



A Newsletter for Employees of the University of Louisville Libraries
Vol. 25, No. 1 ♣ February-March, 2009

The Owl

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

African American Oral Histories Online

By Carrie Daniels,

University Archives & Records Center

Oral histories provide a glimpse into our past as unique as the individual speaker. Even when the narrator is describing events that are well-known to us, or are also described in newspapers or history texts, we see what happened through her eyes, tempered by all her experiences, before and after the events. The Oral History Center, which is part of the University Archives and Records Center in Ekstrom Library, has been collecting interviews since 1967, and has recently been working to make these very personal histories available online, one series at a time. The first series to launch was recorded primarily in the 1970s, and deals with the lives of African Americans here in Louisville.



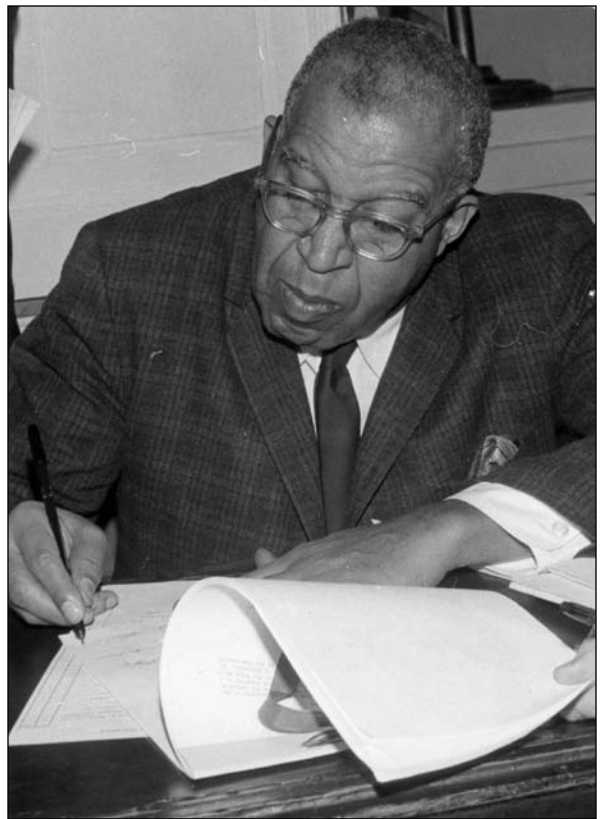
Murray Walls, President of the Housewives League, serves lunch to Girl Scouts at Camp Dan Beard, ca. 1940. Walls Family Photographs, Special Collections.

The interviews in the African American Oral History collection provide a glimpse into the lives and experiences of a variety of members of Louisville’s African American community, from the 1930s to the 1970s. While many of the interviews that are already available in this series are with politicians, successful musicians, journalists, and well-known U of L faculty members, others may not be as well-known to today’s Louisvillians. Some speak of big events, of political power and of changes they helped make. For example, Mae Street Kidd* shares her experiences with the Red Cross during World War II, as well as the political achievements she is better known for. Charles Parrish, Jr. discusses his experiences at Louisville Municipal College and then at the University of Louisville as U of L’s first African American faculty member. William Ealy, a journalist and political worker, tells of the political goings-on in Louisville in the 1930s and 1940s, including his experiences with ward politics and the treatment of blacks by white politicians. Louise Reynolds*, a Republican alderman elected in the 1960s, also speaks of politics and her efforts to pass strong housing rights legislation. Murray Walls*, with her husband John, tells of her efforts to integrate the Louisville Free Public Library and of the

* These women are featured in an exhibit entitled “Sisters in Struggle: Women in the Louisville Civil Rights Movement 1945-1975 currently on display in the Law Library.

process of integrating the Girl Scouts. These are powerful stories from powerful people.

But there are other stories that may be more representative of the experiences of many African American Louisvillians: Ms. Walls tells of the discrimination that she experienced in shopping, when most stores would not allow African Americans to try clothing on before buying it. Dr. Maurice Rabb tells of being denied service at a soda fountain because he was black—at a store that was courting his business because he was a physician. Goldie Beckett describes the old Walnut Street business district, which was home to many black-owned businesses. Frank Moorman, who also owned businesses on Walnut Street, talks about his experiences as a businessman and the effects of Urban Renewal. James Shively discusses his education at Central High School, segregated Louisville's high school for African Americans. He talks in some detail about his experiences there, speaking of his teachers and their preparation, the extracurricular activities that were available, his classes, and the building itself. He also speaks of his experiences at Louisville Municipal College, including his membership in Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. These are also powerful stories.



Dr. Charles Parrish, Jr. *Louisville Defender* collection, Special Collections.

This is living history, even though many of the interviewees have passed away. Hearing their stories can touch you



Louisville studio photographer Arthur Evans shakes hands with Senator Mae Street Kidd. *Louisville Defender* collection, Special Collections.

in a way that plain text rarely can; you can hear the conviction and pride in their voices as they talk about what they have seen and done. They look back on their lives and they look forward along the paths that younger generations are traveling. They are a powerful reminder, at this time in our history, of how far we have come and how far we still have to go, of who we were, how we got to be who we are—and who we might become. And their voices are now accessible from any computer with an Internet connection, anytime of the day or night.

Check out the first group of 19 of interviews, which went live in March 2008 at <http://digital.library.louisville.edu/col>



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

Deadline for publication is the 21st of each month preceding publication.

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

[lections/afamoh/](#). In most cases, both the audio and a transcription of the interview are available. A very brief description of each interview is available on a “title page,” which also provides instructions for accessing the audio and text.

This first group of interviews is only the beginning. The University Archives and Records Center is fortunate to have Heather Fox, a University of Kentucky Library Science student, working with us this semester. Her project is to add to the online collection by proofreading transcripts, creating metadata, and digitizing and cleaning the audio portions. There are a total of about 50 interviews in this series, most of which we hope eventually to add to the online collection. Plans are also in progress to add interviews from U of L history professor (and Oral History Center Co-Director) Dr. Tracy K’Meyer’s interview series “The Civil Rights Movement in Louisville.” This series is both more recent, having been conducted in the late 1990s and early 2000s, and more extensive, containing more than 80 interviews.



Rev. W. J. Hodge, Mayor Frank Burke, Dr. Maurice Rabb and Judge Todd Hollenbach. *Louisville Defender* collection, Special Collections. This picture taken after Hollenbach rejected the NAACP’s request to appoint a black to the all-white Air Board.

The University Libraries Rewards & Recognition Program

The University Libraries Rewards & Recognition Program awards are given quarterly to faculty and staff who exemplify positive workplace qualities. Recipients will be chosen from nominations (see nomination form at <http://kla-itrt.org/ulib/forms/rewards-recognition-form> for submission details). Please make your nominations as specific as possible, providing examples as requested on the form.

Awards will be given for exemplary work performed during the last quarter, October 1, 2008 - December 31, 2008. Nominations should be based on outstanding work for the specified period, including, but not limited to, special projects, creative approaches to problem solving, collaborative activities, and efforts that further the goals of the department, library or the University.

The deadline for nominations for the University Libraries Rewards & Recognition Program has been extended until February 27, 2009.

This award will be presented at the Information Exchange in March.

Rewards & Recognition Committee

Melissa Crain (chair)
Janardan Kulkarni
Mary K Marlatt
John Spivey
Emily Symonds

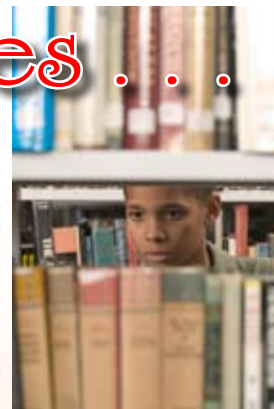


(Not the actual award!)

From the Dean of Libraries . . .

By Hannelore Rader, Dean, University Libraries

December 8-9, I attended the Coalition of Networked Information (CNI) meeting, followed by the meeting of the Council of Library and Information Resources (CLIR) in Washington, D.C. The program included “Manuscript Forensics: DNA and the Study of Medieval Parchment” by Timothy Stinson from North Carolina State University; “Duke Visual Studies at the Interface of the Humanities, Social Sciences and Sciences” by Professor Van Miegroet from Duke University; and “The Future of Digital Scholarship: A Look at Environments and Education” by Connie Moon Sehat from Emory University.



On December 18, the Library Associates Board met to discuss the “Honor with Books” fundraising, and various ways to work with donors. The Library Associates Board will meet again on February 19 to discuss the latest fundraising ideas for the libraries.

On January 5, there was a press conference in the new wing of the Ekstrom Library with Mayor Abramson and President Ramsey highlighting the fact that the Ekstrom Library is open to the public Sundays from noon to midnight. (The Louisville Free Public Library has eliminated Sunday hours.)

On January 9, the State Assisted Academic Library Council of Kentucky (SAALCK) held a joint meeting with the Collections Committee at the University of Louisville to discuss their continuing ELUNA (Ex Libris Users of North America) membership, their website development, and new online training options through SWON (SouthWest Ohio and Neighboring)Libraries. FoKAL (Federation of Kentucky Academic Libraries) is making progress with a SOLINET agreement and creating state-wide committees. The SOLINET/PALINET merger was also discussed. The Collection Committee received its charge and discussed priorities for 2009-2010. A Wiki devoted to library instruction in Kentucky is available at <http://fokal.pbwiki.com/>

The Faculty Senate Committee on Libraries (FSCOL) held its meeting on January 12, chaired by Professor Daniel Weeks. The committee discussed four new academic programs in the College of Arts and Sciences. The group discussed academic freedom issues at the February 11 meeting.

On January 22 we hosted a special event in the Bingham Poetry Room featuring Joy Carew who discussed her new book *Blacks, Reds, and Russians: Sojourners in Search of the Soviet Promise* (Ekstrom DK34.B53 C37 2008), and artist Anne Stewart Anderson who spoke about her series of paintings, “The Nine Muses,” which are on exhibit in the Poetry Room.

Due to the ice storm the university as well as the libraries were closed January 27-30.

On February 18 the libraries will host journalist Farai Chideya in the Chao Auditorium. Ms. Chideya, host of National Public Radio’s “News and Notes” program, will present “The Color of Our Future: Race and the Media.” Chideya’s book, *The Color of Our Future* (Ekstrom BF723.R3 C45 1999), will be available for purchase (\$12) and signing. This talk originally was scheduled for January 27.

March 6 I plan to attend the University of Kentucky School of Library and Information Science Board meeting. I am a member of the Board.

From March 12-14 I will attend the Association of College and Research Libraries Conference in Seattle.

Library and Department News

Ekstrom Library

Office of the Dean

Resignations

Vicki Niehaus, Program Assistant, Information Literacy resigned effective January 21, 2009. Vicki has accepted a position as Technical Services Librarian with the Jeffersonville Township Public Library, Jeffersonville, Indiana.

Jamie Allen, Library Specialist/Circulation, is making a career change and resigned effective January 23, 2009.

Reference

New Intern

April Blevens has a library internship this semester as part of a 3-hr. credit toward her Liberal Studies undergraduate major in Sociology, English and Business Administration. Glenda is supervising her and would like to have her spend time in other units so she can get a feel for work in an academic library before pursuing her master's degree. April is a senior, working part-time at UPS in addition to her internship at Ekstrom Library. Welcome, April!

Law Library

Diversity Forum

On Tuesday, February 24 at noon in Room 275 the Law School's Diversity Committee will present "Passing the Baton: Current and Future Leaders of the Civil Rights Movement." Speakers will include journalist Phillip Bailey, Judge Denise Clayton, Councilwoman Cheri Bryant Hamilton, and Senator Gerald Neal. Diversity Committee members from the Law Library (Nancy Baker, Robin Harris and Miriam Schusler-Williams) invite University Libraries colleagues to attend. A free, light lunch from Expressions of You will be available at 11:30 on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, please contact Robin at 852-6083 or robin.harris@louisville.edu.



Image: Thornton's

5k Your Way To Health

Here we are in the dead of winter with snow flurries, ice and temperatures in the single digits. Why on earth would I even be thinking about participating in an outdoor race right now? That's because March (and hopefully warmer weather) is right around the corner; the kickoff of the Louisville Triple Crown of Running commences with the Anthem 5K on March 7, 2009. So it's time to start training!

What is a 5K? It is a distance of five kilometers or 3.1 miles. That may seem like a lot to some and a little to others. On average, if you are running moderately, it will take 30-40 minutes; walking at a good pace would take 45-50 minutes. The Anthem 5K, plus the other two races in the Triple Crown – the Rodes City Run 10K (6.2 miles) and the Papa John's 10-miler – all lead up to the Kentucky Derby Festival Mini-Marathon and Marathon, which take place at the end of April. Many runners and walkers use the three races of the Triple Crown as part of their training program for the longer races.

Last March, I ran the Anthem 5K in 30 minutes, 40 seconds. This was the first race I had ever participated in as a runner, since I had only just begun running for the first time in my life in September 2007. It was really exciting to be there with people of all fitness levels, speeds, and types. There was no pressure to do things a certain way, I just went with what felt good to me and tried to enjoy myself. That same spring, I also ran the 10K, 10-miler and mini-marathon.

Since then, I ran in one 5K (Run for the L of it – UofL Alumni), walked in three others (Champions 4 Her, Louisville AIDS walk, and Run like Hell for Cystic Fibrosis) and thoroughly enjoyed myself equally in all of them. They were all great experiences; I highly recommend 5K races for everyone. Visually, crossing a finish line gives you such a sense of accomplishment. The crowds cheering you on along the way also keep you moving. It doesn't matter if you come in first, last, or somewhere in the middle. You will start and finish something for you and your health, and have fun, too. The 5K is the best race in my opinion and there are so many of them, all throughout the year.

Not sure how to get started? There are plenty of resources to help you. One of my favorites is one called the "Couch to 5K" plan, mostly because of the catchy name. Websites such as Runner's World, SparkPeople, Cool Running, and others all have various programs to choose from based on your goals and current fitness abilities. They require time, dedication and consistency, so keep that in mind. But, do not be intimidated by all the "running" jargon; walking a 5K or another race is just as respectable and worth training for.

I started running because I was already a regular walker and I felt I needed a challenge. It has also been quite therapeutic — I've noticed that when I run, especially after finishing a race, I feel very euphoric. It's hard to believe that just in September of 2007 I could only run for one minute at a time and I've come this far already. The human body is an amazing thing!



Whether you walk or run, I hope some of you will think about joining me this year in at least one 5K. There are plenty to choose from throughout the year, so maybe even sign up for multiples! Grab a friend or family member, encourage each other and do a 5K together for fun. I am thrilled because this year, my family has started a walking program together and they will be participating in some races. Truthfully, for your health and a good cause, you just can't beat it.

Good luck. See you out there!

Links:

www.louisvilletriplecrown.com

www.derbyfestivalmarathon.com

www.fleetfeetlouisville.com/event (Lists all races for the upcoming calendar year)

www.runnersworld.com

“Spark Your Way to a 5K” - http://www.sparkpeople.com/resource/fitness_articles.asp?id=598

“The Couch-to-5K Running Plan” - http://www.coolrunning.com/engine/2/2_3/181.shtml



EKSTROM #AS RECYCLING!

Ekstrom Library 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 Carrie Daniels
Sarah Frankel Rachel Hodge
Anna Marie Johnson Hannelore Rader
Jamie Saunders Emily Symonds

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

THANK YOU HAPPENINGS

“Thanks to **Andy Clark** and his crew, **John Burton** and **Ann Collins**, for helping my transition to my new office in LL35 go so smoothly and well.” — *James Manasco*



“The law library would like to thank **Emily Symonds** for the assistance she’s provided prior to and during Rachel Howard’s leave.” — *Virginia Smith*



“Thank you to everyone who helped cover my duties during my maternity leave, especially **Carrie Daniels**, **Emily Symonds**, **Sue Finley**, **Amy Purcell**, and **Weiling Liu**.” — *Rachel Howard*



“I’d like to thank **Jamie Saunders** for her generosity and her Excel help!” — *Tess Payton*



“I want to express thanks to **Andy Clark**, **Weiling Liu**, **Eric Lair**, **Calvin Miracle**, and **Sheila Birkla** for all their assistance with the RRS. Many of us are feeling the loss of Mark Paul — I am one of those people. These fine folks have really helped me with incidents that Mark used to.

“**Danny Pruitt** and **John Spivey** are so amazing! Recently, they created a database that I can use with regards to by statistics concerning the RRS. These two gentlemen have helped to not only make my job a whole lot easier, but also have given me a tool that will provide very important and valuable statistical information.

“I want to thank **Carlie Bird** and **Steve Shackelford** for filling in at the front desk for me. I am so grateful for their willingness to help me out.” — *Alice Abbott-Moore*



“Thanks to everyone’s support and cooperation, Voyager 7.03 client upgrade is successfully completed. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the following people for their great work:



Mioshi Cobble - ODBC installation and fixing problems

Sheila Birkla - ODBC installation and fixing problems

Eric Lair - package the installation

Adam Lawrence - scripts to enhance the installation

Calvin Miracle - ODBC installation and fixing problems

Liren Liu - ODBC installation

PC Support Group - assisting in installation

Ren Hinshaw - installation at Kornhauser

— *Weiling Liu*



Library Exhibits

Ekstrom Library

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

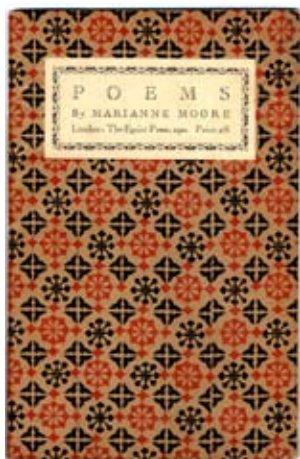
Special Collections

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, 2008 – February, 2009



First Exposure

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

March 1 - May 15, 2009

Rare Books Kain Gallery

Robert and Diane Miller Collection

An exhibition drawn from the collection's more than 400 volumes, including rare first editions, proof copies, and first appearances in print of modern authors and poets such as Shirley Jackson, Sarah Orne Jewett, Marianne Moore, and Richard Wilbur. Professor Emeritus of English Robert H. Miller also formed the Libraries' Graham Greene collection, and taught the art of descriptive bibliography to several generations of scholars. (Left: Marianne Moore's first book, *Poems*; first edition, London: The Egoist Press, 1921.)

February 25 – May 29, 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. 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 Mid-February 2009

Third Floor

The Gamelan Project: Music Instruments from Indonesia

February 10 - 21

Pictured at right: A ceng-ceng from the Gamelan Project exhibit.

