



A Newsletter for Employees of the University of Louisville Libraries  
Vol. 25, No. 7 ♣ Winter, 2009

# The Owl

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

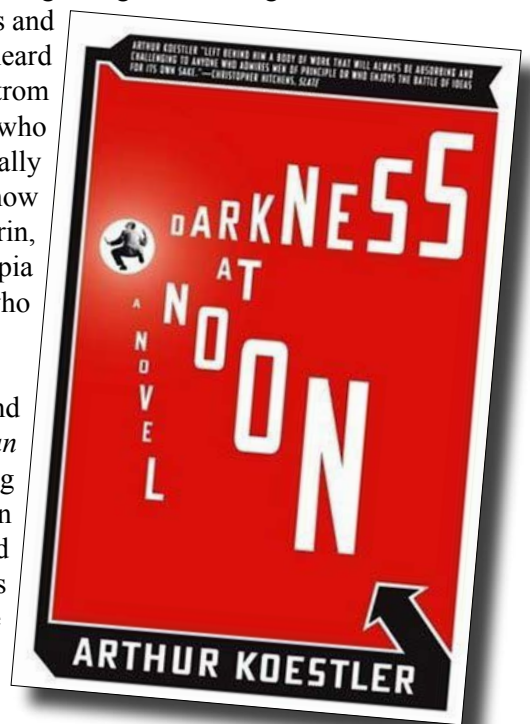
## WINTER READERS PICKS 2009

*Written and compiled by Christopher Poché, Ekstrom Current Periodicals*

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." "Call me Ishmael." "All happy families are alike; each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way." And my personal favorite: "Someone must have been telling lies about Joseph K., for without having done anything wrong he was arrested one fine morning." Great beginnings to great books. Ever since Anna Marie asked me to take over the Readers' Picks, I have wondered how I would begin my first column. And sadly, most of the time I have felt like Billy Crystal's blocked writer in *Throw Mama from the Train*, who, after considering several permutations of the old cliché "It was a dark and stormy night," finally settles on "The night was moist" to begin his latest novel. This is not to say, however, that I have not been excited to take over as book editor of *The Owl*. Quite the opposite, but unfortunately my reading of late has been, well, moist—decidedly not juicy, not very satisfying, not the kind of reading that would inspire a great column. So, for this inaugural column, I won't recommend, say, Willa Cather's *The Professor's House*, Arthur Phillips' *The Song Is You*, or John Williams' *Nothing but the Night*. To push the point a bit, the first line of the first of these not-so-good books reads "The moving was over and done." Maybe I should have known.

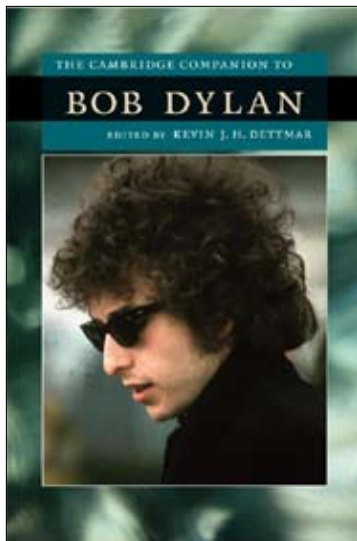
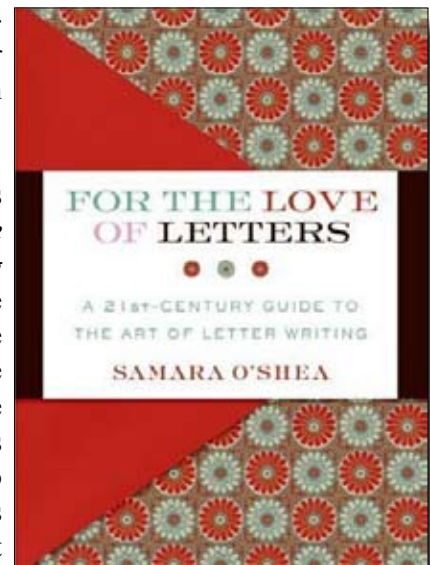
In the spirit of new beginnings, I would like to tell you about a book I read when I was a freshman in college before getting to my current picks. It was the first book that really made me feel the beginning of a lifelong commitment to reading. After fall semester midterms I actually had some time on my hands and without anything better to do I went to the library and picked up a book I had heard about in my Soviet history course: Arthur Koestler's *Darkness at Noon* (Ekstrom PR6021.O4 D313 1941). This novel tells the story of Rubashov, a Bolshevik who was instrumental in the formation of the Communist Party but who eventually becomes a victim of the Revolution. A response to Stalin's purges and show trials of the 1930s and based mainly on the experience of Nikolai Bukharin, the novel shows how the Communist Revolution, intended to produce a utopia for all, created a nightmare for so many, including several party members who served it so faithfully.

But it is not so much the story of the book that makes me recall it now. (And besides, as far as doomed intellectual heroes go, I like Thomas More in *A Man for All Seasons* better.) Rather, it was the great feeling of reading something totally for myself. I remember vividly going to the library on a dry autumn afternoon, picking the tattered blue hardcover off the shelf, smelling the old book's browning dusty pages, and settling down to read in Xavier University's over-warm MacDonald Library (familiar conditions indeed). Even after the drain of midterm papers and exams, reading this book was refreshing and energizing. The novel complemented what I was learning in my class, and



I felt that I had taken greater responsibility for my education as a result. Afterwards, I always tried to read as much as I could outside of my classes—for the pleasure of it and for the sense of adventure and discovery that came with opening every new book.

As for my more current reading, I would like to recommend Samara O'Shea's two books about writing: *For the Love of Letters: A 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Guide to the Art of Letter Writing* (Ekstrom PE1483.O83 2007) and *Note to Self: On Keeping a Journal and Other Dangerous Pursuits* (Ekstrom PN4390.O84 2008). In the age of email, instant messaging, blogs, and some other technological advance I'm probably not even aware of yet, O'Shea has become a champion for more traditional forms of communication. Her books on letters and journals are at the same time how-to manuals and appreciations for the not yet extinct pleasures and qualities that come from pen hitting paper. They offer helpful tips on how to write a variety of different kinds of letters (from thank you notes to love letters to even erotic letters—reader be warned: some are pretty racy) and how to start and maintain a journal. Both books are illustrated with samples of O'Shea's own writing in these forms and the work of famous writers such as Anne Frank, Sylvia Plath, and James Joyce.



My last pick for the year is *The Cambridge Companion to Bob Dylan*, edited by Kevin J.H. Dettmar (Ekstrom ML 420.D98 D48 2009). When I was in graduate school, the Cambridge Companions were always my first stop when I needed a guide to the work of major philosophers, writers, or artists. Each companion is a collection of essays by authorities on the particular subject and can always be counted upon to provide a helpful yet insightful and challenging introduction. So, I was very excited to see the appearance of this companion to my favorite musician. And it does not disappoint. This volume is divided into two parts: the first features essays on various aspects of Dylan's music, lyrics, and career, while the second provides appreciative essays on eight of Dylan's best albums, from 1963's *The Freewheelin' Bob Dylan* to 2001's *Love and Theft*.

I am looking forward to the *Cambridge Companion to the Beatles*, which will be published next month. I'll tell you all about it next year in the Summer Readers' Picks edition. Till then, thanks to everyone who contributed picks this year. Happy reading!

### Scott Campbell, Law Library

This year I tried an unusual reading experiment. Being the computer services librarian (and then the technical services librarian) in the law library and not having a law degree kind of put me in an awkward position with our collection. After being here 14 years, I of course became aware of a number of titles and had even read a book or two, but for the most part our collection was an enigma to me, virtually an impenetrable mass of books. Last summer I resolved to correct this situation by determining upon a New Year's resolution: every other book I read in 2009 had to be one that was in the Law Library collection. As a tool to get acquainted with the collection, I would have to say it worked wonders—even before 2009 began. Every time I went downstairs among the books, I would pull a couple off the



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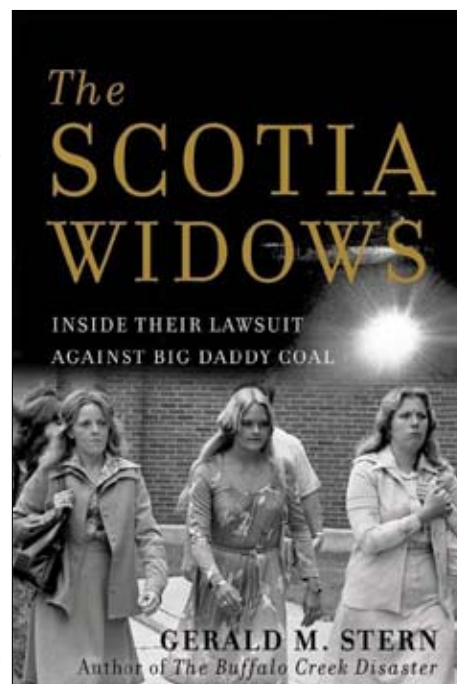
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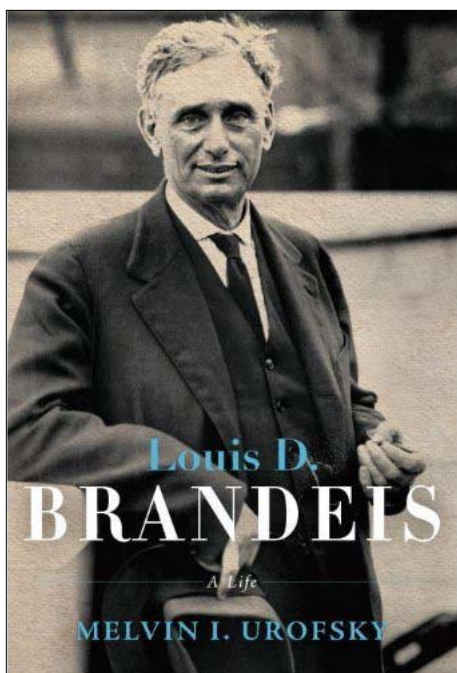
shelf and inspect them, while making mental notes about which ones looked interesting. As a result, I got to know the collection better than ever.

Then the New Year arrived and I had to actually start reading the things. Everyone I told my plan to (including just about all of the librarians here) looked at me like I was nuts, but truth be told, I didn't read a dull book. I stayed away from practitioners' works, figuring not only would they be as boring as they looked, but also that since I don't have a law degree I probably wouldn't get all that much out of them. I mostly stuck to books that were written for "real people," and I think every book I picked would probably be enjoyed by most readers. I won't bother to list them all here however. I'll just list the highlights in case anyone wants to pick up a book that they normally wouldn't think about.

Throughout the year, I found myself drawn to memoirs of lawyers, particularly those with difficult jobs. One was ***Rough Justice: Days and Nights of a Young D.A.***, by David Heilbroner (Law and Ekstrom KF373.H44 A34 1990). Heilbroner was a real Assistant District Attorney in New York City. What I mean by real is that his job wasn't anything like the ADAs you see on *Law & Order*. Instead of getting to devote copious time on high-profile murder cases, Heilbroner spent 12+ hour days prosecuting hundreds of low-level criminals, with very little time or resources to devote to each case. He paints a picture of a justice system so overburdened that it's a wonder it works at all. ***Indefensible: One Lawyer's Journey into the Inferno of American Justice***, by David Feige (Law KF373.F37 A3 2006), presents the flip side of the same coin. Feige was a public defender in the Bronx, and even though his book was written 15 years after Heilbroner's, it sounds like nothing has changed in New York: ADAs and PDs are both overworked and a lot of people get trapped between them. The best thing about Feige's book is that he is able to present his clients as real people, rather than the faceless (assumed) criminals dismissed by the ADAs and judges. This in fact almost proves to be Feige's undoing as his empathy for his clients makes it harder to keep doing his job as the book goes on. ***Attorney for the Damned: A Lawyer's Life with the Criminally Insane***, by Denis Woychuk (Law KF373.W64 A3 1996), is similar to *Indefensible*. Woychuk isn't a PD however; instead he is a court-appointed lawyer who defends the criminally insane. Woychuk doesn't try to get the reader's sympathy for his clients; in fact he readily admits that most of them are monsters. But in the five case studies he presents he makes an excellent argument as to why even the insane need competent representation, and he manages to tell some compelling stories at the same time. (We have another book by the title *Attorney for the Damned*. It's a biography of Clarence Darrow. It looks pretty good, but I didn't get around to reading it. Maybe next year.)

I also read a few books about specific trials. The first was ***A Civil Action***, by Jonathan Harr (Law and Ekstrom KF228.A7 H37 1996). Most people are probably more familiar with the John Travolta movie adaptation. (I haven't seen it, but I can't imagine it can be as good as the book.) It involves a class action suit against a corporation that had been dumping solvents in a Massachusetts town's water supply which caused leukemia in a number of children as well as a number of other health problems in adults. The story and its resultant legal maneuvers were interesting in themselves, but what sent the book over the top was the flawed character of the lawyer representing the townspeople, who seemed like he came straight from a Greek tragedy. ***The Buffalo Creek Disaster: The Story of the Survivors' Unprecedented Lawsuit***, by Gerald M. Stern (Law KF228.P75 S7x), is about 1970's West Virginia flood that was caused by shoddy practices at a nearby coal mine. The flood claimed the lives of over 100 people, while thousands of others were made homeless. It's a classic David vs. Goliath story, where Goliath is a shameless corporation that refused to admit any responsibility in the disaster. Stern also wrote ***The Scotia Widows: Inside Their Lawsuit Against Big Daddy Coal*** (KF226.S74 2008), which is about another coal mining disaster, this time in Kentucky. The really sad thing about these books is that the coal companies do not seem to have learned their lessons. They still cut safety corners in the name of profit, and the miners and their families suffer as a result.





As the curator of the Brandeis papers, I am practically contractually obligated to mention the new biography ***Louis D. Brandeis: A Life***, by Melvin Urofsky (Law and Ekstrom KF8745 .B67 U749 2009). I've read about four Brandeis biographies now and this is by far the best of them (and I'm not just saying that because the author lists me as an "old friend" in the acknowledgements). At 700+ pages of text, this can be an imposing book for the average reader, but it is actually a lively read. This native son of Louisville made an indelible mark on American law and society, and many of the rights Americans enjoy now are arguably only available due to his efforts.

I am currently about a quarter of the way through ***Simple Justice: The History of Brown v. Board of Education and Black America's Struggle for Equality*** by Richard Kluger (Law and Ekstrom KF4155.K55 2004). While ostensibly a history of the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, it is really a look at the history of legalized discrimination in American legal history. As this book is also over 700 pages, it will probably take up most of the rest of the year to read, which means there are at least another 20 books or more downstairs that are on my list that I won't have time to get to. I might have to make another New Year's resolution.

#### Rob Detmering, Ekstrom Library

***The Beatles Anthology*** (Music Library ML421.B4 B4135 2000). I received this book as a gift many years ago, and I've been revisiting it in light of the recent (minor) outbreak of Beatlemania over the new remasters. It's the Beatles primarily in their own words, with tons of great photos. You can open up to any page and find something interesting, or at least find Paul being passive-aggressive over writing credits.

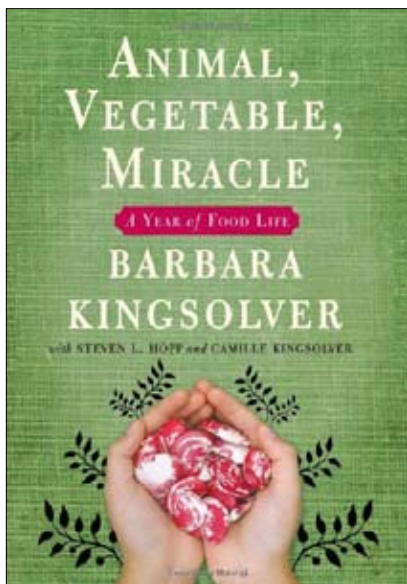
#### Rachael Elrod, Ekstrom Library

I bought a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) share this year and it has made me think a lot about food. Here are three books I'm reading in that regard.

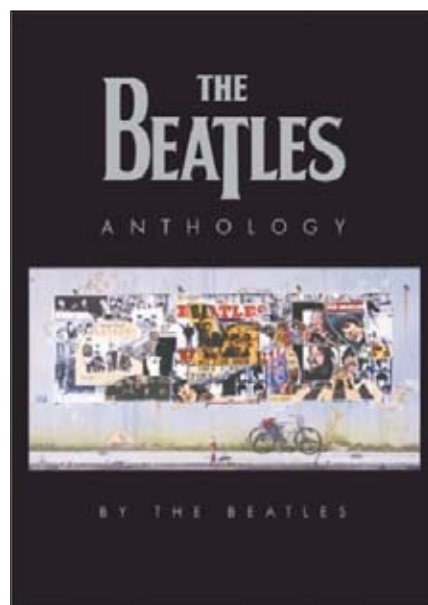
***Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life*** by Barbara Kingsolver, with

Steven L. Hopp and Camille Kingsolver, and with original drawings by Richard A. Houser (Ekstrom Browsing and stacks S521.5.A67 K56 2007). Kingsolver and

her family attempt to live for a year eating only what they can either grow in their own backyard or buy locally. They learn to be very creative with what they have available and provide a number of delicious recipes. I learned from this book that it is very easy (and fun) to make your own mozzarella cheese and homemade mayonnaise! There is also an accompanying website at <http://animalvegetablemiracle.com/> that includes more recipes, pictures of their garden throughout the seasons and ways to find local food in your community.



***The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals*** by Michael Pollan (Ekstrom Browsing GT2850.P65 2006). Pollan takes a look at four meals and traces them back to their beginnings, the soil they were grown in and how they ended up becoming what they are, starting with a lunch from McDonald's. You may never eat a chicken McNugget again. It includes a chemical called TBHQ which is essentially a petroleum-type substance that is either sprayed directly

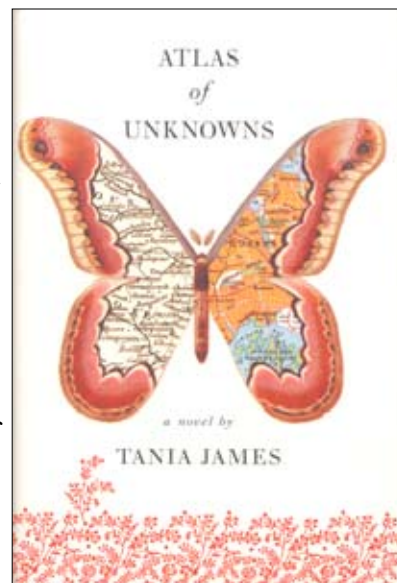


on the McNuggets or on the box containing them and have horrible side-effects, one of which can be death if eaten in large enough amounts! This book is definitely an eye-opener.

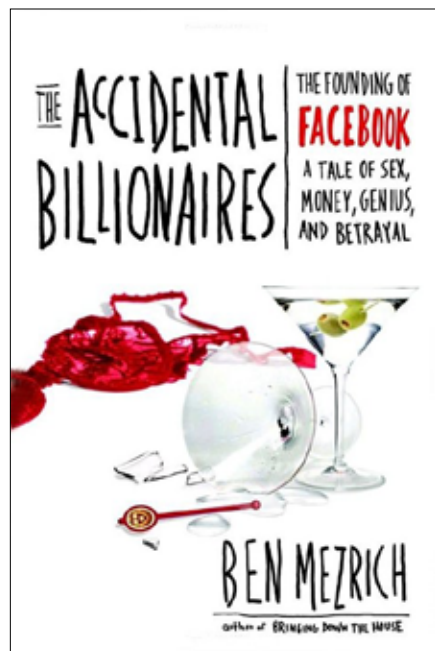
***In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto***, by Michael Pollan (Ekstrom Browsing RA784.P643 2008). Pollan considers all the food options that Americans are presented with and offers the opinion that the majority of it is not technically "food." Thus the need to "defend" food from imposters posing as food. His mantra throughout the book is "Eat food. Not too much. Mostly plants."

**Robin R. Harris, Law Library**

***Atlas of Unknowns***, by Tania James (Ekstrom Browsing PS3610.A458 A92 2009). Louisvillian Tania James' riveting debut novel tells the story of two young East Indian sisters, Linno and Anju, who are separated when the younger one, Anju, leaves their hometown of Kerala after winning a scholarship to an upscale academy in New York City. The novel follows the two as they traverse their very different worlds, with the fascinating story shifting between New York and Kerala. The plot also shifts between the past and the present, revealing family secrets and tragedies, most notably the details of the untimely death of the girls' mother years before. Although the book's subject matter is sometimes grim (a gruesome injury to one of the sisters, the poverty of the girls' life in Kerala, and the betrayal of Linno by Anju), it is balanced by James' wit and humor. There is plenty of biting social commentary here, along with one of the best stories of sibling rivalry I've ever read.



***Sarah's Key***, by Tatiana de Rosnay (Ekstrom Browsing PR9105.9.R66 S27 2007). This historical novel deals with the 1942 Paris roundups and deportations, in which thousands of Jewish families were arrested, held at the Vélodrome d'Hiver outside the city, then taken to Auschwitz. The story's "Sarah" is ten years old when her family is rounded up. She escapes with another young girl and her life story unfolds in the book. Sixty years later, journalist Julia Jarmond, an American living in Paris with her French husband and 11-year-old daughter, is assigned to write a story about the anniversary of the Vél' d'Hiv' roundups. Julia's research reveals a connection between the story of Sarah's family and that of Julia's husband's family. Well-drawn characters and historical accuracy combine to make this a terrific read.



**Marette Irwin, Ekstrom Library**

***The Accidental Billionaires: The Founding of Facebook, A Tale of Sex, Money, Genius and Betrayal***, by Ben Mezrich (Ekstrom Browsing HM742.M49 2009). A slick account of the history of Facebook. The book focuses on the two founders of Facebook, Eduardo Saverin and Mark Zuckerberg, who both attended Harvard and were best friends. They were academically brilliant but hopeless at attracting girls. They created Facebook to try to increase their chances for meeting members of the opposite sex. The very success of Facebook ultimately tore these two best friends apart. A must-read for all Facebook junkies.

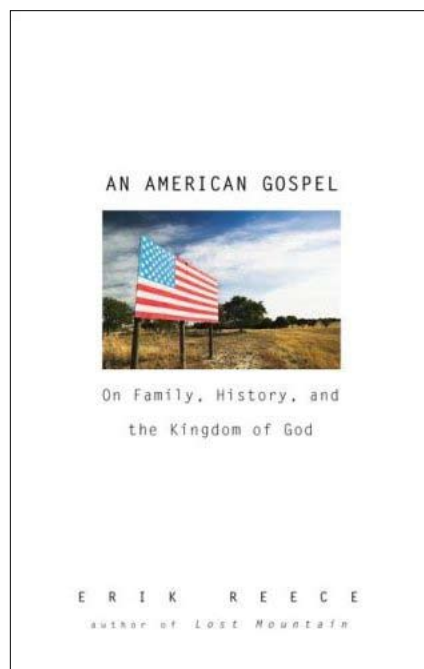
***Down and out in Paris and London***, by George Orwell (Ekstrom DC715.O7 1950). This debut novel by George Orwell describes Orwell's experiences as a homeless person in Paris and London. Hilarious and sad at the same time, I could not put it down.

***The Cultural Life of Modern America***, by Knut Hamsun (Ekstrom E168.H2213 1969). Knut Hamsun was a Norwegian poet, novelist, dramatist and winner of the Nobel prize for literature in 1920. As a young man he visited the United States twice and worked as a menial laborer in North Dakota, Minnesota, and Chicago. This book is a

description of Hamsun's views of American culture, or lack of culture, as seen through his eyes. Whether you agree with his views or not, I was howling with laughter while reading this.

#### **Sarah Jent, Ekstrom Library**

***Behind the Scenes at the Museum*** by Kate Atkinson (Ekstrom PR6051.T56 B44 1996). Ruby Lennox is a delightful main character who narrates her family's story beginning at the moment of her conception in York, England, in 1959. The novel also includes lengthy "footnotes" which tell the story of previous generations of Ruby's family.



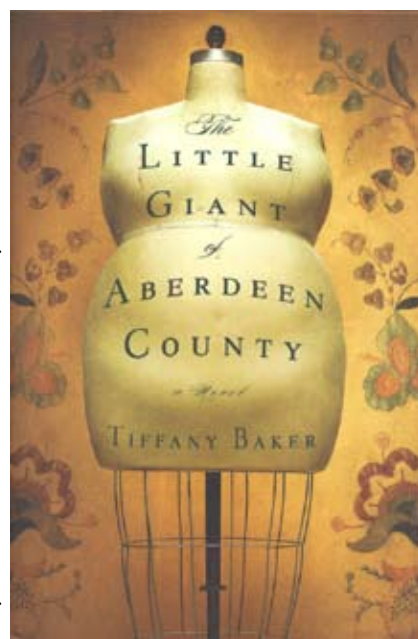
#### **Anna Marie Johnson, Ekstrom Library**

***An American Gospel: On Family, History, and the Kingdom of God***, by Erik Reece (Ekstrom Browsing BL2525.R43 2009). This is Reece (a writing professor at the University of Kentucky) working through the suicide of his father by attempting to resolve the question of our relationship to God that had so troubled his parent. Reece's father, a Baptist minister committed suicide at age 33, the same age that Reece is when he begins to search for an antidote to his grandfather's and father's oppressive faith. He finds a redemption of sorts in the work of William Byrd (member of the Virginia House of Burgesses), Thomas Jefferson, Walt Whitman, the Gospel of Thomas, Frank Lloyd Wright, and Lynn Margulis (an American bacteriologist). Reece comes to the conclusion that for him, religion cannot be about sin and sacrifice but must be about the reflection of the Creator in the creation (thus making it good rather than evil) and the working out of the Kingdom of God in the here and now rather than in some distant future. Although I couldn't totally agree with all of his points, I found much food for thought in this small book and I really enjoyed the weaving together of his various sources of inspiration.

Also, I recently re-read ***Neuromancer***, by William Gibson (Ekstrom PS3557. I2264 N48 1984), and ***Ender's Game***, by Orson Scott Card (Ekstrom PS3553. A655 E5 1991), and found both to be well worth a second read and most certainly a first read if you haven't partaken. *Neuromancer* is the book that first used the term cyberspace. *Ender's Game's* primary character Andrew Wiggin (Ender) is one of those characters who doesn't quite ever leave you.

#### **Kathie Johnson, University Archives and Kornhauser**

Our book club just read ***The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society***, by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows (Ekstrom Browsing PS53619.H3365 G84 2008), and I enjoyed it very much. In fact, it was the best book I have read in quite a while – which explains why there were something like 180 holds on it at LFPL when we picked it several months ago. (We obviously had to do a lot of other books in-between.) Set in post-World War II England, the story within a story is told completely in letters. It is hard to imagine a tale of Nazi occupation which causes deprivation for an entire population as light and funny—but this book comes off in that manner. History is not trivialized, nor is it ignored, but is fictionalized and presented in a unique way that captures the reader's interest quickly. There are some interesting twists and turns that I didn't see coming, adding to its charm. I highly recommend this book; a quick and fairly easy read.

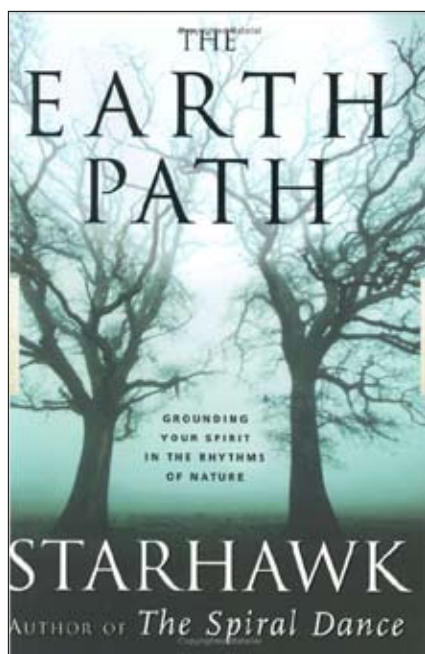


#### **Amy Purcell, Ekstrom Library**

***Little Giant of Aberdeen County***, by Tiffany Baker (Ekstrom Browsing PS3602.A5887 L58 2009). *Publishers Weekly* says this book has elements of "John Irving's *Garp*, Anne Tyler's relationship savvy and the plangent voice

of Margaret Atwood.” I say it’s just quirky and full of strong emotions with a little bit of witchcraft thrown in.

***Peace Like a River***, by Leif Enger (Ekstrom PS3555.N4223 P42 2001). The story set in Minnesota in the 1960s is about the Land family. There’s the father Jeremiah (a widower), his oldest son Davy, Reuben or “Rube” and their little sister Swede. Jeremiah is a gentle man with a strong faith in God and miracles appear to happen around him. Rube is a weak, asthmatic kid who gets picked on a lot, Swede is an intelligent girl who is writing an epic poem of Sunny Sundown that keeps Rube on the edge of his seat, and Davy is the older brother they look up to. Davy kills two trouble makers who break into their house, is tried and found guilty and then escapes from jail (before Rube and Swede have an opportunity to break him out, with steak knives for weapons). So the family sets out to find him. The strong family bond is heart-warming without being mushy. The book is a well-written first novel of Enger’s and has all the stuff I like: a good story, some serious bits, some humor, love, loyalty, and friendship ... just a great read.



**Jamie Saunders, Ekstrom Library**

My pick is ***The Earth Path: Grounding Our Spirits in the Rhythm of Nature*** by Starhawk (Ekstrom BL65.N35 S73 2004). It’s an enlightening and inspiring book about the study and practice of Wicca, a nature-based religion. I’ve always felt a powerful connection to nature and the Earth, and have lately been drawn to learn more about Wicca. It has long been misunderstood, and is too often mislabeled as “satanism” or the like, but has nothing at all to do with that. It’s a very peaceful, respectful, and nurturing religion, and this book explains it very well.

**Virginia Smith, Law Library**

I recently read and enjoyed ***Commencement***, by J. Courtney Sullivan (Ekstrom PS3619.U43 C66 2009). The author’s first novel follows the lives of four unlikely friends who met at Smith College in the late 1990’s. The book is divided into two parts: their friendship and experiences during college and in the five years following their graduation. Each chapter’s point of view alternates between the four heroines. Together they navigate through life’s challenges and ponder questions that are relevant to their generation in a post feminist society.

**Barbara Whitener, Ekstrom Library**

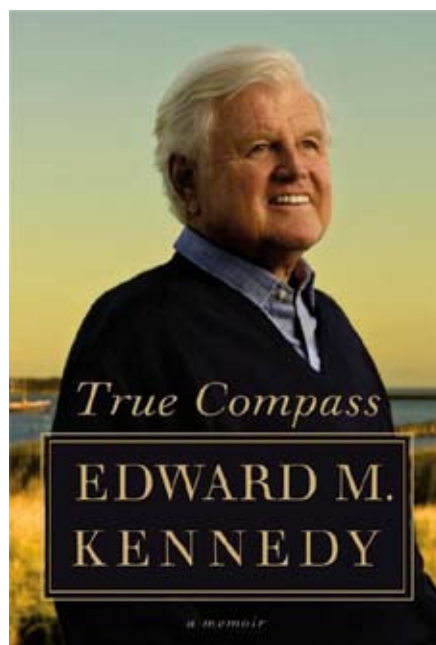
***The Elegance of the Hedgehog***, by Muriel Barbery (Ekstrom Browsing PQ2662.A6523 E4413 2008).

***True Compass***, Senator Edward Kennedy (Ekstrom Browsing E840.8.K35 A3 2009).

***Angel Time: The Songs of the Seraphim***, Anne Rice (Ekstrom Browsing PS3568.I265 A84 2009).

***Outliers: The Story of Success***, Malcolm Gladwell (Ekstrom Browsing BF637.S8 G533 2008).

***Eiffel’s Tower: And the World’s Fair Where Buffalo Bill Beguiled Paris, the Artists Quarreled, and Thomas Edison Became a Count Jill Jonnes*** (Ekstrom Browsing T803.D6 E54 2009).



# From the Dean of Libraries . . .

**By Hannelore Rader, Dean, University of Louisville Libraries**

After thirteen years as Dean of the University of Louisville Libraries I have decided to retire at the end of this year. Having spent 41 years in academic librarianship at Eastern Michigan University, University of Wisconsin-Parkside, Cleveland State University and the University of Louisville has provided me with a very interesting and challenging career.

The major accomplishment for the U of L Libraries during this time was becoming the 123rd member of the Association of Research Libraries in 2002. Another significant development for the U of L libraries was the addition of the new wing including the Robotic Retrieval unit in 2006, only the seventh in the nation at that time. More than three million persons come to the libraries now during one year, compared to 650,000 in 1996-97.

The libraries' holdings now include more than two million volumes, 14,000 print serials, 2.2 million microforms, with access to 20,500 e-books as well as 74,000 electronic journals.

Other highlights of the past decade include:

- Librarians obtaining faculty/tenure status
- The creation of the Endowed Chair for Scholarly Communication as well as two associate dean positions
- The implementation of a new online catalog system in record time
- The addition of Digital Collections, and the ongoing digitization of special collection items
- The integration of the Kersey Engineering Library into the Ekstrom Library and the creation of the Kersey Reading Room
- The renovation of the main floors of the Ekstrom and Kornhauser Libraries
- The creation of the Learning Commons, with six partners joining the Ekstrom Library
- The installation of a coffee bar at the Ekstrom Library entrance, which at the time was one of the first in the nation.

And to insure continued progress for the libraries, the university hired a library development officer for the first time. Soon after, the reorganization of the Library Associates occurred along with the creation of a new Board of Directors.



## ***Ralze W. Dorr Ceremony***

A ceremony honoring former U of L Librarian Ralze W. Dorr was held November 6, 2009 in the alcove just inside the new wing of the Ekstrom Library. A plaque in Mr. Dorr's memory was placed there in recognition of his efforts in the design and building of the original Ekstrom Library. Former U of L Librarian Martha Bowman (left) headed the fundraising campaign for the plaque and a gift fund to purchase library books in Mr. Dorr's honor. Many former employees and associates attended the ceremony and reception.



New Wing groundbreaking

### New Wing opening celebration



Greeting to all,  
It is with much difficulty that I am sending you this announcement.

I plan to retire on December 31, 2009 after a professional career of more than 40 years including 13 years as Dean of the University of Louisville Libraries. I am proud of all our achievements, especially being selected to become a member of the Association of Research Libraries in 2002 and having moved to #80 among the 124 ARL members.

Thank you for all your wonderful work and your many accomplishments during my tenure at U of L. We could not have accomplished so much without your hard work.

Serving as Dean of Libraries, University of Louisville is the pinnacle of my career and I will cherish the wonderful memories.

With sincere appreciation,  
*Hannelore*

**University of Louisville Libraries**

**Hannelore Rader, Denny Crum**  
**and the University Libraries**  
**Another Great Team!**



*"An investment  
in the Libraries  
is an investment  
in the future."*

—Denny Crum,  
Head Coach Emeritus



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- ◆ More than 1.5 million students, faculty and members of the community use our Libraries' facilities each year
- ◆ Nearly 2 million volumes, hundreds of special collections and rapid Internet access link you with thousands of information resources all across the world
- ◆ Experts are on stand-by to assist you in our state-of-the-art electronic environment

All our graduates are alumni of the Libraries. Help us support this valuable resource for scholars and research!

### Two-millionth volume ceremony





# 2009 Halloween Student Appreciation Party

The annual student assistant appreciation party was held October 30. As usual, the costume contest attracted a large number of entries. The winners, pictured at left, were:

1st place - Tremain Farrar as a civil war zombie

2nd place – Amanda Cole as a geisha

3rd place - Madison Passafiume as a fairy

At right, the three winners pose with the costumes given honorable mention recognition:

Justy Engle, Indiana Jones (honorable mention); Audrey Kelley, nerd (honorable mention); Elizabeth Tribbey, ocean (honorable mention); Madison Passafiume (3rd place); Amanda Cole (2nd place); Tremain Farrar (1st place); Ben King, Peanut Butter Man (honorable mention); and Alice Abbott-Moore, hobbit (honorable mention).

*All photos by Karen Nalley*



# Library and Department News

## Ekstrom Library

The dedication of the Senator Mitch McConnell and Secretary Elaine L. Chao Archives took place on November 11, 2009. The newly-opened archive is on the Lower Level, East Wing.

## Office of Libraries Technology

### *Voyager Upgrade*

The Voyager upgrade is scheduled for January 4 – 8, 2010. Details will be sent out as they become available.

### *Public PC and Laptop Re-imaging*

Public PCs and laptops in W103 and W104 classrooms in Ekstrom will be re-imaged for the new semester in December 2009 after students have left for the holiday break.

### *CONTENTdm 5.1 Upgrade*

The new version of CONTENTdm (version 5.1) was installed on November 21, 2009.

## Office of the Dean

### *Retirements*

Congratulations to the following libraries faculty members retiring by the end of the year:

**James “Andy” Anderson** retired after 38 years, effective November 30, 2009. He sends this personal note: “It is with regret that my health is making it necessary to leave the best job and the best people I could ever imagine. Every minute of my time at UofL, even the stressful ones, was a joy and a great privilege.”

**Lois Severt** will also retire after 23 years of service as Catalog Librarian in Ekstrom Library. Her last day will be December 23, 2009.

## Special Collections

While working on the Rare Books’ cataloging backlog we recently ran across some interesting monographs about Abraham Lincoln. Since, as we all know, 2009 is the 200th anniversary of his birth and the History Department was offering a course on the Civil War through biographies, we decided to feature some of these items in our display cases. Among these titles are a number of works that were written late in the 19th century by people who knew Lincoln either personally or professionally.

One example is Henry Clay Whitney’s 1892 work *Life on the Circuit with Lincoln*. Whitney was a lawyer who worked with Lincoln in Springfield, Illinois and later went on to be an Army paymaster here in Louisville. Also published in 1892 was Alexander McClure’s work *Abraham Lincoln and Men of War-Times*. McClure was a journalist in Pennsylvania who helped Lincoln secure his party’s nomination and then went on to be an assistant adjutant general.



Ward Hill Lamon, a U of L graduate, wrote a biography that proved to be controversial. Many readers, including Lincoln's son Robert, did not appreciate Lamon's characterization of Lincoln's religious views. After Lamon's death his daughter wrote a revised edition without the offending passage. It enjoyed considerably more commercial success. Also included in the exhibit are two works about Lincoln's mother, Nancy Hanks. One of them contains an artist's conception of what she may have looked like. Since no images of her are known to have survived, this portrait was based on photographs of other family members and written descriptions of her appearance.

If you stop by the exhibit, be sure to note the 1909 medallion celebrating Lincoln's 100th birthday and Mildred Lewis Rutherford's 1927 work comparting Jefferson Davis and Abraham Lincoln. It is an interesting reminder that, in spite of his current lofty status, Lincoln has certainly had his critics.

## Technical Services

Colleen Eubank would like you to meet Sylvan Grey Eubank-Breeden!  
Born 11/20/2009 at 10:48 pm, weighing 8 lbs. exactly and measuring 20 and 1/4 inches. She's a very healthy and lovely baby.



## Law Library

### *LMO Free Concert*

The Louisville Mandolin Orchestra will present a free concert on Sunday, December 6 from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the Assumption High School Performing Arts Center (2170 Tyler Lane, at the corner of Tyler Lane and Bardstown Road). The eclectic program will end with a selection of Christmas carols and holiday tunes. Everyone is welcome!



To hear the LMO, please visit [www.myspace.com/lou-mando](http://www.myspace.com/lou-mando). For more information, please contact Robin Harris at 852-6083 or [robin.harris@louisville.edu](mailto:robin.harris@louisville.edu)

### *Flood Repairs Update*

The library's basement remains closed, while tile installation continues. We hope that the basement will re open on Monday, January 4, 2010.

### *Student Worker Awards*

Six student assistants received \$500 Law School Library Scholarship awards from West® (a Thomson Reuters business). Congratulations to Marque Carey, Gayla Cissell, Connie Eyle, Jamie Izlar, Ben Silver, and Vanessa Smith!

## UARC

Ron and Kathie Johnson had a great time visiting Minnesota in late September/early October. They flew to St. Paul (on free tickets from getting bumped last year) and visited with family and friends before driving to Winona, where they met at Winona State University over 40 years ago. There they celebrated homecoming, walked the campus, ate pizza at an old favorite restaurant and hooked up with some friends from college days. Although the weather was cold and rainy, they had a great time. And on the way home, they got bumped two more times so they now have four more free tickets to use by next October 3.



# Digital Collections Update

by Rachel Howard, Digital Initiatives Librarian



Among the collections in the process of being prepared for inclusion in the [Digital Collections](#) are several large studio collections from Photo Archives. Photo Archives houses nearly two million photos, two of the largest of which, the Royal Photo Company and Caufield and Shook, are photographic studios that operated in Louisville for much of the 20th century. Due to the enormous size of these collections, and the duplication and occasional image quality, privacy, or copyright concerns within them, we are planning to add them to the website in phases rather than adding the entire collection at once, as has been the practice with other photograph collections.

The Royal Photo Company was founded in Louisville, Kentucky, in 1903 by Louis Bramson and operated as a commercial photography studio until 1972. UofL acquired their 25,000+ black and white negatives in 1982, thus ensuring that this valuable source of visual information about commerce, industry, major construction, workers, family groups, and minorities in Louisville during this period would be preserved and made accessible to the public. Building on a set of hundreds of scans created for patron requests over the years, Special Collections student workers Jennifer Hambley, Amy Denham, and Alex Knipper tackled the scanning of the negatives in box order in February 2009, and have now reached Box 19 (of 89). Emily Symonds has been reviewing their scans and creating metadata for them, and over 1,500 of these will be added to the Digital Collections this fall.



The commercial photography firm of Caufield and Shook was founded in 1903 by James Caufield and Frank W. Shook. The studio's 500,000+ negatives, 2,000 vintage prints, and 78 linear feet of records include work for Louisville architects, builders, banks and financial houses, wholesale and retail merchants, advertisers, government agencies, public utilities, and private individuals. They were donated to the Photographic Archives beginning in 1968 and



continuing until 1978 when the firm ceased operation. This collection has long served as a resource for books, newspapers, magazines, and television programs relating to Louisville history and industry, as well as by individuals interested in historic images of their homes and neighborhoods, so thousands of scans had already been created by Special Collections staff and students for patron requests. Terri Holtze has been creating metadata for those scans beginning with the earliest ones, and the resulting website will be added to the Digital Collections in 2010.

# THANK YOU HAPPENINGS

**Raymond Slaughter** and all of the various student workers on the loading dock have gone the extra mile to assist in transferring over 1100 boxes of Congressman Romano L. Mazzoli (retired) material from our warehouse on Arthur St. to the University Archives over the past two years. This involves scheduling a date and time when students and the van are available, going to the warehouse and moving approximately 70-80 very dusty and very heavy boxes from shelves (where they have been stored for 15 years) to the van, then unloading the van at Ekstrom and moving the boxes up to UARC and reshelving them. Thus we have made about 12 trips to complete this process and, regardless of the weather or circumstances, everyone has been cheerful and cooperative. Thanks so much to all of you!!!! ~**Kathie Johnson, UARC**



I'd like to thank **Carrie Daniels** and **Anna Marie Johnson** for all the web-related work they did while I was gone. And thank you to everybody who made it possible for me take a sabbatical. ~**Terri Holtze**



We would like to say THANK YOU to **Robin Harris** for taking us to the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Awards luncheon on Thursday, November 12. It was a wonderful experience. The keynote speaker Johanna Miller Lewis gave an informative talk on "Adolphine Fletcher Terry and the Little Rock School Crisis." The recipient of this year's award was Eliza Atkins Gleason and was accepted by her daughter. It was a beautiful day and we all had a fantastic time. ~**Jodi Duce, Nancy Baker, Miriam Williams, Janissa Moore, Virginia Smith, & Jamie Izlar**



My deepest thanks go to **Felix Garza** for his inspired assistance in the construction of the Deadly Medicine exhibition. Thanks also **Destiny Minton, Joan Nailon, John Chenault** and **Jason Nalley**. It was hard work (with no instructions), but we did it and it was well worth the effort. ~**Michel Atlas**



I want to thank **Sherri Pawson, Chad Owen**, and student workers **Jennifer Oberhausen, Katie Hay, Haley Hollenback, Taylor Brown** and **Ashley Francis** for their work getting the Archives spiffed up and ready for the Italian American Association's board meeting last month. I really appreciate all their hard work — the place looks great! ~**Carrie Daniels**



Thank you to all those who helped set up and clean up for the student appreciation party including **Trish Blair, Anna Marie Johnson, Tess Payton, Amy Purcell, Michelle Strickland** and Media Student Assistants **Susan Imam** and **Matt Goldberg**.

Thank you also to the behind-the-scenes helpers **Erea Marshall, Karen Nalley, Andy Clark, Raymond Slaughter** and crew.

Thank you to the costume contest judges **Rachael Elrod, Melissa Laning** and **Alice Abbott-Moore**.

A sweet thank you to all those who brought sweets and treats: **Alice Abbott-Moore, Trish Blair, Gwen Chenault, Fannie Cox, Rob Detmering, Rachael Elrod, Rae Helton, Anna Marie Johnson, Ben King, Karen Nalley, Diane Nichols, Tess Payton, Dean Hannelore Rader, Traci Simonsen, Michelle Strickland, Steve Whiteside** and all the others I missed!

Thank you to **Erea Marshall** and **Kathy Moore** for greeting our student assistants and ensuring that everyone was signed up for prizes. ~**Justy Engle**



I want to thank **Joan Nailon** for the excellent displays she creates for the cases outside Kornhauser Library. She has very little to work with, yet they always have good content and are visually appealing as well. And, the whole time she is working on a new exhibit, she is calm and happy and never says a negative thing to anyone. It is a joy to work with Joan. ~**Kathie Johnson**



Special thanks to **Justy Engle, Trish Blair** and **Tess Payton** for the wonderful job they did with the Student Assistant Party. Also, thank you to our photographer **Karen Nalley** and greeter **Kathy Moore**. ~**Erea Marshall**

# NEW EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Michelle Strickland, Circulation student assistant accepted the position of Library Assistant in Ekstrom's Circulation, effective October 19, 2009. Michelle will report to Melissa Horrar.

**Name:** Michelle Strickland

*Preferred nickname:* Shell is also fine

*UofL position and dept:* Searches Position for Circulation Desk

*Hometown:* Nashville, Tennessee.

*Significant Other/Family Members:* My parents and four siblings

*Pets:* a German Shepherd named "Samson" that stays at my parent's house.

*Zodiac sign:* Aries

*Hobbies/Activities:* Spending time with my three beautiful nieces and family.

*Favorite Books:* Twilight series, Harry Potter series, and anything by Dean Koontz.

*Favorite Movies:* Action and comedy.

*Favorite Food:* Mexican food

*Anything else you would like to tell us about yourself:* I am a Political Science major and a senior at U of L.



T H A N K

Y O U

Allen Ashman

John Burton

Justy Engle

Gail Gilbert

Rachel Hodge

Rachel Howard

Kathie Johnson

Melissa Laning

Weiling Liu

Destiny Minton

Karen Malley

Christopher Poché

James Procell

Kannelore Rader

Jamie Saunders

Emily Symonds

... for contributing to this issue of The Owl

## ***Libraries Rewards & Recognition Program Seeks Nominees***

The University Libraries Rewards & Recognition Program serves to recognize faculty and staff who exemplify positive workplace qualities. Recipients will be chosen from nominations (see nomination form at <http://kla-itr.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 3rd quarter, July 1, 2009 thru September 30, 2009.

Please note that this period includes the August flood. If you submitted a recommendation last quarter that was flood-related, please resubmit your nomination to the committee.

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 submissions is December 11, 2009.

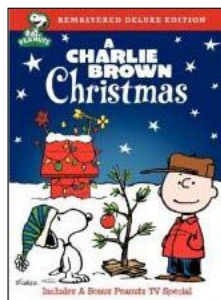
The awards will be presented at the holiday party in December.

## ***Media Resources News***

### ***Holiday Traditions***

*By Justy Engle*

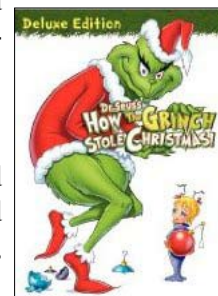
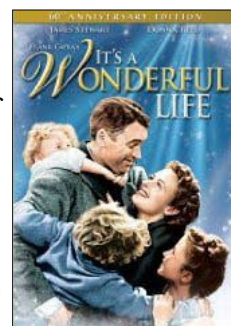
In my family it's been a tradition for years to watch Christmas movies together, starting at the holiday get-together at my grandparents' house on Thanksgiving. My grandparents still don't have the internet or cable, and until last year you couldn't even get cell phone reception without driving into town. To visit my grandparents was effectively to step off the grid for a few days. Grandma made it a point to keep lots of food around when we visited and always had pumpkin in the freezer waiting to make pumpkin pie. When we grandkids were smaller, she made it a point to get a VCR so we'd have something to do



while we were there since we couldn't all fit in the kitchen to help her bake. Grandma would make pallets in the floor for us, open a tin of popcorn and we would argue about what to watch until one of the grown-ups popped in a movie and told us to pipe down. Some of the films that became my family's holiday classics you can find over in the Media Resources department. We always loved *Home Alone* and if my mom picked one it was always *It's a Wonderful Life*. My little brother always picked out the original cartoon of *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas* and my dad always talked about his and mom's first Christmas tree during *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. I think everyone had a favorite, and being away from everything else forced us to sit down together and

watch movies, laugh and enjoy a few minutes of life together without the usual distractions.

Next time you walk in the building, take a look at the chalkboard behind the Media desk. We've got staff holiday picks highlighted for the month. The above-mentioned titles and quite a few others are in the SGA collection. We encourage you to look at our picks and through the SGA collection to find a new movie to make part of your holiday tradition, no matter what you celebrate!



# Library Exhibits

## Ekstrom Library

### *New Wing First Floor Display Cases*

#### *Christmas Cards*

Once again this year, Christmas cards from the Nelle Peterson Collection of Original Christmas Cards are on display in the cases across from the circulation desk in Ekstrom Library. Three cases hold cards designed by Warren and Kaye Seekamp. The Seekamps both received their masters degrees from UofL. The other two cases contain cards designed by Robert J. Doherty who taught graphic design at UofL from 1959 until 1972. Stop by and see them!

**Dec. 2, 2009 - January 10, 2010**



Dorothea Lange's photo "Migrant Mother" (1936), an iconic image of the Great Depression. Roy Stryker papers, Photographic Archives

#### *Special Collections*

##### *Photographic Archives Gallery*

*Dorothea Lange: Migrants in Steinbeck Country*

Dust Bowl refugees in California's central farm valley, 1935-1939. See

<http://louisville.libguides.com/lange> for more information.

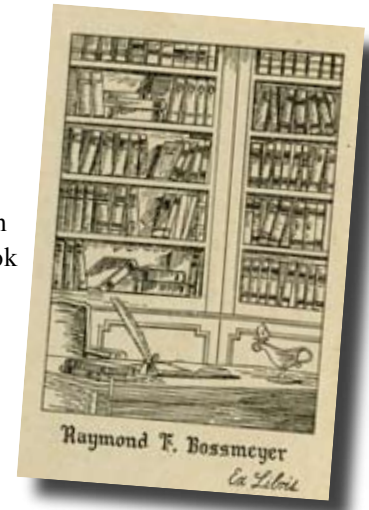
**October 8, 2009 – January 15, 2010**

##### *Rare Books Kain Gallery*

*The Raymond F. and Hilda Bossmeyer Collection*

A rotating selection from over 800 rare books, presented to the University between 2004 and 2008, representing a few of the Bossmeyers' collecting interests: 18th century British books, Orientalia, classics of history and literature, and book arts.

**August 20 – December 10, 2009**



### *Lower Level Display Case*

#### *Abraham Lincoln 200th Birthday*

Primary sources from Special Collections about Lincoln

**October, 2009 - January, 2010**

## Kornhauser Library

### *Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race*

Organized and circulated by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and made possible by The Lerner Foundation and Eric F. and Lore Ross

**November 13, 2009 – February 1, 2010**

## 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 German Composer York Hoeller*

Winning Composer of the 2010 Grawemeyer Award for Music Composition

**December 1, 2009 – January 2010**

