



A Newsletter for Employees of the University of Louisville Libraries
Vol. 29, No. 4 ♦ Summer 2013

The Owl

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

Summer Readers' Picks 2013

Written and compiled by Christopher Poché, Ekstrom Library

ONE DAY LATE IN MY JUNIOR YEAR OF COLLEGE, my roommate walked into our room and declared triumphantly "I did it!" He had finished reading Victor Hugo's massive 1862 novel *Les Misérables* after carrying around a very thick mass market paperback for nearly the whole academic year. For some reason I can't quite discern, this is just one of those indelible memories I carry around with me, and it's usually one of the first things I think of when I think of this person.

I now understand the feeling of accomplishment my roommate experienced, having managed to read the novel myself. I read the most recent translation by Julie Rose, published by the Modern Library (Ekstrom PQ2286.A36 2008). In this edition, the novel runs to 1,194 pages, augmented by another 130 pages of detailed notes. I read *Les Misérables* over the past year in big bursts of enthusiasm with long rest periods in between. The structure of the novel invites, or at least accommodates, such an approach. First, on the most basic level, it is divided into five parts, each of which is fairly self-contained and is nearly a novel unto itself. After getting through one part, I would sometimes take a break and read other things. Furthermore, Hugo's structural approach to the novel is a process of narrative and thematic layering such that he is carefully setting the stage for exciting scenes of climactic action. As Hugo took his time building the narrative, I took my time reading it.

Throughout the novel, Hugo tends to focus on one character for a long time (four of the five parts of the novel are named after major characters), fleshing out their life history and worldview, and then slowly bring that character into the orbit of the other characters as the narrative builds momentum. While doing this, Hugo constantly digresses and discusses, well, just about anything really. The most famous of these digressions is a fifty-page history of the Battle of Waterloo, which only becomes relevant to the story in the last three pages when a major character is introduced. Other digressions include expressions of Hugo's liberal egalitarian politics and philosophy, a description and biting criticism of monasticism, a discussion of the slang of the Parisian criminal underworld, and a history and description of the Parisian sewer system.

If this column is construed as a *recommendation* of the book I am discussing, then thus far I must be failing miserably. In mentioning the book's length, its complex structure, and its many digressions, I must be making it seem as though reading *Les Misérables* is a difficult chore. However, I don't think you need me to tell you that there is something very appealing about *Les Mis*, as it is often affectionately called. Adam Gopnik, a *New Yorker* writer who introduces the Modern Library edition, calls it "a rare book that is both a major literary novel and a miracle of popular entertainment." One sign of a miracle is its numerous retellings. *Les Misérables* has been adapted for the cinema and television over fifty times, and I imagine many of you reading this have seen at least one of these adaptations. Of course, just this past year saw the release of an immensely popular film adaptation of the also immensely popular musical version.

The core story of Jean Valjean, a convict who has reformed himself but who is still a fugitive in the eyes of the

law, is an elemental moral fable about the basic goodness of human beings and their ability to change their lives in the face of great obstacles. This story is greatly dramatized by the efforts of Valjean's antagonist, the uncompromising police inspector Javert, who represents the opposing moral view in the book. For Javert, a criminal is a criminal and to grant even one any kind of mercy is to undermine the social order. And so he doggedly hunts Valjean, and *Les Misérables* is at its most exciting when Valjean manages to elude Javert again and again.

Along the way, Javert observes the good that Valjean does—caring for the poor, saving people from danger even when it endangers himself, and even granting Javert mercy when he has the opportunity to kill and thus rid himself of his tormentor. This produces a moral crisis for Javert, who in the end does something that I dare not reveal for those of you who have not read the book or seen any of the movies. To me, Javert is the most interesting character in the novel, and what he does to resolve his moral crisis with respect to the convict who is an agent of goodness is one of the most shocking things I have ever encountered in literature. I will only give this teaser in the form of one of Hugo's descriptions of him: "Javert, though horrifying, had nothing of the ignoble about him."



That seemingly contradictory sentence, I think, is a clue to the greatness of the novel and why it is worth the effort to read it even if you have seen a movie or the musical adaptation. I have now seen three film adaptations, and my favorite is still the first one I saw and which first introduced the story of *Les Misérables* to me. This is Bille August's 1998 adaptation with Liam Neeson as Valjean and Geoffrey Rush as Javert. I was fascinated then on that first viewing as I continue to be by the character of Javert, and I was impressed by Rush's performance. I remember thinking that Rush played Javert convincingly, but I was nonetheless not sure what it was I was convinced of. Reading the novel resolved that confusion for me. In all the adaptations I have seen, the moral drama is always more or less flattened. Valjean is the good guy and Javert the bad guy, and we see their goodness and badness manifested in their actions and through their conflict. But in the novel, we see how difficult it is for both of these men to be who they are—on their own sides and in their own terms. This is especially important for the character of Javert, who in the adaptations becomes a plain villain simply by virtue of being Valjean's antagonist. But just as Javert is confounded by Valjean, the good convict, the reader of *Les Misérables* is treated to the even more compelling case of the scrupulous inspector who goes astray as he tries to serve the law. As Javert memorably declares, "God, it's as easy as winking to be good, the hard thing is to be *just*."

As always, I give many thanks to the contributors to this column. There are plenty of interesting suggestions here to get us through to winter when we will meet again.

Andy Anderson, Ekstrom Library (Photographic Archives, retired)

After seeing a couple of excellent reviews of the final volume of Rick Atkinson's Liberation Trilogy (*Guns at First Light: The War in Europe, 1944-1945*) I decided to check out the first two volumes. *Army at Dawn: The War in North Africa, 1942-1943* and *The Day of Battle: The War in Sicily and Italy, 1943-1944* (Ekstrom D766.82 .A82 2002 and D763.18 A85 2007, respectively) are both thorough and compelling "good reads." The order of battle is

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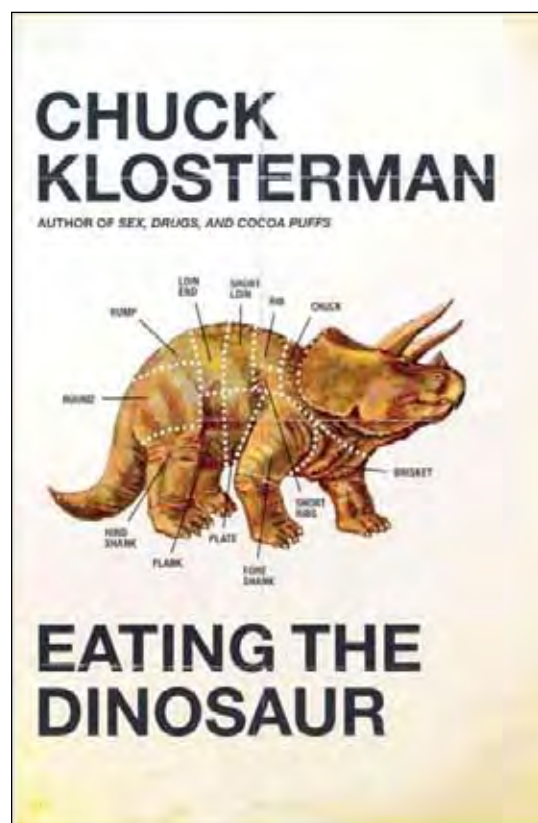
THE
GUNS
AT
LAST
LIGHT

THE WAR IN WESTERN EUROPE, 1944-1945
VOLUME THREE OF THE LIBERATION TRILOGY



WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE
RICK ATKINSON
Author of An Army at Dawn and The Day of Battle

My wife, Laura, has been recommending that I read Chuck Klosterman's *Eating the Dinosaur* (Ekstrom E169.12.K555 2009) for a while now. I finally started making my way through the essays, which focus on music and other pop culture topics. I don't always agree with Klosterman, but he's really funny and insightful. So far, I've especially enjoyed the essays on Garth Brooks's bizarre Chris Gaines alter ego (remember that craziness?) and ABBA's global dominance. And any book that finds a way to link AC/DC and ABBA is okay with me.



Sunday morning after Derby I had to do a roundtrip, six-hour road trip to see my parents in Muncie, Indiana, for an event they really, really needed me to attend, starting at 10 am. I thought a nice audio book would be perfect to keep me company as I set out at 5:45 am. I stopped at the nearest Cracker Barrel hoping to find a John Grisham or the like to keep me amused for the drive. Alas, all I could find remotely interesting on their audio books rental rack was Anne Lamott's ***Imperfect Birds*** (Ekstrom Browsing PS3562.A4645 I67 2010). I knew that I had enjoyed Lamott's witty humor about motherhood in *Operating Instructions: A Journal of My Son's First Year* and *Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life*, so I gladly rented this book for the drive as its description indicated it was about motherhood and teenage daughters, a topic of much interest to myself as both a mother of a teenage daughter and a scholar of narrative and girls' identity.

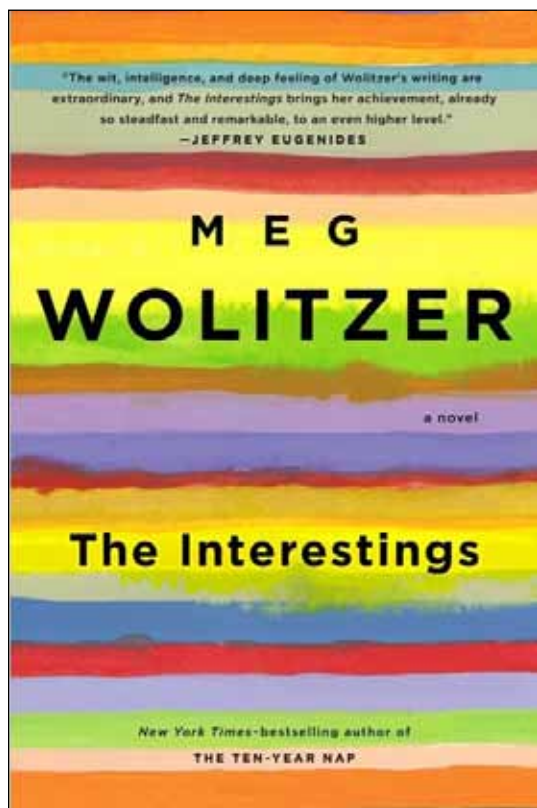
a sentiment I know that I find myself feeling often as a parent of a teenager.

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review of the book, to see what, if any, hope might be found in this novel. I was urged to read on by a review by Julie Myerson from the *New York Times*, which states: “Throughout this admirable novel, Lamott’s observations are pitch perfect—likably, even brutally unsentimental, not just about parental hopes and anxieties but about the particular and touching fragility of simply being a teenager.” This sentiment captures why I DO like this book, despite the disturbingly real account of drug use and the parental longing for control.

Robin Harris, Law Library

If you ever went to summer camp as a teenager, you probably remember the friends you made there and how strongly you felt about them. Meg Wolitzer’s latest novel, *The Interestings* (Ekstrom Browsing PS3573.O564 I58 2013), tells the story of a group of six talented New York teens who meet in 1974 at Spirit-in-the-Woods, an artsy summer camp in Belknap, Massachusetts. The self-involved group, which dubs itself “The Interestings,” forms a life-long bond that summer. The book traces the lives of the six through almost forty years, chronicling fading dreams and lost ambition, life-changing events, career ups and downs, and the intractable problems of depression and autism, all the while weaving in historical touchstones that many readers will recognize and relate to—the women’s movement, Watergate, the AIDS epidemic of the 1980s, the September 11 attacks, the recession. The story skips back and forth in time, which provides an interesting series of perspectives.

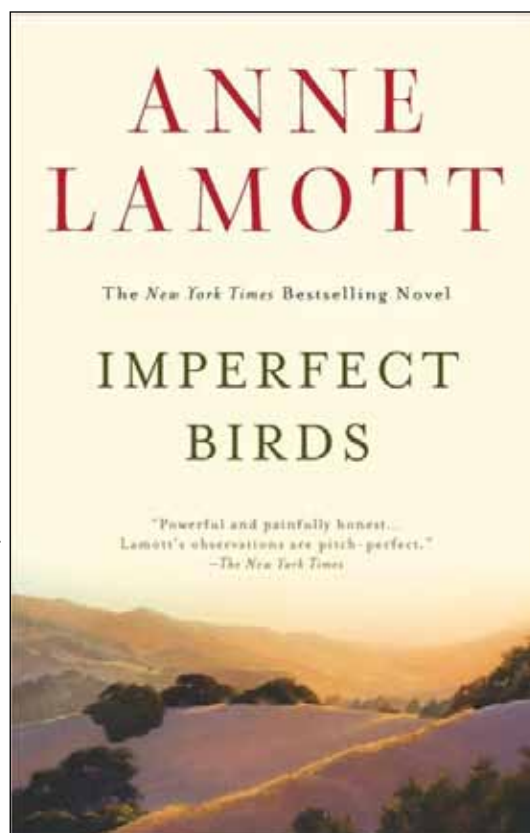


Wolitzer’s character development is splendid, as is her ability to evoke a particular moment in time. One of the more intriguing themes running through the story is what happens to friendship—even the strongest friendship—when someone overachieves in a spectacular way. Jealousy and regret abound among this group of friends, although, for the most part, their devotion to one another remains intact.

I really loved this book, especially the unforgettable characters and the twists and turns in the plot that do not follow what the reader expects. I highly recommend *The Interestings*, even though parts of it (especially the ending chapter) struck me as profoundly sad. Wolitzer’s humor relieves the sadness at critical times, a definite strength of her writing style. *The Interestings* is Wolitzer’s ninth book.

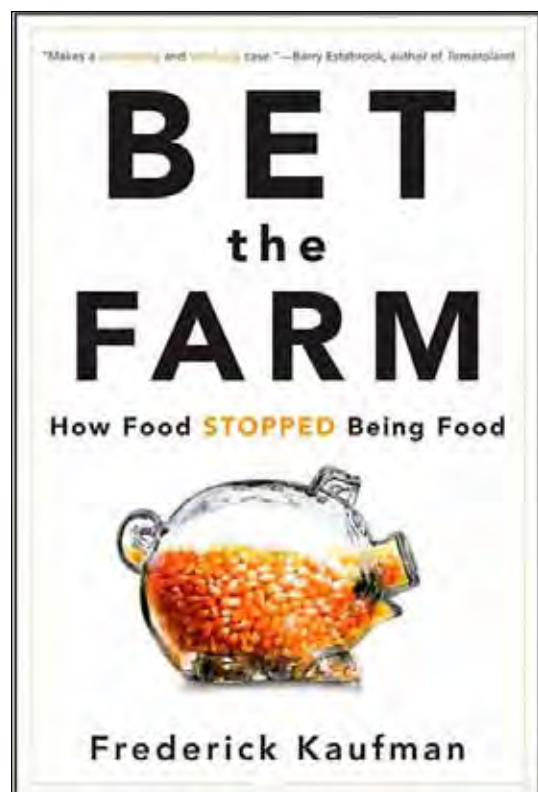
Anna Marie Johnson, Ekstrom Library

State of Wonder, by Anne Pattchett (Ekstrom Browsing PS3566.A7756 S76 2011). This is a well-written, compelling variation on *Heart of Darkness*/*Apocalypse Now* except with female main characters. In the jungles of Brazil a fertility drug is being developed by a mysterious and incommunicative doctor, and Dr. Marina Singh is sent by her employer, the pharmaceutical company providing the funding to investigate the progress after the reported death of the previous scientist sent on the same mission. That’s the essential plot, but there are layers and layers of complication (the fertility drug developer is Marina’s former mentor, Marina has a dark secret in her past and is haunted by nightmares from the anti-malarial drugs that she has to take) that make it one of the most interesting books I’ve read in a long time.



People of the Book, by Geraldine Brooks (Ekstrom PR9619.3.B7153 P46 2008). This novel tells the story of a gorgeously illuminated Jewish Haggadah found shortly after the war in Bosnia. The story begins with book conservator Hanna Heath rebinding the book, referred to as the “Sarajevo Haggadah,” so it can be displayed at the national museum as a uniting force for the deeply divided country. The story unfolds, tracing the book’s history in short, almost “novelettes” that place the clues Hanna finds in the book in context: wine and blood stains, missing silver clasps, a white hair, a grain of salt. The story of the book is the story of cultures and religions intermingling—sometimes for better, sometimes for worse. It’s also the story of Hanna and her struggles to find her own identity even as she searches for the identity of the author(s) of the book.

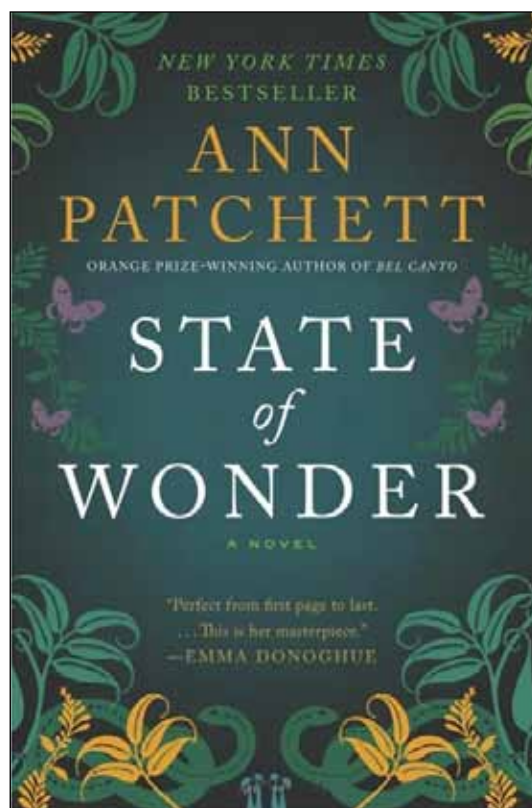
Bet the Farm: How Food Stopped Being Food, by Frederick Kaufman (Ekstrom Browsing HD9000.5 .K3725 2012). Kaufman starts the book with the question “Why can’t inexpensive, healthy, and delicious food be available to everyone?” He starts his search with pizza and a visit to Domino’s corporate headquarters. This visit leads him, in turn, in a number of different directions and to different places—the quest for a sustainability index, the giant California tomato farms, Wal-Mart, high-tech biology labs where plant genes are modified, a world food conference in Rome, and finally to the commodities exchanges in Minneapolis and Chicago.



This last part was difficult to understand, but his premise is simple: food is now money. While there is actually plenty of food produced to feed everyone in the world, there are a whole host of complex reasons why it doesn’t, and one of those reasons is that food is now “traded” on the stock market (my simplification). It’s an appalling tale, but an important addition to the current conversation on food politics.

A Year of Biblical Womanhood: How A Liberated Woman Found Herself Sitting on Her Roof, Covering Her Head, and Calling Her Husband “Master,” by Rachel Held Evans (Ekstrom Browsing BT704 .E925 2012). Evans is a blogger (<http://rachelheldevans.com/>) and a self-professed evangelical Christian. This book is similar in some ways to A.J. Jacobs’s *A Year of Living Biblically* because Evans, too, tries to live parts of the Bible according to a literal interpretation, common to some Christian circles. Like Jacobs, she fails miserably in many respects and readily admits it. What she comes away with is a richer, deeper understanding of her own faith and a helpful (to me) perspective on the Bible’s view of women. She also interviews other women who live out certain parts of the text in literal ways (the Amish, a wife in a multi-wife family, etc.) to add additional viewpoints. Plus, many parts of the book are just really, really funny. The part about her Thanksgiving pie made me laugh so hard I cried.

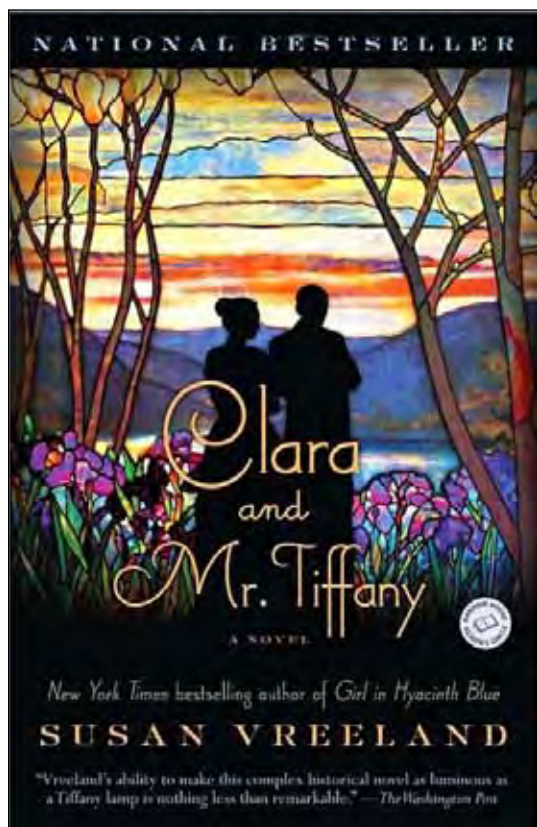
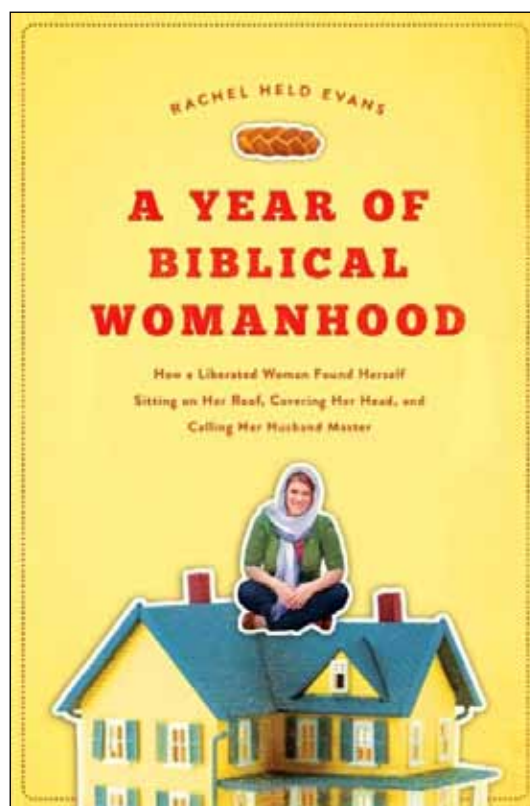
Mennonite in a Little Black Dress, by Rhoda Janzen (Ekstrom Browsing PS3610.A59 Z75 2010). Although this memoir reminded me at times of Jeanette Walls, I found this one to be gentler and lighter. Although the reason for writing (the author goes home to the Mennonite community she’d abandoned fifteen years before when her husband leaves her for a man) is sad, Janzen doesn’t dwell in self-pity. She freely points out where she made mistakes and,



refreshingly, doesn't point the blame elsewhere. What I found especially attractive is the respect and admiration she maintains for her community of origin and her parents, despite having parted ways with their belief system. She pokes fun, yes, but it is always done with love.

Kathie Johnson, Kornhauser Library

I recently read Susan Vreeland's *Clara and Mr. Tiffany* (Ekstrom Browsing PS3572.R34 C63 2011), a fictionalized account of the life of the real Clara Driscoll, head of the women's division of Tiffany Glass in the late 1800s. Vreeland, author of *Girl in Hyacinth Blue* and many other titles with art historical themes, used a great deal of archival sources to write a well-researched and interesting story of Clara's life, her job, her friendships, and frustrations as a working woman in that time period. This woman both cracked the glass ceiling and then was suppressed by it, and Vreeland describes this complex situation truthfully and with compassion. One learns about women's rights, marriage law, labor unions, tenement dwellers, and many other topics pertinent to the turn of the 19th and the early 20th century time periods. I happened to be in Manhattan while reading this book, which is set mainly in New York City, making the descriptions of Clara's room at a boarding house in Greenwich Village, Louis Tiffany's home on the upper west side, Central Park and midtown even more exciting and pertinent. Ekstrom has one copy of this book; LFPL has over twenty copies in regular print, large print, e-book, and books on CD. Amazon also has it in print and as an e-book.



I would also like to recommend a book I read many years ago: *The Double Helix: A Personal Account of the Discovery of the Structure of DNA*, by James D. Watson (Ekstrom QD341.A2 W315 1968). James D. Watson and Francis Crick discovered the structure of DNA and presented their research for the first time in 1953; thus, 2013 is the sixtieth anniversary of their discovery. For most of us, DNA and RNA are just part of the normal language, but it has only been that way for a short time. Think about all of the research and scientific discoveries since this ground-breaking work and how it has affected the study of genetics and actually created new fields of study. We now accept DNA comparisons used in the legal system to convict or exonerate individuals. We watch television programs in which celebrities find their ancestry via DNA. How would science be different today without the work of these scientists along with that of many others? First published in 1968, *The Double Helix* has been reprinted over and over, and translated into over nineteen languages. University Libraries has several editions, including the original 1968 printing and the most recent edition, an annotated and illustrated version published in 2012.

Ben King, Ekstrom Library

I enjoyed *Olympic Gold: A Runner's Life and Times*, by Frank Shorter (Ekstrom Book Stacks GV1061.15.S48 A36 1984), and *Marathon Man: My 26.2-Mile Journey from Unknown Grad Student to the Top of the Running World*, by Bill Rodgers (Ekstrom Browsing GV1061.15.R63 A33 2013). As someone who has always enjoyed running and

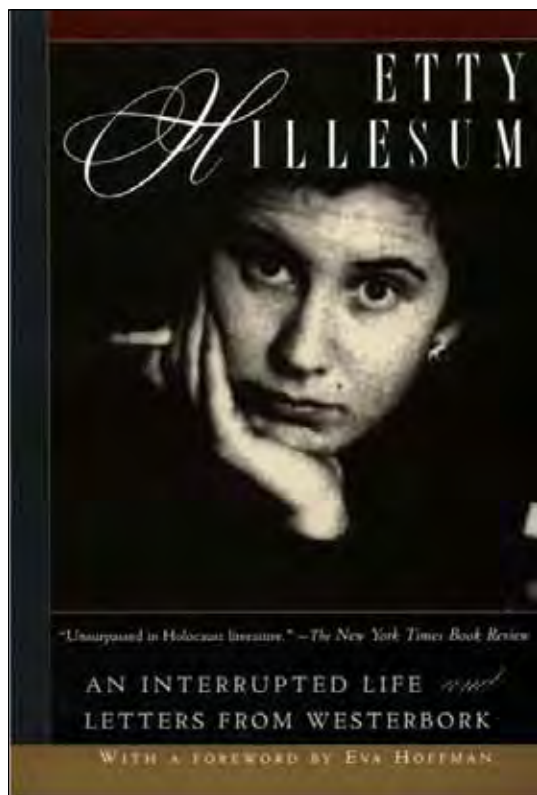
finds it very therapeutic, it was very interesting to me to read the accounts of these two men who rose to the top of

the marathon world. Frank Shorter dominated the marathon in the early 1970s, and Bill Rodgers dominated it in the late 1970s. Frank Shorter won the marathon during the 1972 Munich Olympics (a very tragic Olympics that was marred by terrorism). There was also the bizarre spectacle of an imposter bursting onto the track just as Shorter was coming into the stadium for the final lap of the marathon. This imposter ran in front of Shorter on the track, thereby taking away a lot of the glory that should have belonged to Shorter after running twenty-six grueling miles. Shorter did not know what to think for a time. He knew he was ahead the last few miles but all of a sudden there was a guy on the track “ahead of him.” Finally security officers wrestled the imposter to the ground when they realized what was happening. Shorter and Rodgers were in many races together and, in one race, even decided to run in together and have a tie when they realized they were both running close together. The race officials, being sticklers, would not have a tie, so they awarded the victory to Rodgers by one second. Rodgers says in his book that he would have thought they would have awarded it to Shorter, because Shorter was the better-known runner at the time.

Both books mention many famous names of track athletes who I remember from the time period. One was a great middle distance runner, Steve Prefontaine, who was tragically killed in a car accident at the age of twenty-five the very evening that he had just won a big race. Shorter and Rodgers also discuss how they, and all the other athletes, trained hard for the 1980 Olympics in Moscow, but then did not get to go because of the American boycott in protest of the Soviet Union’s invasion of Afghanistan. It was also interesting to me and a bit sad to read how runners who are just peacefully pursuing what they want to do sometimes have things thrown at them, or have groups wanting to attack them. Shorter was running with a group practicing when, from out of a passing vehicle, someone threw an egg or some object at them. He also had to get shotgun protection just to practice running at one point. I guess you would have to like running or have some interest in the Olympics to enjoy these two books, but I found them more interesting than any I have read for some time.

Patty Payette, Delphi Center

An Interrupted Life: The Diaries of Etty Hillesum, 1941-1943 and *Letters from Westerbork*, by Etty Hillesum (Ekstrom DS135.N6 H54813 1983 and DS135.N6 H54813 1986, respectively)



Etty Hillesum was a lively, ambitious twenty-something Jewish woman living in Amsterdam when WWII broke out. She was a worldly, cosmopolitan, literate, young woman full of dreams to become a writer. These diaries trace her initial preoccupation with love and work and then gradually show her grappling with politics, life, death, humanity, and spirituality as the Nazis occupy Holland. Eventually Etty and her whole family are deported to Westerbork for a long stay before they are sent to Auschwitz. Etty’s diaries and letters reveal a fiercely strong, thoughtful, young woman who refuses to go into hiding and becomes a beacon of support for those around her at Westerbork as they struggle to come to terms with the Holocaust and (what they believe) is their impending death at the hands of the Nazis.

I found these books at times to be intense, harrowing, enlightening, and yet ultimately inspiring. It’s surprising to me that more people don’t know about Etty’s writings, considering she is a “twenty-something Anne Frank” who lived just blocks from where Anne and her family were hiding in Amsterdam.

These are powerful books but not necessarily fun “beach reads.” A quote from *Letters*: “I really see no other solution than to turn inwards and to root out all the rottenness there. I no longer believe that we can change anything in the world until we first change ourselves. And that seems to me the only lesson to be learned.”

Library and Department News

Archives & Special Collections



Lee Pennington and Dean Bob Fox at the ribbon-cutting celebration. *Photo by Tom Fougereousse.*

Pennington Gallery Dedication

On June 13, the University Libraries dedicated the new Lee & Joy Pennington Cultural Heritage Gallery and storage facility. This archives space is environmentally controlled for paper preservation. It will house important paper and book collections from Archives & Special Collections (ASC) including the Pennington Papers.

From ASC Director Carrie Daniels' opening comments:

"Lee Pennington is an educator, a traveler, a storyteller and more. As he knows, we are all linked by our common humanity, and we all have our own stories to learn and to tell. This space will preserve collections that help generations into the future discover and tell their own stories."

Ekstrom Library Office of Libraries Technology

Year-End Orders

Almost all the orders purchased with year-end funds have been received and dispersed.

Ekstrom Public PC/Lab Updates

All public PCs and laptops, including labs, have been reimaged. Twenty-four public PCs have been replaced with the new. Thirty-two new PCs are ready for replacing those in lab W102.

Updates on Server Upgrades

Libs_media1 migration has been postponed (waiting on responses from end users). The MetaLib server virtualization test performed in May was not successful. We are waiting for Ex Libris' response.

IP Address Change

The Libraries' and Ekstrom Library building participated in IT's pilot for the new IP assigning method from manual to dynamic (DHCP). After the update, networked printers required a reboot to pick up the new IP. Those who use remote desktop access to their own PCs need to remember to use the domain name, for example: libs-your userID (from home use \\libs-userID.ad.louisville.edu and log on with ad\userID). Should there be any questions about remote access, please call 852-5733.

How To Report a Down System

Links have been added to the front page of SharePoint under Computing Info for contact information in the case of a computer system outage.

OLT offers Tablets for Staff Loaning

One Android tablet and two iPads are available for staff loaning. The equipment loan form (on SharePoint) has

been updated with the new information.

Office of the Dean

Ekstrom Renovation Updates

The fourth floor renovation is progressing according to schedule. The painting was completed in mid-June and the carpet installation was finished June 20. New furniture, carrels, tables, and seating are scheduled to arrive on August 6. A re-opening celebration of the fourth floor quiet study will be held on September 11, 2013. President Ramsey and the donors who made the renovation possible will be in attendance.

Work on the Collaborative Learning Center also continues as scheduled. The CLC will become a 24-seat wireless instructional lab with flexible furniture to allow for more interactive/collaborative learning. All equipment for the instructor's workstation and the new podium have been ordered. The electricians are currently installing additional overhead lighting and upgrading power. The HVAC system feeding the CLC will be modified to provide better control of heating/cooling in the area.

New blinds have been installed and the new tables/chairs have arrived. Furniture installation will happen when the electricians complete their work.

Demolition work on both projects was quickly expedited thanks to Andy Clark, Raymond Slaughter and students from the loading dock who dismantled and removed the old workstations in the CLC and all of the old carrels and seating on the fourth floor. A considerable amount of money was saved on the project by students performing this work.

Currently both projects are still on schedule for completion by the beginning of the Fall 2013 semester.

Personnel

New Hires

Gene Haynes joined the Kornhauser Library as a part-time reference librarian, effective May 15, 2013. Ms. Haynes has over thirty years of medical library experience in the Louisville area, most recently as the Library Manager of the VA Medical Center Library. She is a founding member of the Louisville Medical Consortium and the Kentucky Medical Library Association. Please join us in welcoming Ms. Haynes to the University Libraries.

Rayanne Turner accepted the position of Library Assistant with Stacks Maintenance, effective July 15, 2013. Ms. Turner reports to Margo Smith.

Retirement

Linda Clark, Library Assistant, retired effective 7/11/13. Linda leaves the Libraries with enjoyable memories of her many years with Ekstrom Technical Services. Congratulations and well wishes to Linda from us all.



Ekstrom Technical Services Library Assistant Linda Clark (r.) was honored at a retirement party for her 19 years with the Libraries. Tyler Goldberg, Head, Technical Services, helped in handing out gifts.

Reference & ILL Department

Publications

Fannie Cox and the Delphi Center's Edna Ross published "Partnering with a Homeless Shelter to Provide Authentic Community Involvement" in the *Metropolitan Universities* journal, v. 24, issue 1 as a result of a presentation they did at the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities Conference last year.

Presentations

Rob Detmering presented “A Transformative Process: Applying Critical Thinking to Research Instruction and Assignment Design” and Fannie Cox presented a poster entitled “Developing a Class to Enhance the Computer Literacy/Information Literacy Skills of Residents at the Wayside Christian Mission: A Homeless Shelter” at the i2a (Ideas to Action) Institute in May of this year.

Toccara Porter and Latisha Reynolds presented a webinar entitled “Starting a Liaison Outreach Model: A Profile of Practices by Social Work Librarians at UofL” in June, sponsored by the Kentucky Library Association.

Vacations

Anna Marie Johnson took her family on a 1200 mile odyssey that included stops in Washington, D.C., the Delaware coast and Ohio. While she still didn’t make it to the Library of Congress (small children just aren’t conducive to that type of sightseeing), she did see some cool modern and contemporary art at the National Gallery of Art, two sleeping pandas (and the recently escaped red panda) at the National Zoo, and loads of amazing anthropology exhibits at the Museum of Natural History. Her children preferred the beach, including fishing for Delaware blue crabs and the boardwalk at Rehoboth Beach. She is grateful to her colleagues who allowed her the luxury of that time off!

Law Library

The ramifications of the university’s Voluntary Separation Incentive Program (VSIP) are already being felt at the Law Library. Three of our eight support staff will retire by the end of August. (That’s a 37.5% reduction, for those of you who are number crunchers.)

At the end of June, the Law Library bid farewell to its longtime circulation manager, Miriam Schusler Williams. On June 13, Law Library director David Ensign hosted a lovely lunch at The Bristol in Jeffersonville, where Miriam and her colleagues enjoyed a special time together. Miriam’s thirty-seven years of service to the library and the law school have left their mark.

Michael ben-Avraham, who has logged twenty-three years, will leave us at the end of July. And finally, Nancy Baker, who has logged seventeen years, will leave at the end of August. The law school hosted a reception for Miriam, Michael and Nancy on June 25. Grateful colleagues stopped by to wish all three the best. It was a bittersweet occasion.

Those of us who had the privilege of working with these three dedicated and talented individuals know that the Law Library will never be the same.



This is my last issue as layout editor of *The Owl* before my retirement in September. I can’t even remember when I started doing this (twenty-some years ago, at least), but I’ve enjoyed working on every single issue, all 200-odd of them (and some of them *very* odd!). I’ve worked with several editors over the years, but the longest time has been with current co-editors Amy and Robin. I’ll miss them—and the library—a lot, but I’ll still be reading every issue online. Goodbye, everyone, and keep reading! —**Bob Roehm**

Schneider Hall Headed for National Register of Historic Places



*Gail Gilbert, Director
Margaret M. Bridwell Art Library
Schneider Hall*

For about a year, I've been working toward getting Schneider Hall included on the National Register of Historic Places. Part of the process involved presenting the nomination to the Louisville Landmarks Commission and then, if they approved, to the Kentucky Historic Preservation Review Board. The Landmarks Commission approved the application in April and the Kentucky History Preservation Review Board approved the nomination at its May 16th meeting. Thus, the nomination can be forwarded to the National Park Service (which administers the National Register) for a final determination.

During my research, I learned a lot about the building that I think you might be interested in knowing about too; thus, this article. In 1976, twenty five buildings on Belknap Campus were added to the National Register of Historic Places. I thought Schneider Hall was also worthy of that designation because it is an excellent example of Mid-century Modern architecture.

The Architects and Designers

New Yorkers Walter H. Kilham, Jr. and Robert B. O'Connor were the building's principle architects. O'Connor was born in 1895 and educated at Trinity College and Princeton. Kilham was born in 1904 and took his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Harvard. O'Connor and Kilham were responsible for a number of schools, college dormitories, the library at Princeton and alterations to the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Nevin and Morgan were the associate architects for Schneider Hall. Frederic Morgan (1889-1970) received his

architectural training at the University of Illinois. After touring Europe, he practiced in Louisville until his death. He designed a number of private homes, churches and public buildings. Morgan left money to U of L that funds the Frederic Lindley Morgan Chair in Architectural History, a program that brings in a well-known architectural historian each year to teach for a semester. Fred Morgan also led a syndicate known as the Allied Architects which drew up a campus plan for the University. That plan suggested new buildings be built in a neo-Georgian style but in 1949, architectural historian Walter Creese, a member of the art department, convinced the university's administration that the campus should embrace modern architecture. It's ironic that Morgan was the associate architect for a building that was most definitely not in the neo-Georgian style.

In fact, Schneider Hall was the first modern building on campus. Originally the main campus library, the building opened in 1956. The rectangular, two-level, 71,000 square foot building cost \$1.8 million to build. It was funded as part of a \$4 million bond issue in 1952 which paid for its construction and some other needs of the university. The building had space for 600 readers, 400,000 volumes and a staff of 25.

Mid-Century Modern Design

What is Mid-century Modern design? Here are some of the principles of the style which Schneider Hall exemplifies so well:

- The use of innovative technology to solve structural, programmatic or aesthetic challenges.
- A design that integrates the building well with its immediate landscape, often including a plaza which balances the horizontal with the vertical.
- An overall look of simplicity, using basic geometric forms and eschewing ornamentation.
- The use of glass to connect the inside and outside, creating harmony with the site. Often materials used on the outside of building are continued in the interior, further connecting the outside and inside. Outside rooms were also favored.
- Attention to the quality of light, encouraging light without seeing the light fixture.
- Skill in handling proportion, scale, materials and detail.

The Building's Interior

The new library was important for both the university and the city. Proof of this was right in the lobby where the library visitor could view the city charter, drafted and signed by Thomas Jefferson in 1780. Prominently displayed in a specially made case that rested on a bronze-based walnut column, the charter was framed by a large curved marquetry panel, now in Ekstrom Library, made by Philipp Rimmler of New York. Using inlays of woods mostly from Kentucky, the panel depicts the original 1779 plan of the city. Tony award-winning stage designer Donald Oenslager worked with the architects to create this setting.

The building's interior space was designed around a central core containing the stairs, elevator and other fixed service requirements. The remaining space used a modular system of construction, an adaptation of the construction methods of skyscrapers and factories and innovative at the time. On the lower level, columns support the reinforced concrete floor above, forming rectangles 22 x 24 feet. With a roof of steel construction, instead of the heavier reinforced concrete, alternate supporting columns on the upper level could be omitted, resulting in double spans in the reading rooms. This allowed for open and flowing spaces.



City Charter. *University of Louisville Archives and Record Center.* <http://digital.library.louisville.edu/cdm/ref/collection/uofl/id/187>



Robert Worth Bingham Room. *University of Louisville Archives and Record Center*. <http://digital.library.louisville.edu/cdm/ref/collection/uofl/id/591>

The stacks area on the lower level was open for student browsing, a relatively new approach for libraries built at the time. Also on the lower level was the elegantly appointed Robert Worth Bingham Room that held books from the library of the late Mr. Bingham, U.S. Ambassador to Great Britain from 1933-1937, and presented to the library by Mr. and Mrs. Barry Bingham.

The design of the interior of the library was innovative enough to be noted and illustrated in the 1963 Encyclopedia Britannica article on library architecture.

The Building's Exterior

The building's south wall is mostly glass with two courses of small porcelain panels. It was designed with fixed teakwood and aluminum louvers to deflect the glare of the summer sun. Aladar Olgyay of Princeton conducted a climatological survey for the building which resulted in this adaptation. Olgyay also recommended the 73 degree tubular skylights in the circulation area to compensate for the lack of light from the windowless west façade.

The north and east walls have rows of large windows alternating with rows of porcelain panels that were originally blue. All the windows are flush with the wall pane and are set into mullions of aluminum, a modern material for the time. The blue color was continued in the unglazed ceramic mosaic tiles in varying shades of blue used on the exterior soffit and on the ceiling in the lobby area.

On the north end was a large room off the lobby designed for public lectures and receptions. Its flagstone floor con-

nects it to the lobby and the terrace, and the room has a glass wall on the north end that opens onto an outdoor patio.

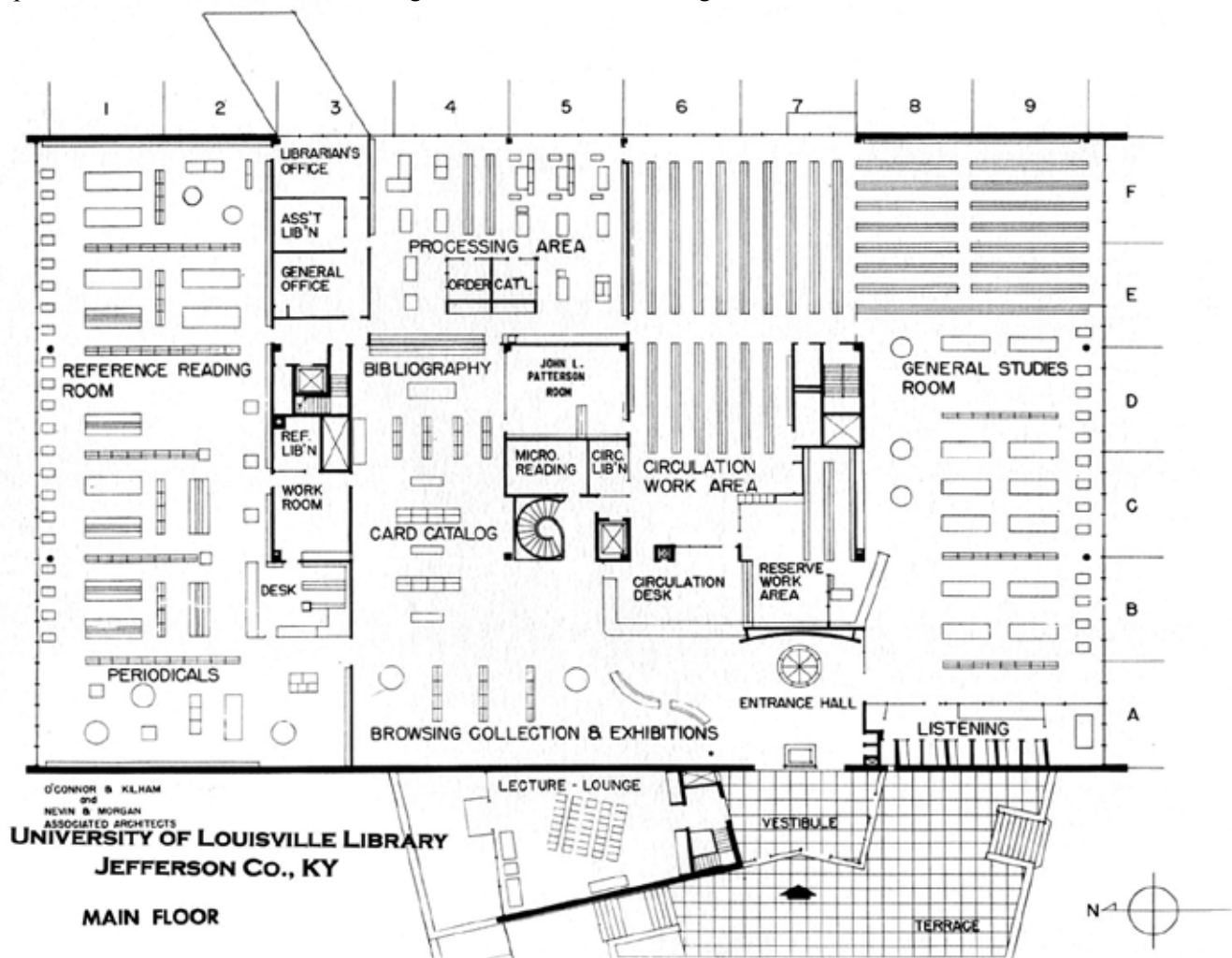
The Building's Integrity

One of the sections on the National Register nomination form asks for an evaluation of the integrity of the building's significance in light of its physical condition. The guidelines require a building to have integrity of feeling which results from integrity of materials and design. Integrity of location, setting and association also need to be considered.

Luckily, Schneider Hall passes the integrity evaluation with flying colors. The location and setting of the building have remained the same. While the campus has expanded to the north, Schneider is nonetheless still in a centrally important part of the campus, being just east of the administration building and the main campus entrance. It is also the only building on campus that is elevated, nice symbolism that speaks to the importance of a library.

The integrity of materials on the exterior of the building has been retained, the only significant change being the repainting of the blue panels. This does not affect the building's overall design excellence, since panels of various colors were used at the time, but it does diminish the original intent of the architects. Design integrity has also been retained: the flat surfaces, geometric forms and glass curtain walls continue to define the building's style.

Schneider Hall was not only the first modern building on campus, it was among the first modern buildings in the city. It is a significant campus building and a fine example of Mid-century Modern architecture in Louisville. I hope the reviewers at the National Register of Historic Places agree.



Main floor of the building. Image from the dedication brochure, 1957.



MEDIA DOES COLOR RUN!

Here in Media Resources, we are always looking for ways to do things outside of the library environment to keep morale up at a good level. Whether it is going to see a movie – *The Great Gatsby* was our last – or taking on an athletic challenge, we are ready, willing and able.

This year one of our more seasoned students, Ashley Triplett, suggested that we all do the Color Run. None of us had ever heard of this event, but when we looked at the web-page, <http://thecolorrun.com/louisville/>, we knew it was something we had to be a part of. What is the color run you ask...well, it is also known as the Happiest 5K on the Planet and by looking at the other participants around us, it was all smiles! There is no time kept nor are there winners of the race because everyone was a winner for just showing up. Basically there are four colored gates — blue, yellow, orange and pink, as well as purple for the end of the race — that you run/walk through at each kilometer where volunteers using squeeze bottles and cups throw colored environmentally friendly corn starch on you. It is required that runners wear a white shirt for the event as to show off the colors. And by the end it looked like a rainbow threw up all over everyone!

There were ten of us signed up and ready to become part of the happy event. Two students, Logan Heinz and Sha-



L to R: Jessica Kastor, Evan Butler, Julie Heinz, Ashley Triplett (in front), Tyler Upton, Trish Blair, Tyler Perry, Katie McWhorter (photo by a helpful bystander).



noa Milby, actually ran the entire race. They were finished with the race before the rest of us even started. Yes, there were *that* many runners. When we got downtown before the race we had no idea how many people would be participating...we were shocked at the sheer volume of participants. We have no idea officially, but as a group we decided it was somewhere between five and ten thousand. The



Top left: Julie Heinz and Ashley Triplett. Above: Jessica Kastor and Tyler Upton. Below: Evan Butler. Photos by Ashley Triplett.

last eight of us started the race about an hour after the first group left; we ran a bit and then walked the rest of the way.

During the race you could see the costumes that other runners had on: tutu's, wings, and crazy neon socks. We had swim goggles and awesome t-shirts that Ashley designed. The most amazing part of the race was the age range we saw, from babies covered with plastic in strollers to a 96-year-old woman in a wheelchair who had a sign that said "I'm 96 and going strong." It was inspiring to see everyone having so much fun and to have the Media Resources students and staff come together and participate in such an awesome community event.

This will not be our last group run or event. We all had so much fun that it could be an annual tradition for all of us.



THANK YOU!

Trish Blair
Gwendline Chenault
Carrie Daniels
Tom Fongerousse
Gail Gilbert
Anna Marie Johnson
Melissa Laning

Weiling Lin
Karen Nalley
Diane Nichols
Chris Poché
Jessie Roth
Virginia Smith

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

LONG-TIME FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Long-time faculty members, Diane P. Nichols, professor, associate dean and director of Ekstrom Library, and Nancy Utterback, professor and head, public services, Kornhauser Health Sciences Library, were recently honored at the annual Faculty Service Awards dinner for their time at UofL. President James Ramsey and Provost Shirley Willihnganz presented both with a certificate, and each received a crystal bowl engraved with her name and years of service.



Professor Diane P. Nichols, 45 years



Professor Nancy Utterback, 35 years

NEW EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Name: Marcy Werner

UofL position and dept: Imaging Manager,
Photographic Archives

Hometown: Aurora, IL

Schools attended: UK and UofL

Unusual previous positions: Mural painter, furniture mover, mannequin dresser, silver smith, bagel baker, and fishmonger.

Hobbies/Activities: Jewelry making, art making, and running 502louisville.com. And biking!

Favorite food: Anything that can be eaten with a fork.
Or a spoon.

Favorite vacation spot: Grindavik, Iceland

Favorite quote: "I didn't really say everything I said."
—Yogi Berra



Library Exhibits

Ekstrom Library

Kain Gallery, Rare Books

Edgar Rice Burroughs Collection Highlights

Exhibition in honor of the Dum Dum, the annual meeting of the Burroughs Bibliophiles, Muckers, and all friends and fans of Edgar Rice Burroughs, August 8-11, 2013

August 1 – 16, 2013



Dalí Atomicus, 1948 (Salvador Dalí). Philippe Halsman. Photographic Archives Fine Print Collection

Second Floor, East Wing

UNBOUND

Permanent exhibit produced by UofL photography professor Mary Carothers, and her Advanced Photography class and funded in part by CODRE (UofL Commission on Diversity and Racial Equality).

Music Library

First Floor Wall Case

Works of Michel van der Aa

Winner of the 2013 Grawemeyer Award for Music Composition

Through August

First Floor Table Case

Works of Dick Thompson

Winner of the 2013 Robert B. Griffith Education Award

Through August



Burroughs Collection Curator George McWhorter with a prize first edition from the collection. Photo by Allison Bohl.

Photographic Archives Gallery

Famous Faces: Picturing Celebrity in the Photographic Archives

June – September 2013

Kain and Pennington Galleries

Denis Diderot Tercentennial

Exhibition of the first folio edition of the *Encyclopédie ou dictionnaire raisonné des sciences des arts et des métiers*, 1751-1780

August 22 – October 22, 2013

Reception: October 4, 2013

**Presentations, colloquium and birthday cake
Chao Auditorium**



Right: A page from the *Encyclopédie ou dictionnaire raisonné des sciences des arts et des métiers*, 1751-1780. Rare Books Collection

