



A Newsletter for Employees of the University of Louisville Libraries
Vol. 27, No. 2 ♣ March, 2011

The Owl

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

Introducing Dean Robert Fox

By Melissa Laning

Associate Dean, Assessment, Personnel & Research



Dean Fox speaks to the Libraries at his first Info Exchange. Photo by Karen Nalley.

The decision to apply for and accept the Dean of Libraries position at the University of Louisville must have been a no-brainer for Bob Fox. As you speak with him and learn about his prior work experiences, mentoring from other library directors and leadership goals, the job is a great fit for him and the perfect opportunity to share some of what he has learned along the way. A focus on continuous learning is a strong thread throughout his entire career and one that he intends to continue in his new position.

Bob's work in libraries began in high school when he served as volunteer at a local college library and performed special projects in public services. He spent the first year of his undergraduate studies at a community college working in the circulation and media departments. One of his favorite assignments from those days was delivering 16mm film to classrooms. He then transferred to the University of Georgia where he completed Bachelor and Master of Business Administration degrees. Although Bob did not work in the libraries at Georgia, he did spend many hours there. By his own account, Bob was a "big library nerd."

Despite his love of libraries, Bob headed for the finance world after receiving his MBA in 1985. For the next five years, he worked successfully for the U.S. Treasury Department as a National Bank Examiner traveling throughout rural Georgia and was later promoted to a desk job in Atlanta as a Thrift Supervisor of savings and loan banks. While serving in the latter position, he started visiting the department's professional library and, to his surprise, began reading *Library Journal* and eyeing the job ads.

Bob quit the banking world cold turkey in 1990 and enrolled at Clark-Atlanta University for his MLS degree. For the next year, he attended school full-time, held a graduate assistantship for the automation specialist in his degree program and held a part-time Reference Librarian position at the Woodruff Library at the Atlanta University Center. As part of the graduate assistantship, Bob conducted dial-up [Dialog](#) searches. At Woodruff, he worked as a business/law librarian providing reference and instruction services at a large research library serving five colleges and universities. As a result, Bob became deeply committed to user services in academic libraries and began down the path that has led him to UofL.

He received his MLS degree in 1991, and was hired as a Reference/Bibliographic Instruction Librarian at Clayton State University Library by Kristina Brockmeier with whom Bob remained very close until her death in 2009.



Shortly after he arrived, Dean Fox invited the University community to get acquainted with him at a Donuts with the Dean event. *Photo by Karen Nalley.*

Her love and enthusiasm for the profession were extremely powerful and Bob describes her influence on him as transformational. He learned important skills from Brockmeier about professionalism, life and running a library.

The students at Clayton State were also good teachers for Bob. He taught the majority of all the library instruction classes and believes that having to get the attention of 18-year-olds at 7:30 a.m. about library research gave him the ability to get up in front of any audience and speak on any topic. Because the library at Clayton State is relatively small (about 20 people total), Bob was called on to help out in every area of the library during his first years on the job, and evening/weekend duty meant being the only full-time person in the building. He believes this broad exposure to librarianship during the formative years of his career was great experience and gave him the big picture view that is critical to effective leadership.

Within eight months of starting at Clayton State, Bob was appointed Acting Head of Media Services, a very active unit supporting the entire campus, and within 18 months of his start, he was named Acting Director of Library Services, when Ms. Brockmeier departed for a new job. After three years in an interim role, Bob successfully competed in a national search for the position on a permanent basis, continuing in that role for ten more years. Just a sampling of his significant achievements for the libraries at Clayton State includes a major library renovation project, improving funding for library collections, initiation of the library's first integrated library system, founding the University Archives and acquiring faculty status for librarians and archivists. In addition, Bob demonstrated his commitment to library involvement in the academic life of the institution by chairing the University Curriculum Committee, and his commitment to professional collaboration by chairing the 34-member State University System Library Council. During the last year of his tenure at Clayton State, Bob became Vice-President/President-Elect of the Georgia Library Association, a position that allowed him to enhance his own professional practice and to assist others in developing theirs.

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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 preceeding publication.

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



Despite his many accomplishments at Clayton State, Bob was ready for new challenges, so when a newly-created position that combined all the library's administrative functions into one position opened up at Georgia Tech, he jumped on the opportunity and accepted the position of Associate Dean for Administration in 2005. After two years at Tech, the AD for Public Services position became vacant and Bob volunteered to step in to that role for the interim while continuing to perform his existing responsibilities. Due to his strong background in public services, he was given the assignment, first on an acting basis and later on a permanent basis. He continued in both roles for the next three years until his move to UofL. His areas of oversight included budgeting/accounting, human resources, facilities, learning commons, reference, circulation, ILL and user experience among others. Some of his major accomplishments from this period were the renovation of two commons areas, a major service desk consolidation, the creation of a user experience (assessment) department, and securing off-site storage. He was also recognized as a strong advocate for professional development, cross-departmental collaboration for problem-solving and user-centered service development.

Bob served under two different library deans while he worked at Georgia Tech. The first was Richard W. Meyer who had a strong operational focus in his leadership of the libraries. Bob was schooled in the critical importance of strong campus partnerships and how to achieve them under Mr. Meyer. After Meyer retired in 2008, Catherine Murray-Rust became the Dean of Libraries at Tech. She was more focused on national visibility for the libraries and was especially active in ARL-related activities and other professional advisory boards. It was with her support that Bob entered the ARL Libraries Leadership Fellows program, an intense executive leadership program designed to build the knowledge, skills and experiences of future library leaders. Having the opportunity to serve at Tech under two dynamic deans with such diverse leadership styles was instrumental in shaping his own perspective. Bob describes his own preferred style and leadership focus as a combination of all three of his leadership mentors – Brockmeier, Meyer and Murray-Rust.

As Dean of Libraries at UofL, Bob intends to be operationally engaged and visible within the libraries and on campus. He plans to visit with departments and encourages everyone in the organization to share their ideas about making the libraries a better place for users and employees. Don't be surprised if you see him wandering around your area or at an upcoming department meeting. As part of his commitment to promoting new ideas, Bob intends to establish an Innovation Fund to pilot initiatives for enhancing libraries' operations, services or working conditions. Other important areas to the new dean are diversity, outreach and mentoring. Over the coming months, he intends to initiate a strategic planning process that will address these areas and others that emerge as significant directions for the libraries that he discovers through initial conversations with faculty and staff.

At the same time, he considers raising the national and regional profile of the libraries even higher than it already is as one of his chief mandates from the Provost. He plans to remain active in ARL and other information policy organizations himself, and will strongly encourage and support others to be more involved at that level. For example, at his first Information Exchange, Bob announced plans to increase the Professional Travel Fund for libraries' faculty and staff. The investments made in Bob's professional development and this exposure to other academic library leaders have been a vital part of his professional success and what he has been able to offer at each of the libraries



where he has worked. He looks forward to doing the same for others. Bob strongly believes that all of us are capable of giving and receiving advice, and are never too advanced in our professional lives to learn new things.

Speaking of advice, Bob plans to meet one-on-one with everyone in the organization who wants the opportunity and genuinely hopes that everyone will take him up on the offer. He really wants to hear what you have to say. In case you need any further incentive to participate, he has promised to honor the responsibility of keeping the chocolate bucket full. Don't miss it on your way past the front desk.

[Editor's note: This photo (left) of Dean Fox was taken on his last birthday. He is a big fan of Mexican food and is looking for a good mole in Louisville!]

From the Dean of Libraries . . .

By Robert Fox, Dean, University of Louisville Libraries

I'm pleased to be able to write my first *Owl* column. I want to thank all of you for your warm welcome during the interview process and during my first two weeks here in Louisville. This is not only a new position for me but also a new city, commonwealth, and region. Please be patient as I ask lots of questions.

As I mentioned in the recent Information Exchange, I hope to spend the next few months visiting department and library meetings and having individual meetings with each faculty and staff member. At a very basic level, I want to match names and faces but I also hope to learn about your responsibilities, what you like about your position, and where you see areas for improvement.

Over this time, I'll also be working with members of the ACC to assess where the libraries are right now and where we should be in the future to meet the evolving needs of faculty, students, and the community. I look forward to working with all of you to meet these needs and to further raise the prominence of the libraries on a regional and national basis.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR REWARDS COMMITTEE

The Rewards and Recognition Committee is looking for energetic and enthusiastic volunteers, both staff and faculty, to serve on the libraries' Rewards and Recognition Committee. So come on out and help recognize your co-workers for the stellar job they are doing!

We currently need one faculty and two staff to fill vacant positions (we encourage all libraries to participate and can work out teleconferencing arrangements if travel is prohibitive).

You are only expected to serve for an initial six months on the committee, a very short period of time, to allow broad participation by all library employees.

Those volunteers who are on the committee have an opportunity to work toward improving the culture of the University Libraries in a very real way.

If you are interested, please respond to me directly in an e-mail by Friday March 11. If you have questions about the program, please don't hesitate to ask.

—Bryan Ricupero

Library and Department News

Ekstrom Library

Office of Libraries Technology

SharePoint Implementation

The following unit sub-sites are in production:

Committees/Groups

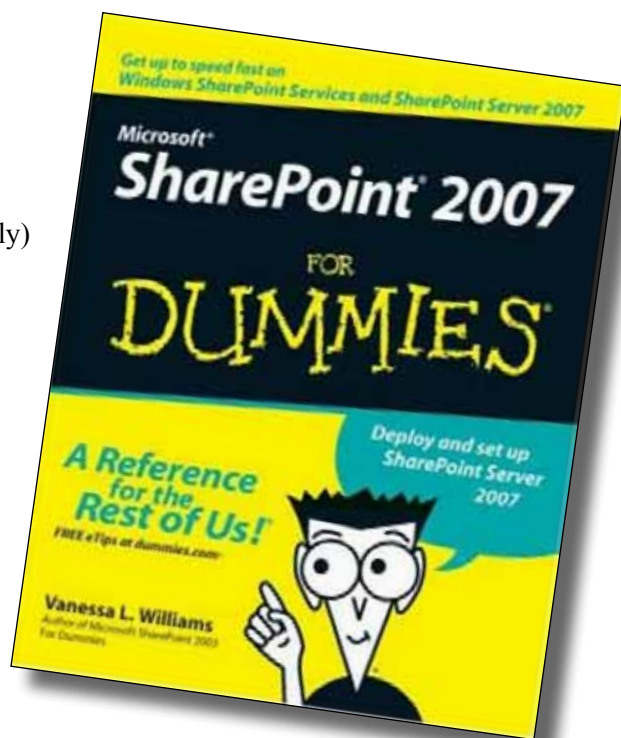
- ACC (Administrative Coordinating Committee)
- ARPT (Assessment and Resource Planning Team)
- Collection Specialist Group (internal for the group only)
- DI (Digital Initiatives)/CONTENTdm
- Ekstrom Public Services
- RRS
- ULF (University Libraries Faculty)
- WMT (Web Management Team)

Departments

- OLT
- Reference and Information Literacy
- Technical Services
- Statistics
- Statistics (partially, still under construction)
- Technology/Systems
- SFX
- Voyager

Sites under construction:

- Exhibits (structure has been setup)
- Special Collections (structure has been setup)
- Ekstrom Circulations (needs assessment was done.)



SharePoint Training

Content to be covered: Orientation on the Libraries' SP Intranet and how to create personal SP (My site). Watch for schedule email from Weiling.

Timeline to turn off the old Intranet

Suggested time: End of Spring semester (April 30, 2011).

Reference and Information Literacy

Barb Whitener is back! We are excited that she is feeling better and back to work.

Book Exhibits

Toccarra Porter created a book display in the lobby to celebrate Kentucky Literacy Week. We participated in the campus-wide Facebook page initiative by asking our FB fans what book impacted them or was important to them.

Toccarra has also created a book display for the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day (March 8) as part of Women's History Month. For more on International Women's Day, see <http://www.internationalwomensday.com/>.

New Database – REAXIS

The database REAXIS is now available. This is a replacement for Beilstein and is designed for chemical research. Mike Wilson is the librarian to contact if you are interested in knowing more.

New Service for Patrons

Patrons can now find out how many computers are available in Ekstrom Library at any given time. The info is available at <http://www.library.louisville.edu/PCUse/NumPCsNotInUse.html> and is linked from the Libraries' homepage (under Services tab), Ekstrom Library's homepage, and the site index.

A big thank you goes out to Adam Lawrence and OLT for creating the script that makes this possible!



Special Collections

Welcome Back, George!

Join Special Collections in welcoming George McWhorter back from medical leave. George will be on a limited schedule for the time being: Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9 am to noon. His colleagues in the Libraries, and his international network of friends and fans of Edgar Rice Burroughs, are so glad to have him back.

Visual Literacy

Amy Purcell attended the Society of American Archives' Visual Literacy workshop at IU in Bloomington, Indiana on Friday March 4. She learned lots of new tips on how to date and interpret images. One interesting tidbit is during the Civil

War photography was used to generate revenue. A stamp on the back of a carte de visite (calling card) means it was taken between 1864-1866. (Left: This carte de visite was taken by the Doerr & Switzer, Third door above Market on Spring St., Jeffersonville, Ind.)

Kornhauser Library

Kornhauser Library Faculty and Staff would like to welcome our new Hospital Librarian, Vida Vaughn. Check her out in this month's Employee Spotlight!

Law Library

American Bar Association Site Visit

From February 27 - March 2, a seven-member team from the American Bar Association Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar visited the Brandeis School of Law. Every seven years, an ABA fact-finding team conducts an intense inspection of the law school.

The team met with President Ramsey and Provost Willihnganz, and with law school students, faculty, staff and administration. The team members looked into various aspects of the school, including the facilities, the program of legal education, the finances, and of course the law library. In preparation for the site visit, library faculty had updated the library development plan and the collection development policy. The site team's law librarian, Prof. Patricia Cervenka from Marquette, met with the entire library faculty and staff, and seemed favorably impressed with our ability to "do a lot with a little."

Feedback from the site team will come through the Dean and/or Provost, as well as through the site team's report, which they indicated will take a couple of months to complete. Stay tuned. . .

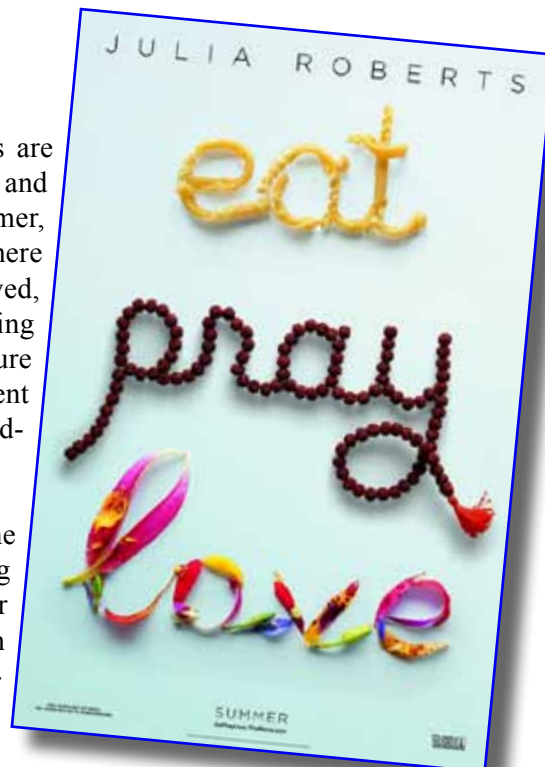


Spring Films

By Sara Wiley

Student Assistant, Media Resources

The grass is getting greener, the sky is getting bluer and students are beginning to break free from their wooly coats, scarves and gloves and smile! These are the signs that spring is headed our way with warmer, enjoyable temperatures. As everyone knows, the sooner spring gets here the sooner summer arrives and we can then pack away our long-sleeved, depressing winter clothing. With the cheerfulness that is beginning to encompass the campus, what better way to enjoy the temperature change than with spring films? UofL's Media Resources Department provides the perfect films to gladly kiss those cold winter days goodbye and welcome the warm and sunny spring weeks ahead.



Films that bring the warmth of spring right into your own living room (and personal favorites of mine) include a new addition to the SGA collection, *Eat*

Pray Love, and the classics *Wedding Singer* and *Dirty Dancing*. These films are filled with warm weather and smiles throughout which makes them perfect films to bring in the warm promise of spring. Other films that are great for encouraging warm spirits are *Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*, *Good Burger*, and *Legally Blonde*. There are also great TV series such as *Lost*, *The O.C.*, and the new addition, *Glee*. *27 Dresses* is another favorite that one can't help but enjoy.

The warmer weather is coming so embracing that with great films from UofL's Ekstrom Media Resources Department is a wonderful way to enjoy spring to the fullest and be prepared for its actual arrival!



DigiNews

Digital Collections Update

By Rachel Howard, Digital Initiatives Librarian

As of early 2011, Digital Collections provides free online access to the entire run of University of Louisville yearbooks (which were published, somewhat sporadically and under seven different names, from 1909 to 1982). The 13,531 pages were scanned over the course of a year and uploaded to the website beginning in July 2010. They immediately became one of our most popular collections, I suspect due largely to interest from alumni and their genealogically-inclined ancestors. However, in the course of working on the collection and responding to reference inquiries about it, I, who am neither an alumnus nor an ancestor of one, have nevertheless found many interesting things in the yearbooks:

- Some of them contain concise histories of the University of Louisville, including [this one from 1981-1982](#) (possibly authored by someone from University Archives) and a somewhat belated [celebration of the University's centennial](#), from 1939, which is worth a look as we prepare to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the University's Medical School in 2012.
- National and world events crept into the pages of the yearbooks, from [President Kent's 1933 message](#) praising the yearbook staff for their perseverance in the face of the Great Depression (however, the yearbook subsequently ceased publication for five years) to the [1944 listing of UofL students killed in World War II](#) (other war-era yearbooks mentioned that 20-30 students left campus each day to enlist) to [President Davidson's 1966 reflection](#) on student engagement during that era.
- Prominent visitors to campus have included [Eleanor Roosevelt](#) (for a Fall 1955 speech at the International Center)



and [Martin Luther King, Jr.](#) (speaking to overflow crowds at the Law School in Spring 1967, left).

- Our current most prominent alumnus, Mitch McConnell (class of '64), was also quite prominent during his time on campus. His activities included the [Pi Delta Epsilon society for collegiate journalists](#) and, of course, politics: he was photographed with [Barry Goldwater](#) in 1963 and [demonstrating for a Civil Rights bill in Frankfort](#) in 1964.
- From the [1922 "girls" basketball state champions](#) (below) to the prematurely-named "greatest of all basketball seasons" when UofL was invited to the [National Invitation](#)

[Tournament \(NIT\)](#) in 1951 through the 1956 NIT victory and the [Wes Unseld](#) and [Darrell Griffith/1980 NCAA championship eras](#), the yearbooks document our long and rich history with basketball.

- UofL also received national attention for academic prowess during the [1963 General Electric College Bowl](#). Familiar names from our other collections highlight the interrelationship between the campus and the community, and the Libraries' role in preserving the history of both: for example, early yearbooks included ads for local businesses such as [John P. Morton & Co.](#) and [Caufield &](#)





Shook, whose [woodblock prints](#) and [photographs](#) were donated to the Art Library and Photographic Archives, respectively, and from there found their way into Digital Collections.

- The Libraries were often depicted in the yearbooks, including photographic spreads of the construction, completion, and dedication of the library in Schneider Hall in the 1956, 1957, and 1958 yearbooks (left), as well as many photos of students studying, sleeping, and [using the card catalog](#) (at least two out of those three library uses haven't changed!)
- And speaking of "the more things change, the more they stay the same," parking on campus has been a perennial complaint, as these yearbook pages from [1964](#) and [1979](#) demonstrate.



The Royal Photo Company has been updated to include photos taken by the studio from 1961-1965. Thanks to Emily Symonds and the intrepid student workers of Special Collections for their continued work on this 30,000-negative collection, of which nearly 10,000 images are currently available online.

Also this week, three new maps have been added to the Kentucky Maps collection at <http://digital.library.louisville.edu/collections/maps/>: a Plan of the City of Louisville and its environs in 1831, from UARC (<http://digital.library.louisville.edu/u/?maps,293>); Map of the Falls of Ohio and proposed enlargement of Louisville and Portland Canal in 1859, from Rare Books (<http://digital.library.louisville.edu/u/?maps,294>); and a 1925 map of the City of Louisville Kentucky, the Gateway to the South (<http://digital.library.louisville.edu/u/?maps,292>), also from Rare Books. Scanned in multiple parts by student worker Rachael Ritter, because they were too large even for the overhead scanner, they are full of interesting details which can be zoomed to enlarge since they are in JPEG2000 format.



THANK YOU HAPPENINGS



Thank you, **Erea**, for graciously handling the numerous last minute tasks that come your way on a daily basis!
—*Jessie*

A grateful thank you to all the **Reference Department** folks that covered my desks, chats, and weekend while I was recuperating from surgery. —*Barbara Whitener*

Thank you to **Anna Marie Johnson** for all her hard work, support and guidance as Interim Dean of Ekstrom Library! —*Media Resources*

I would like to thank **Tiffney Gipson** for making my transition into the position of Medical Librarian for the University Hospital as pleasant as possible. She has been generous with her help and advice. I would also like to thank the wonderful welcome I have received from the library staff in general. Thanks to all! —*Vida Vaughn*

Thank you, **Erea**, for creating such a fun “Welcome Back” banner for George McWhorter! —*Special Collections*

I would like to thank everyone for their assistance in preparation for the MPA Accreditation Review: **Randy Kuehn, Weiling Liu, James Manasco, and Reference students Ben Bowman, Angela Clark, Edward Dearing, Dom Millard, Zack Pfeifer and Shane Scott.** —*Fannie Cox*

I want to thank **Josh Whitacre** for his helpfulness and for always being a “team player”. I also want to thank **Raymond Slaughter and our student workers: Hope Tripplett, Ian Murray, Ian Bell, Gregory Brown, Kyle Amyx, Ruth Ania, Charles Todd, Robert Harrison Casey Mathews, and Michelle Maune** for always lending a helping hand as needed. Great job! It’s a pleasure to work with such an awesome “team.” —*Ania Rodriguez.*

A big thank you to all the folks in the **Libraries’ Administrative office** who made my time up there so enjoyable and easy. In particular: **Andy Clark** whose patience is extraordinary and who took my ignorance of all things facilities-related in stride and gave me a very thorough introduction, and **Erea Marshall**, who staunchly guards the library’s space while still being flexible, but also **Jessie Roth, Ania Rodriguez, Raymond Slaughter, Dwayne Buttler, Gwendline Chenault, Numeriano Rodenas, Karen Nalley, and Melissa Laning** who are all just lovely and talented people to work with and who made me always feel so welcome. A special thank you also to **Diane Nichols** for entrusting me with the job in the first place and who was incredibly supportive throughout.

And last but not least to the **Reference Dept.** who soldiered on in my absence, even though they had one less person to help with all the work! —*Anna Marie Johnson*

I would like to thank **Josh Whitacre** for always finding a room for me at Ekstrom and keeping me functioning in said rooms. — *Michele Atlas*

Library Exhibits

Ekstrom Library

Media Resources, Ekstrom Library

Converging In-Sight: Photographs of Pilgrimages on Four Continents

For 20 years, photographers Carole Elchert, Phyllis Banis, and Andrea Van Vorhis have traveled to and photographed the land and cultural aspects of the American West, Asia, Europe and Africa. They bring together images from their separate journeys into the joint exhibit.

March 1 – April 1, 2011

The artists will give free, public talks Friday, April 1, at noon in the Ekstrom's Chao Auditorium

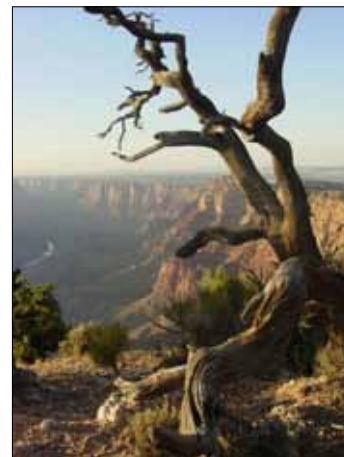


Photo by Andrea Van Vorhis

West Wing First Floor Display Cases

Louisville, the Ohio River Valley and the Civil War: 1862-1865

March 2011

Special Collections

Photographic Archives Gallery

Documenting Black History in Louisville

A selection from the *Louisville Defender* collection

February – May 27, 2011



Music Library

First Floor

Jazz Week 2011

Works of Guest Performing Artists

Through March 2011

NEW EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Name: Vida M. Vaughn

Preferred nickname (if you have one): I answer to pretty much anything, but usually it's just 'Vida'

UofL position and dept: University Hospital Medical Library Manager

Hometown: Wish I had one! I was an army/government brat so I have lived all over the country. Born in Tacoma, Washington. Lived the longest in Somerset County, Pa.

Schools Attended: Brigham Young Univ., Univ. of Pittsburgh

Pets: My feline buddy Raskolnikov; or Niki for short

Zodiac sign: Aries

Hobbies/Activities: Reading, classic movies, walking, spending time with family and friends, good music.

Favorite Books: *East of Eden*; *Atlas Shrugged*; *Eat, Pray, Love*; *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*; *Crime and Punishment*.

Favorite Vacation Spot: Anywhere there are cliffs, mountains, and/or the ocean.

Favorite Quote: "If we didn't laugh we would all go insane." - Jimmy Buffet

