer Limits: The Official Companion by David J Schow and Jeffrey Frentzen (not owned by UofL) The companion guide to the best TV memory I have as a kid. When I was growing up, you were always in one camp, or its opposite. Some people were Beatles vs. Rolling Stones. Others were McDonalds vs. White Castles. I was on the *Outer Limits* side of the *Outer Limits* vs. *Twilight Zone*. No other TV show was as scary to watch (especially in the dark!) as this one. Even as reruns years later they retained their creepiness.

The Complete Mission Impossible Dossier by Patrick J. White (not owned by UofL). The companion guide to the best TV memory I have as a teen. This show's con man and capers set a bar for me that has never been equaled, certainly not by the movies that have the same name.

The Big Con: The Story of the Confidence Man by David W. Maurer (not owned by UofL). "Mission Impossible" (the TV series) was based on this activity. The reason I loved movies like *The Asphalt Jungle* (1950), *Du Rififi Chez les Hommes* (1955), *Topkapi* (1964), and *The Sting* (1973), was due to these ingeniously crafted stories of burglary and theft as high art. This book is a sociologist's research into the elaborate and highly choreographed skill sets of con artists during their heyday. (Editor's note: Dr. David W. Maurer was a distinguished professor of English literature at U of L for 37 years and an expert on underworld slang. Rare Books is home to the David W. Maurer archive.)

An Army at Dawn: The War in North Africa, 1942-1943 by Rick Atkinson (Ekstrom D766.82 .A82 2002) is an excellent nonfiction history by a Pulitzer Prize-winning author.

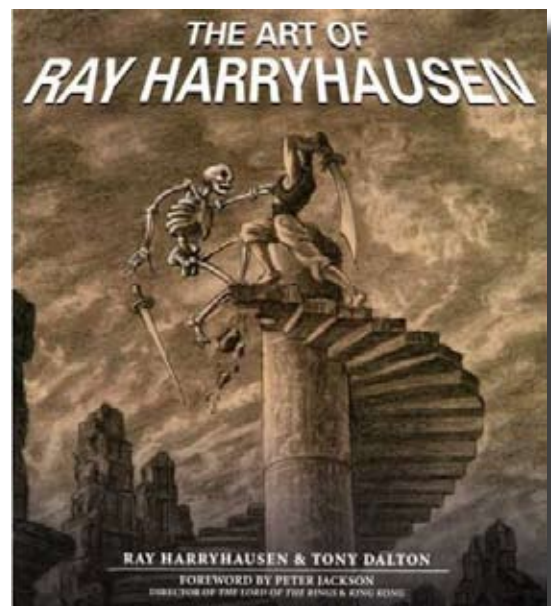


Gentle Giant: Acquiring the Taste by Paul Stump. My favorite Prog band from the 1970s in a well-done treatment. Even I learned some things I didn't know.

The Music's All that Matters: A History of Progressive Rock by Paul Stump (Music Library ML3534 .S85 1997). A great history of the rock genre I grew up on in the 70s. This genre was the primary reason I spent 10 years working in record stores. Glad that's over.

Soccer in a Football World by Dave Wagerin (Ekstrom Browsing GV944.U5 W36 2008) is an engaging read for soccer fans like myself who did not know that our sport almost caught on in the 1920's and almost became as big as baseball. However, the finances of the early leagues and promoters was not up to the task and the early effort went wanting. The good news is that the history of the sport in the US is deep and the current growth of the professional sport here shows it. And the Columbus Crew just won the MLS Cup.

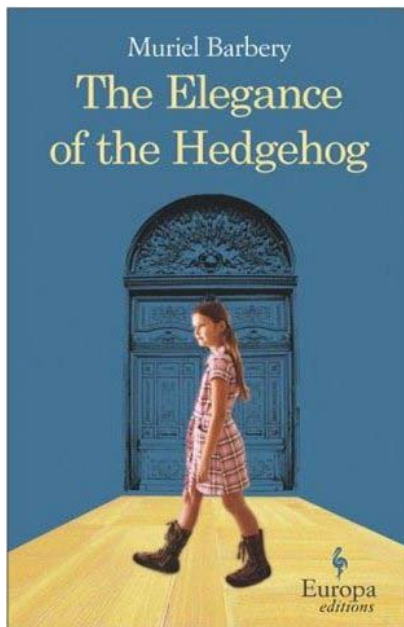
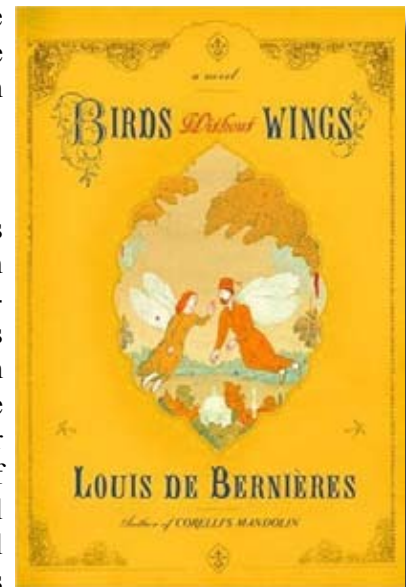
The Pleasures of the Damned: Poems, 1951-1993 by Charles Bukowski and edited by John Martin (Ekstrom PS3552.



U4 P584 2007). I like Bukowski. I'm not going to apologize for it. There is the grit of dirty floors, the aroma of smoky bars, and the whiskey fog of life in these poems. It's not Milton or Shakespeare but if I want to read that, I have them somewhere too.

Gail Gilbert, Art Library

I'd like to suggest the book I'm currently reading, *Birds without Wings* by Louis de Bernières. (Ekstrom PR6054.E132 B57 2004). Here's the product description from Amazon: "In his first novel since *Corelli's Mandolin*, Louis de Bernières creates a world, populates it with characters as real as our best friends, and launches it into the maelstrom of twentieth-century history. The setting is a small village in southwestern Anatolia in the waning years of the Ottoman Empire. Everyone there speaks Turkish, though they write it in Greek letters. It's a place that has room for a professional blasphemer; where a brokenhearted aga finds solace in the arms of a Circassian courtesan who isn't Circassian at all; where a beautiful Christian girl named Philothei is engaged to a Muslim boy named Ibrahim. But all of this will change when Turkey enters the modern world. Epic in sweep, intoxicating in its sensual detail, *Birds without Wings* is an enchantment."



Melissa Horrar, Ekstrom Library

The Elegance of the Hedgehog by Muriel Barbery, translated by Alison Anderson (Ekstrom Browsing PQ2662.A6523 E4413 2008). This deceptively simple novel brings philosophical musings to a wider audience. A bestseller in France, it was only just translated into English. The story takes place in an affluent apartment building; alternating narrators are a 12-year-old genius and a 54-year-old concierge. Both veil themselves from others until a new arrival in the apartment building gives them the hope and courage to live more honestly. If you are familiar with Isaiah Berlin you will get the slyest allusion of the book.

Sleepwalkers by Hermann Broch (Ekstrom PT2603 .R657 S33 1947). Often referred to as the "trilogy," Broch examines three distinct moral and philosophical positions taken in the modern age: Romantic, Anarchist, and Realist. This novel takes one back to the sweeping world and character building of nineteenth Century novels, but with an undertone of the modern search for meaning amidst some angst of its realization. Broch understands the role of the novelist as morally important and much is to be learned from his 'sleepwalkers' trying to awake.

Secular Age by Charles Taylor (Ekstrom BL2747.8 .T39 2007). With the sweeping, but engaging, historical narrative similar to his book, *Sources of the Self*, Charles Taylor argues against the subtraction theory of modern culture (that as science and technology has progressed we are freed from religious sentiment) and insists that something dramatically new happened in the 18th century causing religious belief to decline. Although ultimately I did not find his arguments wholly convincing, many gems of knowledge are to be gained from this book.

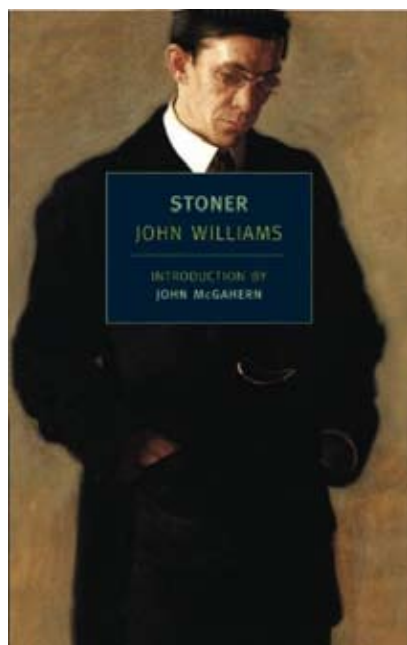
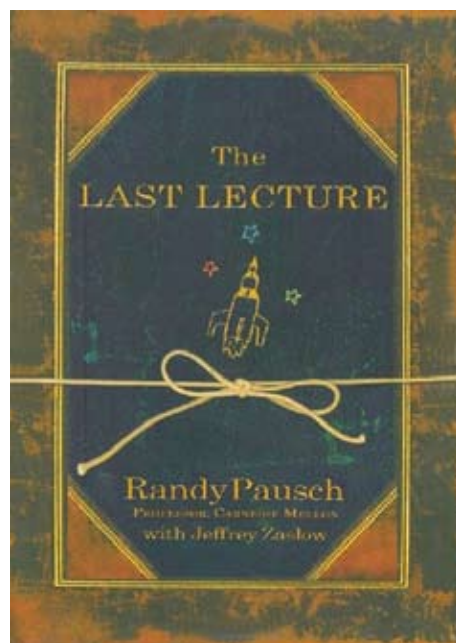
Marette Irwin, Ekstrom Library

The Last Lecture by Randy Pausch with Jeffrey Zaslow (Ekstrom Browsing QA76.2 .P38 A3 2008). In September 2007, Randy Pausch (age 47), a computer science professor at Carnegie Mellon University who was dying of pancreatic cancer, gave a final lecture to his students. A video of the original lecture quickly spread across the Internet and has been viewed over a million times. Pausch wrote his lecture with his three children in mind. Said Pausch: "I think it's great that so many people have benefited from this lecture, but the truth of the matter is that I didn't really even give it to the 400 people at Carnegie Mellon who came. I only wrote this lecture for three people, and when they're older, they'll watch it." On April 8th his book *The Last Lecture* went on sale.

I read this book (and watched Pausch's lecture on the Internet) with great interest. I was diagnosed with stage III breast cancer this year and Pausch was born two months before me. Having cancer has been the most traumatic experiences of my life—the diagnosis, the treatments, the fear that it will recur. I have been a lot luckier than Pausch. I am still alive and he died on July 25, 2008. The book is not depressing at all. It is a celebration of Pausch's life and accomplishments, written with a sense of humor. Cancer has changed my life. I wake up every day and enjoy the little things, my three-year-old son who wants to hold my hand, who loves me with or without hair, the joys of family life, the smell of a rose, the hug of a close friend.

Kathie Johnson, University Archives

Recently my book club read *American Bloomsbury: Louisa May Alcott, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Margaret Fuller, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Henry David Thoreau: Their Lives, Their Loves, Their Work*, by Susan Cheever (Ekstrom Browsing PS255 .C6 C48 2006). I thought it was a wonderful read, as it was well-researched (important to an historian) and showed the inter-connections between these American writers in a way that is rarely seen. Most of us knew about the Emerson-Thoreau connection, but there is so much more that is revealed, including the intersections of these with other lives such as Herman Melville and the Peabody sisters. These icons of American literature become very human and accessible in this account of their lives and work. The book is a multi-person biography, which could have easily become bogged down, and yet it doesn't. Occasionally, there are some changes in time frame that are slightly confusing, but other than that it is clear and concise and very readable, although not a light read. We were so intrigued that we are reading Alcott's classic *Little Women* next, followed by Geraldine Brooks' *March*, the story of the father in *Little Women*. So, you can see, we not only enjoyed this book, it did what good books should do — it made us want more!



Christopher Poché, Ekstrom Library

The best book I have read this past year has been John Williams' novel *Stoner* (Ekstrom PS3545 .I5286 S76 1965). As much as I read, I rarely have that "I couldn't put it down" experience. But I did with this one. The book recounts the life of William Stoner, a poor, minimally educated farm boy who is sent off to the University of Missouri to learn about agriculture but who falls in love with literature instead. He becomes an English professor and a great teacher but struggles with everything else in his life. What makes the book a page-turner is watching him discover and determinedly preserve his sense of self and dignity as he gets entangled in the politics of the university and the inevitable complications of love and marriage.

I must give a shout-out to the *New York Review of Books* series that reprinted this novel. The series specializes in reprinting forgotten or overlooked classics like *Stoner*. I can easily see myself letting this series set my reading agenda for a long time. Check out their website at <http://www.nybooks.com/nyrb/>. (But by the way, the copy of *Stoner* we have is an old hardcover, seemingly never to have been read until recently, and stamped on May 3, 1965, as a duplicate from the Library of Congress, which I think is pretty cool.)

Another book I read from this series is J.R. Ackerley's memoir *My Dog Tulip* (PR6001 .C4 Z468 1999). This is essentially the British *Marley & Me*. Ackerley, a curmudgeonly literary editor, reflects on his devoted relationship with his beautiful and loving but strong-willed and ultimately inscrutable Alsatian. One chapter is called "Liquids and Solids." Enough said, I think.

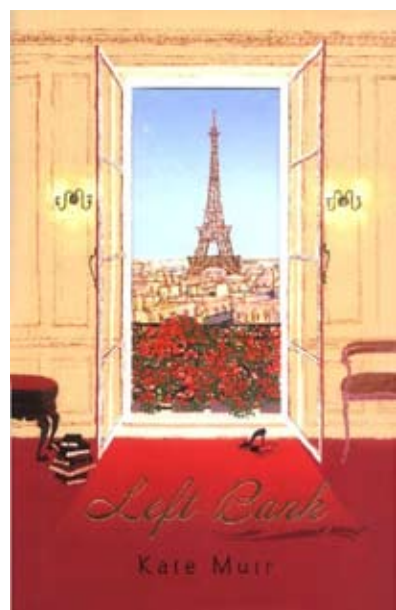
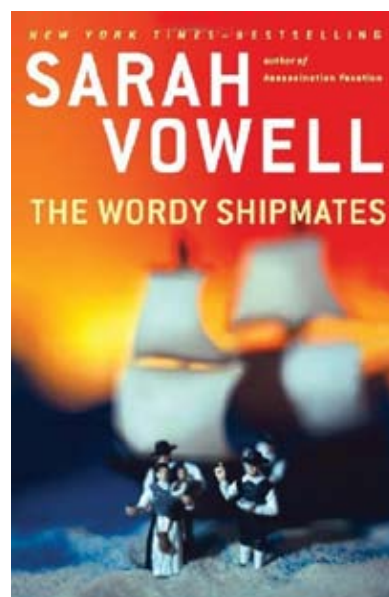
On the history front, Gerard J. De Groot's *The Sixties Unplugged: A Kaleidoscopic History of a Disorderly Decade* (Ekstrom Browsing D1053 .D4 2008) is a surprisingly fun and even provocative read. The book manages to stay away from the usual two-sided view of this turbulent decade, the legacy of which is so bitterly contested in our ongoing "culture wars." The book is organized into 67 self-contained chapters about individual topics. This organization makes for fun reading. I skipped around, reading the chapters that interested me most.

A curious discovery I made recently is Dori Hadar's *Mingering Mike: The Amazing Career of an Imaginary Soul Superstar* (Ekstrom African American Collection NC1883.3 .M56 A4 2007). Hadar, a self-described "crate digger," found a large collection of albums by the singer Mingering Mike at a market one morning. Hadar thought he had re-discovered some great but forgotten artist, the dream of all devoted crate diggers. But as he looked closer at the albums he realized that they were all hand-made and painted, and the "records" inside were just pieces of cardboard with "grooves" painted on. Hadar did not find exactly what he was looking for, but he did discover something great: a treasure trove of outsider art. The book reproduces the art of numerous albums by Mingering Mike and in so doing recreates for everyone to see the fantasy universe of a very creative young man who hit the big time only in his imagination – perhaps until now.

Vicki Niehaus, Ekstrom Library

The Wordy Shipmates by Sarah Vowell (Ekstrom Library Browsing F7 .V69 2008). This is a great book to read right now, in the aftermath of the presidential election and Thanksgiving. Sarah Vowell, a regular contributor to Chicago Public Radio's *This American Life*, takes us on a well-researched but highly readable journey to 1630's New England. Vowell devoted two years of her life to researching this book, including traveling to many of the historical sites she mentions in the book.

From *Publisher's Weekly*: "In a style less colloquial than her previous books, Vowell traces the 1630 journey of several key English colonists and members of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Foremost among these men was John Winthrop, who would become governor of Massachusetts. While the Puritans who had earlier sailed to Plymouth on the Mayflower were separatists, Winthrop's followers remained loyal to England, spurred on by Puritan Reverend John Cotton's proclamation that they were God's chosen people. Vowell underscores that the seemingly minute differences between the Plymouth Puritans and the Massachusetts Puritans were as meaningful as the current Sunni/Shia Muslim rift. Gracefully interspersing her history lesson with personal anecdotes, Vowell offers reflections that are both amusing (colonial history lesson via *The Brady Bunch*) and tender (watching New Yorkers patiently waiting in line to donate blood after 9/11)."



Amy Purcell, Ekstrom Library

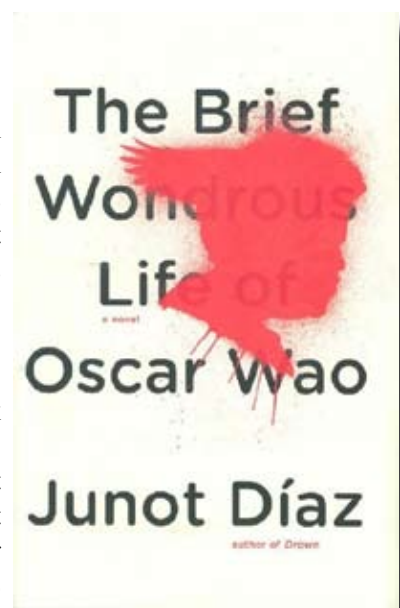
Other than *Left Bank*, the books I've recently read have turned out to have several stories in one that all are related . . . *The Third Angel* by Alice Hoffman (Ekstrom Browsing PS3558 .O3447 T48 2008). I'm always on the lookout for new Alice Hoffman books. This book has three stories connected with the same characters but in different times. The characters are two sisters and their mother. They all fall in love with the wrong person. As always, there is a touch of the magical. In this book the third angel is explained by the girls' father who is a doctor. He says, "there is the Angel of Life and the Angel of Death, neither of which can be controlled. The Third Angel, however, walks among us. He's the angel that makes mistakes. Like all of us, he sometimes needs rescuing."

Left Bank by Kate Muir (Ekstrom Browsing PS 3613 .U385 L34 2006). I read this book because I wanted an insider's view of high society life on the Left Bank in

Paris. It turned out to be a great satire on French family values.

The Painted Drum by Louise Erdrich (Ekstrom Browsing PS3555 .R42 P35 2005). Antique dealer Faye Travers discovers a painted drum while appraising an estate of an agent from the Ojibwe reservation in North Dakota where Faye's own grandmother was born. She feels compelled to steal it. A drum such as this one is considered to be a living thing and very spiritual. This particular drum is a conduit between the living and the spirit world of little girls. This history of the drum spans generations. It helps heal Faye and then she searches for its roots.

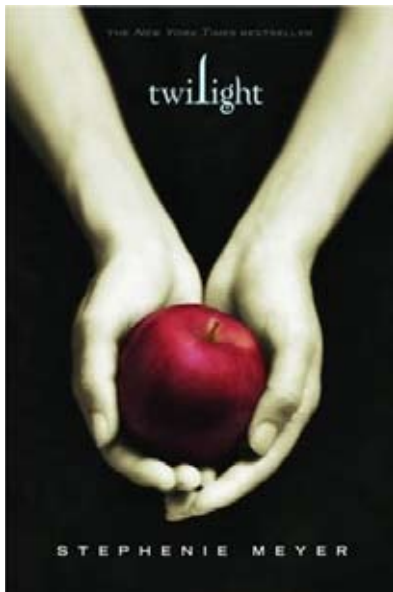
The Shadow Catcher by Marianne Wiggins (Ekstrom Browsing PS3573 .I385 S53 2007) is a story of a woman named Marianne Wiggins who writes a book about photographer Edward Curtis. Curtis' claim to fame is his portraits of Native Americans taken in the early 20th century as he abandoned his family for years at a time. Part of the book is about Curtis' and his family's history and part is about Wiggins who had problems with her own father. The two worlds come together somewhat when Wiggins travels to Las Vegas to visit a dying man who is identified as her father.



The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao by Junot Díaz (Ekstrom Browsing PS3554 .I259 B75 2007). This book won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 2008. It's a wacky story of a Dominican American "ghetto nerd" who is into comic books, science fiction and role playing games. But the book isn't just about Oscar, it's all over the place with many stories about different people who all have a connection to Oscar. The author is intelligent and witty and along with an entertaining read, I learned a bit about Santo Domingo.

Jamie Saunders, Ekstrom Library

I have ADHD, and I am always looking for new and better books on the subject. I found *ADD-Friendly Ways to Organize Your Life* by Judith Kolberg, and Kathleen Nadeau (Ekstrom RC394 .A85 K653 2002) and really liked it. The authors, one a professional organizer and the other an ADHD coach/counselor, obviously know their stuff, and explain it all in a very easy "ADD-friendly" manner. I don't know if this would be considered a "curl up" book, but it's very informative and helpful!



I'll add another. I have nearly finished reading *Twilight* by Stephenie Meyer (Ekstrom Browsing PZ7.M57188 Tw 2005). Given all the "buzz" it's had, and the movie just being released, my interest was piqued—and, I must say, I love it! Though the majority of readers and fans are teenage girls, I have found the story and the "forbidden" romance to be relatable to anyone of any age. I will definitely be seeing the movie, and am looking forward to starting on the next books in the series, *New Moon* (Ekstrom Browsing PZ7 .M57188 New 2006), *Eclipse* (Ekstrom Browsing PZ7.M57188 Ec 2007) and *Breaking Dawn* (Ekstrom Browsing PZ7.M57188 Br 2008)!

Raymond Slaughter, Ekstrom Library

Rose Madder by Stephen King (Ekstrom PS3561 .I483 R67) is a good read for those who like drama with the supernatural. A housewife is severely abused by her husband, who is a bad police detective, for 14 years. She finally decides to leave town and try to escape from him. However, he uses his abusive ways to track her down. She goes to a shelter for abused women for help. As she begins her new life, strange supernatural things begin to occur to her after a visit to a shop where she purchased an unusual portrait. There is plenty of drama, suspense, and the supernatural elements. If you liked *The Green Mile* also by Stephen King (Ekstrom PS3561.I483 G73 2000), you will probably enjoy this story as well.

Virginia Smith, Law Library

The Sharper Your Knife, the Less You Cry: Love, Laughter, and Tears in Paris at the World's Most Famous Cooking School by Kathleen Flinn (Ekstrom Browsing TX669.F8 F585 2007). For anyone who has ever dreamed of attending culinary school, here's your chance to experience it vicariously. This is the story of a woman who upon losing her corporate job decides to risk her career by cashing in her severance pay and pursuing her dream of attending Le Cordon Bleu. Along the way she becomes fluent in French and falls in love with both Paris and her fiancé, Mike, whom she has since wed. The book is divided into three parts: Basic Cuisine, Intermediate Cuisine, and Superior Cuisine, which conveniently follows the arrangement of Le Cordon Bleu's Classic Cycle program for the Diplome de Cuisine. Each chapter's theme relates to a week's lesson and ends with a fabulous recipe. Best read with a glass of fine wine and your favorite chocolates. Caveat: vegetarians may want to skip over the detailed descriptions of the techniques required to produce the meats found at a traditional Parisian charcuterie.



Ruth Holman Bench Dedication



On a chilly but sunny November 18, family, friends and colleagues of the late Ruth Holman gathered in front of the west entrance of the Ekstrom Library to dedicate a bench in her honor, followed by a reception in the study lounge. The bench was purchased with a generous donation from the Holman family, supplemented with gifts from many of her colleagues. Ruth worked as a serials cataloger in the library for 34 years. *Photos by Numeriano Rodenas.*

From the Dean of Libraries . . .

By Hannelore Rader, Dean, University of Louisville Libraries

October 14-17 I attended the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) meeting in Washington, DC, including the CNI (Coalition of Networked Information) program "Reinventing Science Librarianship: Models for the Future." The ARL Research, Teaching, and Learning Steering Committee, of which I am a member, met several times to discuss special collections, e-Science, and the ARL Learning Space Pre-Programming Tool Kit. The CNI meeting concentrated on e-Science trends, virtual organizations, and data curation issues. As usual these meetings were most informative and provided the latest library and technology information for the participants.



The Libraries have recently begun a partnership with Simmons College, a very promising endeavor. Representatives from Simmons College visited Ekstrom Library during our peer-sharing event on November 13.

The Faculty Senate Committee on Libraries met October 29 to receive its updated charge from the Faculty Senate. The members met again on December 1 to review the Faculty Senate Bylaws pertaining to FSCOL.

The Kornhauser Library Friends held their successful dinner event on November 12 in the University Club.

From November 18-20 I attended the ASERL (Association of Southeastern Research Libraries) fall meeting in Atlanta. At the beginning of the meeting the Education Committee, of which I am a member, had its meeting and members discussed a future information literacy summit.

The ASERL meeting covered such topics as collaborative digitization, a presentation by Mary Giunta from Columbia University Libraries about multidisciplinary digital centers, the OLE (Open Library Environment) Project, Kudzu-2, HBCU (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) exchange program, the merger of SOLINET and PALINET, the Google settlement, the OCLC policy on re-use of WorldCat records, the SCOAP3 project and the next three years of ARL (Association of Research Libraries).

On November 21 we dedicated the Ruth Holman bench in front of Ekstrom Library, a gift from her family and friends to honor Ruth's many accomplishments.
(See photos on page 10.)

Please make plans to attend the Libraries Annual Holiday Party on Thursday, December 18, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., in the Ekstrom Library third floor atrium.



From the Newton Owen Postcard Collection, University Archives & Records Collection, ca. 1908.

Library and Department News

New University Libraries Scholarship

Established to recognize the University of Louisville Libraries' appreciation for student employees, the Toccara Porter Library Scholarship promotes not only service to the University of Louisville Libraries, but also educational achievement. University Libraries staff members currently enrolled in a library school are also encouraged to apply. The scholarship represents a means of giving back to the library community through the funding of a \$1,000 scholarship for the Spring 2009 semester. So, as we prepare to enjoy another holiday break with family and friends, please encourage potential candidates to apply. Selection committee members are James Manasco, Delinda Buie, and Rachael Elrod. Applications can be downloaded from the News section on the Libraries' homepage, or by logging into Blackboard. For questions contact Toccara Porter (tdport01@louisville.edu).



Office of the Dean

Staff Resignation

Leslie Farison, Information Literacy Program Assistant, resigned effective November 6, 2008. Leslie has accepted the position of Business Librarian, Assistant Professor at Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina.

Congratulations!

Regina Brown of the Ekstrom Custodial staff was awarded Physical Plant's Spirit Award for 2008 for outstanding service.

Ekstrom Recycling Program

In July, 2008, Ekstrom library started a pilot program to recycle plastic bottles and aluminum cans. In late September, Ekstrom started recycling newspapers, journals, batteries, and cell phones from the library departments. Kornhauser and Music libraries are also participating with recycling newspapers, journals, and batteries. The materials to be recycled are collected from Ekstrom, Kornhauser, and Music libraries and taken to a Louisville Metro recycling center. The University Libraries and U of L are also working in conjunction with the Louisville Metro recycling program and are taking any surplus computers and computer related items to Cyber Cycle for recycling. The total weight sent to recycling for the Ekstrom recycling program for bottles/cans, newspapers, journals, computers, batteries and cell phones since July through November is 7,049 pounds.

Reference and Information Literacy

Sarah Jent and her husband Steven brought their daughter Elizabeth home from China on November 15, although we've not heard from them as far as the details of the 15 hour or so flight home...but then we may not want to!

The Reference Department will have two interns in the spring, Marguerite (Maggie) Aulick, a Florida State University library science student; and April Blevens, a U of L graduating senior in Humanities who is investigating graduate school in library science. We welcome them!

University Archives

Kathie and Ron Johnson spent a glorious week in Cancun, Mexico, in early November. Just ask her about this wonderful and inexpensive vacation spot filled with sunshine, a great beach and fabulous restaurants. Kathie read several books while lying around the pool and on the sand. It was the perfect spot for a relaxing vacation!

At the Student Assistants Appreciation Party



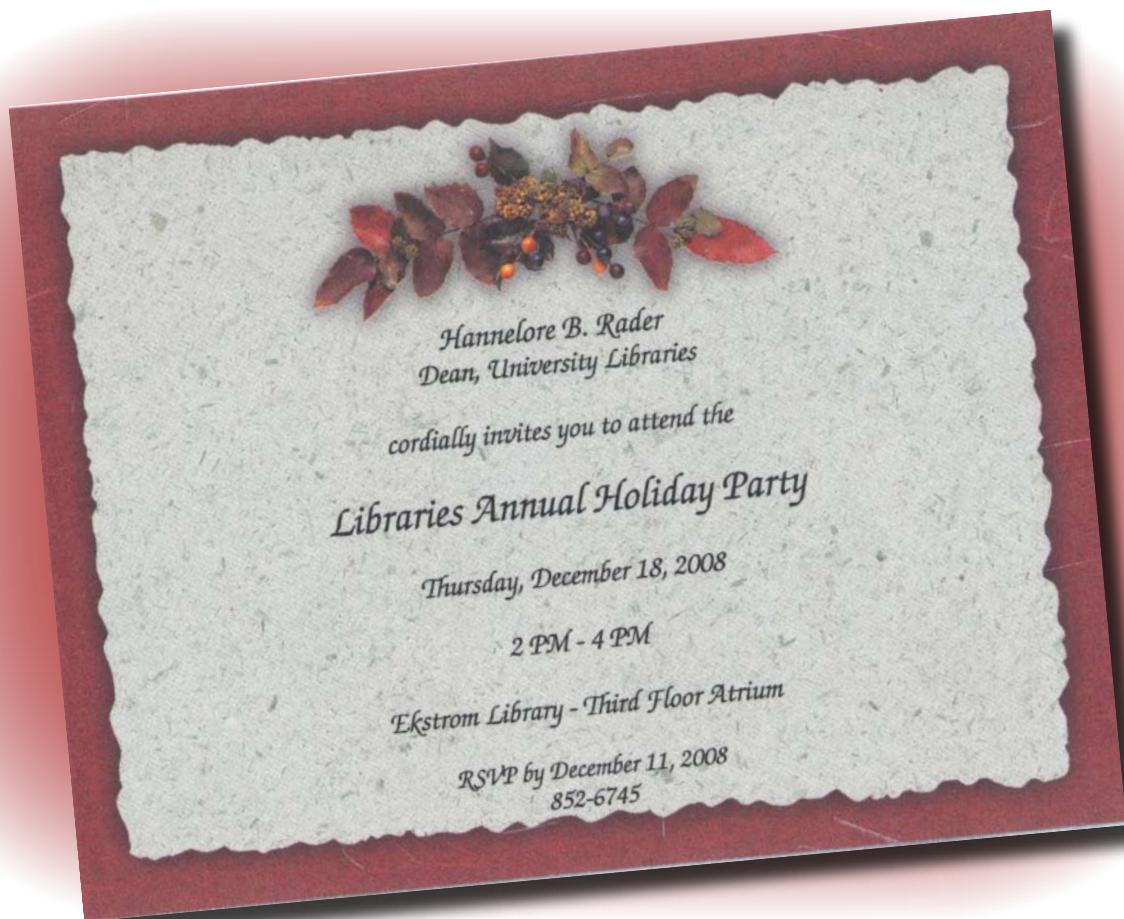
Costume Contest Winners

Crystal Embs as Harry Potter - 3rd place

Aramie Victoria as Miss Hannigan (from *Annie*) - 2nd place

Liz Farrar as Bo Peep/Sheep - 1st place

Photo by Justy Engle



Don't wait until January 1st!



As 2008 draws to a close, many of us are thinking about what we have or have not done this past year and what we hope to do in 2009. For a lot of us, that means more New Year's resolutions will be made, many of which are health-related. And since the holidays run through the months of November and December, there is no point in starting anything new now, right?

WRONG!

Do not wait until January 1st! If you are feeling like you need to make some changes in your lifestyle for your health, what better day than today? Do you not deserve to give yourself a head start? By January 1st, you could have a few simple lifestyle modifications already under your belt (which could be looser by then) and you'll feel ready to take on some more!

Also, many of us are raring to go in January. But when February (Valentine's Day candy) and March (Easter baskets) roll around, we are already giving up on our goals, thinking we have failed yet again to make any progress. We set unrealistic expectations for ourselves and then we are critical and harsh when we make "mistakes" in our grand scheme.

That's why the goals you make today should be simple, attainable and realistic. Do not say "I'm going to lose 100 pounds in 2009!" Even if that is a possibility, you could be setting yourself up for failure. Instead say "I'm going to drink more water everyday" or "I'm going to work more fruits and vegetables into my diet." Do one thing at a time and don't wait, start NOW.

Here are some ideas to get you started. You can do these today!

1. Start drinking more water. Don't think you have to start downing 10 glasses today if you are used to drinking none. Start with 1-2 and gradually work your way up. Make a chart where you mark off how many times you drank water each day. It will serve as a good visual reminder of the progress you have made! Drinking plenty of water is essential, arguably the most important thing you should be doing.
2. Get physically active. Many people assume that to exercise means to spend hours in the gym. It's really as simple as getting moving, whatever that may be for you! It could be taking a class (aerobics, yoga, tai chi), playing with your kids, walking the dog, or whatever you are interested in. Start with 10-15 minutes and increase the time every week or so. Your body is an amazing creation that is able to adapt and you will impress yourself.
3. Eat more fruits and vegetables. You've probably seen the signs that say "5 to 9 a day" but you don't have to eat 5 apples a day! Just find clever ways to work more servings (that's half a cup each) into your daily meals and snacks. This could be adding some berries to your breakfast oatmeal or cereal, adding a piece of fruit to your lunch, having some raw veggies with dip as a snack or cooking them to have with dinner.
4. Make an appointment to see your doctor for a complete physical to make sure any changes to your

diet or exercise program will be safe for your particular situation. It's also good to get some "starting" numbers like weight, cholesterol, blood pressure, etc. so you can go back and look at your progress later.

5. Don't beat yourself up. As you start making changes in your life, you are going to stumble and you won't be perfect; it's impossible. Don't be so hard on yourself if you slip up; start over at your next meal or make a plan to get more exercise the next day.

Once you get these down, you will be ready to move forward. Good luck to you as you start changing your life. You will kick butt in 2009, especially if you start making changes now. I wish you a happy and healthy holiday season.



EkSTROM #AS RECYCLING!

Ekstrom Library now has recycling! Two bins have been added: one on the north side of the elevators in the East Lobby and one in the entryway of the West Lobby. Each bin has two compartments, one labelled "Bottles and Cans" for plastics and aluminum, and one labelled "White Paper." Food or trash still needs to go in a trash bin.

Thanks to Andy Clark and the dock team, the recyclables will be collected and delivered to one of the Metro recycling centers on a regular basis. Now you can enjoy the convenience of being able to do the right thing with your recyclables without having to haul them home!

Thank You

Gwendline Chenault ■ Justy Engle
 Sarah Frankel ■ Rachel Hodge
 Anna Marie Johnson
 Katherine Johnson ■ Melissa Laning
 Erea Marshall ■ Toccara Porter
 Hannelore Rader ■ Numeriano Rodenas
 Jamie Saunders ■ Raymond Slaughter

Postcard courtesy of University Archives & Records Center

... for contributing to this issue of The Owl!

THANK YOU HAPPENINGS

Gail Gilbert: I'd like to thank **Tyler Goldberg** for all the data and advice she provided for an IMLS grant I worked on with the Speed Museum. Among many other things, the grant will reimburse the Libraries for processing Speed Museum Library books being donated to the Art Library.

I'd also like to thank **Erea Marshall** for helping me print materials for the meeting of art librarians from the Ohio Valley region held at UofL last month.



Anna Marie Johnson: Thank you to **Rae Helton, Delinda Buie, Danny Pruitt, and Cheryl Crane** for their help on our inaugural tour of the library for UofL's Family Weekend in September. The one family who showed up got a very high quality, enthusiastic tour and I think they were appropriately impressed!

Thank you to **Leslie Farison** for her 2-1/2 years of great work! It was a pleasure working with you!

Thank you to **Josh Whitacre and Phylicia Clemons**, my two temporary student assistants who are filling in for Leslie until I can hire an assistant. They have jumped in and with just a little bit of not-to-great training from me, have really taken the job to heart. Thank you also to **Trish, Justy, and Tess** in Media and **Sean Craig** in Reference who have dealt with the many things (like laptops) that I just haven't been able to remember.

Thanks to **Adam Lawrence** in OLT who has responded quickly to all my technology problems in the labs.

Thank you to the members of the **Reference Dept.** who have responded so kindly to my leadership of their department.



Kathie Johnson: I want to thank **Jami Allen** for her outstanding leadership of the Programs and Exhibits Committee. We are going to really miss her when she heads off to her new career.

I also want to thank **Rachel Howard and Emily Symonds** for making the Kornhauser contribution to the Digital Collections go so smoothly. For us non-techies, having people who can explain things in plain English (sometimes more than once) is a godsend.



Tess Payton: I'd like to thank **Clayton Lambert** for all his help last Sunday with the evening Life in the Old City Neighborhood!



Betsy Osoffsky: I'd like to thank **Ren Hinshaw** for all of his time and trouble with my recent upgrade, and also for his assistance with a computer purchase. It was much appreciated!



Allen Ashman: I would like to thank **Delinda Buie, Susan Finley, Amy H Purcell, Lois Severt and Margo Smith** for all their help in getting me settled into my new duties in Special Collections! And on an unrelated matter, my wife and I would like to express our appreciation for the many acts of kindness we have received in regard to our recent personal losses.



Barbara Whitener: **Sean Craig** is one of our student assistants in the Reference Department. He does an outstanding job assisting at the reference desk. Sean works with the public in a way that gives the patron a first impression that is welcoming but also lets the patron know they will be helped in an effective way. Willing to go the extra mile to assist a patron, Sean is a great asset to the department. Thanks, Sean!



Raymond Slaughter: I would like to thank student assistants **Kyle Amyx, Robert Harrison, Ian Bell, Chris Creech, Jackson Reid, Charles Todd, Julia Yetter, and Jesseca Moore** in Shipping/Receiving who participated in collecting 7049 pounds of bottles, cans, newspapers, journals, computers, batteries, and cell phones from July 2008 thru November 2008 for the Ekstrom Recycling Program.



Justy Engle, Carlie Bird, Trish Blair & Tess Payton: Thank you to all the people who contributed food and helped out with the Student Assistant Appreciation Party this year! **Dean Hannelore Rader, Diane Nichols, Erea Marshall, Karen**

Nalley, Rae Helton, Alice Abbott-Moore, Sheila Birkla, Mioshi Cobble, Claudene Sproles, Jami Allen, Ben King, Angela Ren, Toccara Porter, Anna Marie Johnson, and anyone else we've forgotten!



Weiling Liu: I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to everyone in OLT for keeping the Libraries' computers and systems working smoothly during this past year. It was their team work and the dedication of everyone that made all this happen. I'd like to thank Sheila for her great contributions in the PC upgrade projects and Ekstrom Library renovation projects.

I also want to thank **Calvin Miracle** for coming in on a Saturday (November 15) evening to take care of the servers after the unscheduled power outage occurred. At that time, he should have been in the hospital's emergency room with his father-in-law, but he came to work first upon knowing of the outage.



Nancy Baker, Miriam Schusler-Williams, Virginia Smith: We'd like to thank **Robin Harris** for her continued support of both the Law School's and the University's diversity programs, for her commitment to equality, and for the strength and courage she displays in the face of adversity.



Michael Ben-Avraham: I am very grateful to all my colleagues in the Law Library, Faculty, Staff, and Student Assistants, for keeping my work up to date for me during my recent bout of shingles and the pain that continues to affect me and still occasionally keeps me home from work. I want to especially thank the members of my department who actually had to process the titles that I am responsible for: **Scott Campbell**, our Faculty supervisor; as well my fellow staff members, **David Minton; Janissa Moore, and Tami Sexton**. Thank you all for your understanding, sympathy, and willingness to take on extra work during my protected illness.



Amy Purcell: Thanks to **Anna Marie Johnson and John Chenault** who have both taught me the intricacies of EndNote and now EndNote X2. It's pretty complicated but a very helpful tool once you get the hang of it.

NEW EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Name: Carlie Bird

UofL position and department: ILL Library Assistant-Ekstrom Library

Home Town (or other places you have lived): Springville, Utah

Schools Attended: Brigham Young University

Hobbies/Activities: Tennis, music, shopping

Favorite Foods: Chocolate!!!

Favorite Vacation Spot: Hawaii, Disneyland

Favorite Quote: "Enjoy the Journey"

Name: Teresa Marie Payton

Preferred nickname (if you have one): Tess

UofL position and dept: Evening Supervisor, Media Resources

Hometown: Florence, KY

Significant Other/Family Members: Nick Sturtzel

Pets: Do plants count? :D

Unusual previous positions: Baker

Favorite Books: Oh my! There are too many to count. Currently though I'm intrigued by the "Twilight" series by Stephenie Meyer. My boyfriend and I are also reading *The Sound and the Fury* together.

Favorite Movies: What kind of a question is this for someone who works in Media?! Ha! Tim Burton's *Batman*, *The Big Lebowski*, *Lost Highway*, *Dawn of the Dead*, *The Signal*, & *Sheba, Baby*.

Favorite Music: Anything I can thrash to or get down to in the comfort of my own home. I am a huge fan of the one-person dance party.

Favorite Food: Nutella



Library Exhibits

Ekstrom Library

Chao Auditorium Lobby

2008 Nobel Prize Winners in Chemistry and Physics

The exhibit includes photos and materials on the research topic for which each winner received the prize.

Until December 21, 2008

East Lobby – Media Resources

Tarzan Around the World

Seven posters from various Tarzan movies, 1936-1957

Courtesy of the Burroughs Memorial Collection

New Wing First Floor Display Cases

Woodblocks from John P. Morton and Company

Morton and Company was a Louisville-based book publisher. While they published books on all subjects, two specialties were titles in the health sciences and children's books. The woodblocks displayed were for the latter.



Lower Level Lobby

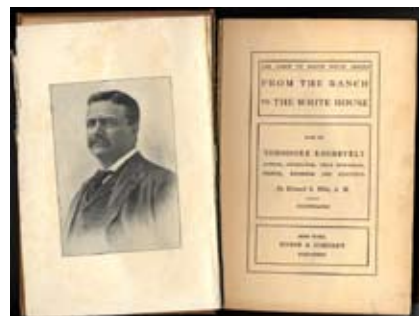
Special Collections

Photographic Archives Gallery

Andrew Stern: Photographs

Andrew Stern's photographs documenting the eastern Kentucky coalfields in the early 1960s and again in 2008 when he returned to the area after more than 35 years.

September 18 – January 2009



First Exposure

Recent additions to the [Photo Archives' Fine Print](#) collection.

January 18 - May 15, 2009

Rare Books Kain Gallery

The Ted and Vivienne Steinbock Collection

of Theodore Roosevelt, 26th President of the United States

January 7 - February 15, 2009

Law Library

Reading Room

Sisters in Struggle:

Women in the Louisville Civil Rights Movement, 1945-1975

This exhibit showcases several Louisville women who played a vital role in the local civil rights movement. (At right, State Senator Georgia Davis Powers.) For more information, see <http://www.law.louisville.edu/node/2086>.



Music Library

First Floor

Works of Brett Dean

Winning composer of the 2009 Grawemeyer Award for Music Composition

Through January 2009