



A Newsletter for Employees of the University of Louisville Libraries
Vol. 31, No. 5 ❖ Winter, 2015

The Owl

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

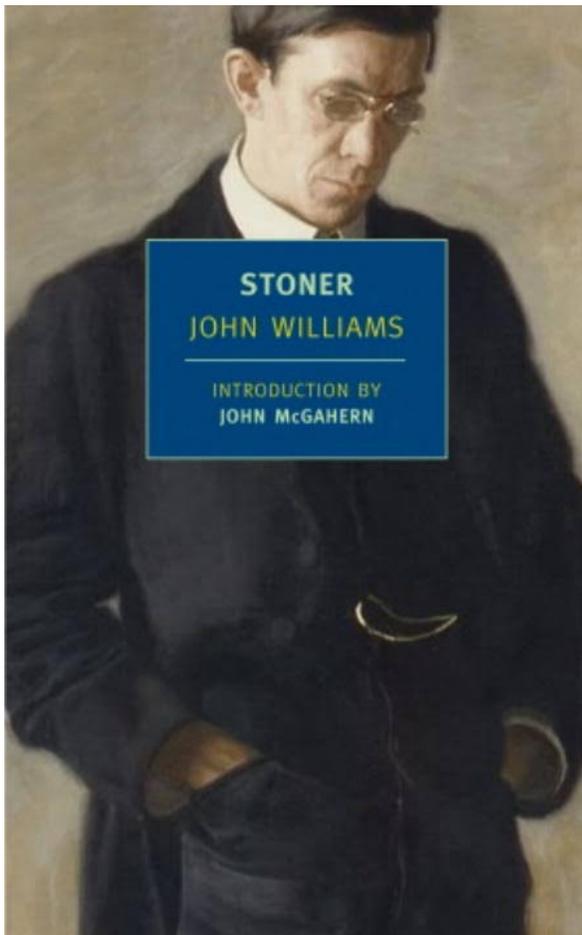
Winter Readers' Picks 2015

*Written and compiled by Christopher Poché,
Ekstrom Library*

"Why isn't this book famous?" asked C.P. Snow in a 1973 *Financial Times* review. "This book" is listed among "Tom Hanks' Top Five Page Turners" in a *Time* magazine cover story about America's most popular actor. In a 2013 *New Yorker* blog post, Tim Kreider called it "the greatest American novel you've never heard of." "You should seriously read *Stoner* right now," urged Steve Almond in a 2014 issue of the *New York Times Magazine*.

Poet, novelist, and creative writing professor John Williams published *Stoner*, the third of his four novels, about the life of an undistinguished literature professor, in 1965; but as the progression of the dates of those notices quoted above suggest, it has only relatively recently acquired a wide and appreciative audience. Though the novel received some initial positive reviews, the original printing sold less than two thousand copies. The book went out of print and became a little secret shared among a small coterie of literature aficionados who pressed their copies into the hands of others. The word-of-mouth recognition of *Stoner* continued to spread in the United States when the *New York Review of Books* reprinted the novel in 2006, and it then became a surprise bestseller in Europe in 2013 when the popular novelist Anna Gavalda translated it into French. This year the *New York Review of Books* has capitalized upon *Stoner's* growing stature by publishing a hardcover fiftieth anniversary edition. It includes an entertaining exchange of letters between Williams and his agent as they struggled to find a publisher for the novel. In one letter, Williams asserts that "the only thing I'm sure of is that it's a good novel; in time it may even be thought of as a substantially good one." It has taken a long time, but *Stoner* has received this acclaim.

So, what's so good about it? Tom Hanks' blurb description in *Time* is a good place to start: "It's simply a novel about a guy who goes to college and becomes a teacher. But it's one of the most fascinating things that you've ever come across." The key terms are "simple" and "fascinating." Williams gives you the simple on the first page of the novel by outlining the unassuming life history of William Stoner, who taught his whole adult life at the University of Missouri, the same university at which he earned his own degrees, in the first half of the twentieth century, never rising above the rank of assistant professor, and subsequently largely forgotten by his colleagues and his students. The fascinating is revealed as Williams spends the rest



of the novel telling the full story of that life and career. By most standards, William Stoner's life is a failure: his ambition to be a great teacher and scholar is unrealized, both as a result of his own limitations and the malevolent efforts of a rival colleague; and he marries an unsympathetic woman who wages an emotional war against him, which includes keeping his beloved daughter away from him. But through it all, Stoner never succumbs to bitterness nor loses the love of literature that animates him. He goes about his life and work with a stoic determination that is, in its way, heroic.

I read *Stoner* for the first time shortly after it was republished by the *New York Review of Books* and have since reread it several times, which is rare for me. Given how much I love *Stoner*, it is surprising that it has taken me a rather long time to read Williams' three other novels. Perhaps I erred by going to the beginning and reading his first novel, *Nothing But the Night*. It is a weak novel to say the least, and Williams was ashamed of it. In discussing his work, Michelle Latiolais, one of Williams' creative writing students, says "somewhat in deference to his evaluation, I have never read it." And similarly, I haven't bothered to reread it so as to have more to say about it. All I have is a memory of a strangely vague novel—what seemed to me like Albert Camus' *The Stranger* if it had been written by one of America's lesser pulp noir

writers. It's one of the only books discussed in this edition of the Readers' Picks for which our library has no holdings, but this does not seem like a problem to me.

Things get better with the second novel *Butcher's Crossing*, the story of William Andrews, a Harvard dropout in the third quarter of the nineteenth century who, inspired by Ralph Waldo Emerson, decides to travel west to commune with nature and to find himself. In the small trader's town of Butcher's Crossing, Andrews meets a hunter, who convinces Andrews to front the money for a buffalo hunt in a hidden valley in the Colorado Mountains where he has discovered a large herd. The nature that Andrews encounters during the expedition is not the Emersonian paradise he had expected. On the journey, the crew nearly dies for lack of water; and during the hunt it is overwhelmed by a sudden blizzard. Williams' descriptions of these travails are gripping and suspenseful. Despite all of the hardships overcome, the hunt turns out to be a failure. The experience hardens Andrews in ways he could not have anticipated, and the self-knowledge he acquires is of a deeply ambivalent kind.

Williams' fourth and final novel is the National Book Award-winning historical fiction *Augustus*. The novel consists of the letters, diaries, memoirs, histories, and other public documents of several ancient writers

The Owl is published six times a year as an online PDF publication by the University of Louisville Libraries, Louisville, KY 40292.

There is a combined June-August "summer" issue and a November-January "winter" issue.

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Editorial Board: Matt Goldberg, Anna Marie Johnson, Jessie Roth.

Book Editor: Chris Poché. Layout: Amy Purcell.

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

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

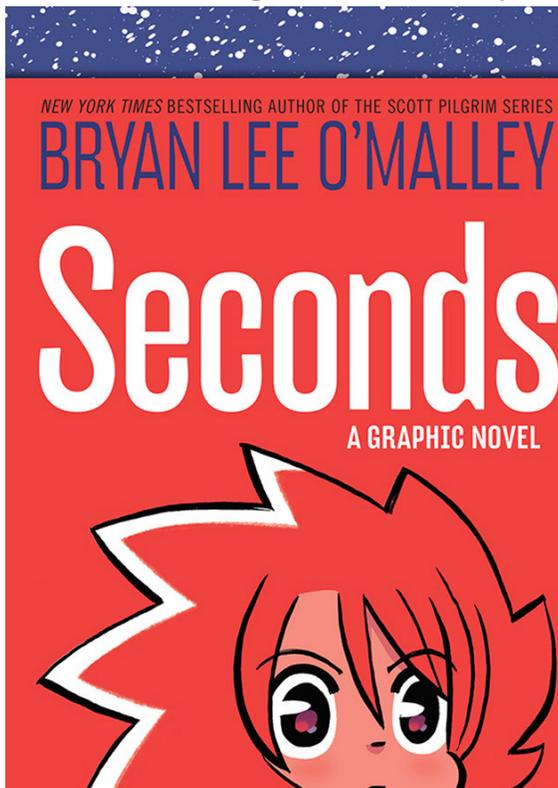
Opinions expressed in *The Owl* are not necessarily those of the University Libraries or the University of Louisville.



who witnessed the life and deeds of Rome's first emperor, and is divided into three parts. The first concerns follows Augustus' rise to power from the assassination of Julius Caesar when Augustus is just eighteen years old in 44 BCE, to his final triumph over Marc Antony and Cleopatra at the Battle of Actium in 31 BCE. The second part focuses on the life of Julia, Augustus' only biological child (he adopted several other children from three marriages for political purposes). After being married off to three men (again all for political purposes), Julia engages in a series of affairs that eventually implicate her in a plot on Augustus' life. In order to save her from a traitor's execution, Augustus prosecutes Julia for her adulterous behavior under the morality laws that he himself authored, but which are rarely enforced. Julia is exiled to a small island off the western coast of Italy, and Augustus never sees her again. The first two parts are narrated by multiple characters: family, friends, and foes of Augustus, such as Julius Caesar, Cicero, and Marcus Agrippa; poets, such as Virgil and Horace; and historians, such as Nicolaus of Damascus. Thus, Augustus' actions are described from multiple points of view, but he remains an ultimately elusive figure who confounds his enemies and puzzles even those closest to him with the cold shrewdness of his decisions.

The third section of the novel consists entirely of a long letter written by Augustus at the end of his life to Nicolaus. Finally, Augustus himself reveals the motivations behind his actions, which are never fully understood by those viewing them from the outside. This section actually invites comparison with *Stoner*. The end of that novel sees Stoner reflecting upon his life and wondering what it was worth, just as Augustus does in his letter. Both recognize that their lives, however different, are the products of compromise with the accidents of life. Indeed, this is a common theme of all three of Williams' mature novels. Each of his protagonists comes to realize that the realities of human life are beyond their initial conceptions, and that their plans are frustrated by unexpected circumstances and the unintended consequences of their own actions. And this is where the simple and the fascinating meet in Williams' work. Williams is a master of a plain prose style that makes his fictional worlds so complete and convincing, but that nonetheless does not explain too much. The mysteries of life are illuminated but not explained away.

Matthew Goldberg, Ekstrom Library



Every year I try to add more fiction to my reading lists, but each year, like clockwork, I end up primarily reading works of history. This year was no exception, though I did manage to branch out somewhat by trying (and loving) Bryan Lee O'Malley's graphic novel *Seconds*. If you've read—or watched the film adaptation of—his wildly clever graphic novel series, *Scott Pilgrim*, then you are probably already aware of O'Malley's talents. If not, I strongly recommend reading *Seconds*, the story of a young and talented chef who loses everything but is given a second chance at happiness when a mysterious girl arrives in the middle of the night with the power to give her a do-over at life. As creative and imaginative as the *Scott Pilgrim* series, *Seconds* is somewhat less flippant but retains all of O'Malley's ability to connect with a generation of slackers, dreamers, and “cool kids.” Another of my fiction novel undertakings (but as different from *Seconds* as possible) was Umberto Eco's *The Name of the Rose*. I've actually read this book before—something I try to do every two to three years—for reasons that will be explained. Without a doubt, it is the most difficult, convoluted, and impressive work of fiction I've ever tackled, and each

time I read it I walk away even more amazed by Eco's brilliance and by the depth of the work. The novel concerns a series of cryptic deaths at an Italian Benedictine monastery in the year 1327 and the attempt to solve them by a travelling monk and his novice. The admittedly enticing mystery is a framework for a book whose true beauty is the intellectual, philosophic, semiotic, literary, Biblical, and historical ruminations of Eco. He weaves a story entertaining enough to keep you involved, and complicated and subtle enough to make you revisit it every few years to make sure you actually understood everything you read.

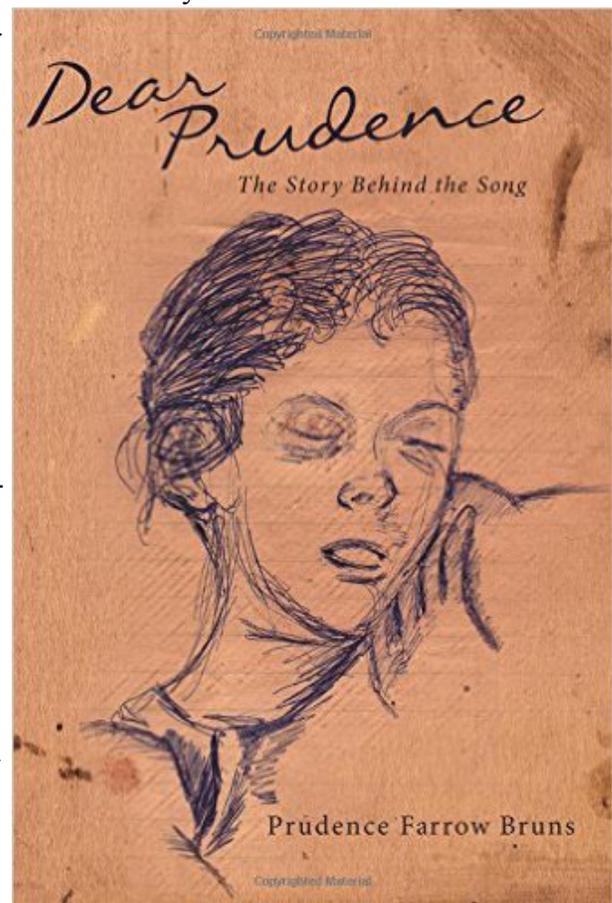
Of the historical nonfiction works I read this year, I tried not to stray too far from my bread and butter—Western military history from 1600 to 1918. Reed Browning's *The War of Austrian Succession* is a solid, immersive, and surprisingly fast-paced read on one of the last great *ancien régime* conflicts, and does an excellent job marrying the personalities central to the war with their ambitions and actions. My reading of Browning's work was a perfect lead in to Richard Bassett's much anticipated *For God and Kaiser: The Imperial Austrian Army, 1619-1918*, released this spring. Bassett's massive work is a major step forward in our understanding of the bond between Austrian military forces and the imperial Hapsburg dynasty. Covering nearly three hundred years of Austro-Hungarian military history, the work is monumental in scope but somewhat permeated by the clear pro-Austrian sentiment of the author. That being said, it's an amazing work and wonderful addition to the library's collection on the period. After pushing myself to read something out of my historical comfort zone, I picked up the classic *Temples, Tombs, and Hieroglyphs: A Popular History of Ancient Egypt* by Barbara Mertz, and I cannot be happier with my choice. Possibly the most informative, funny, and fast-paced historical work I've ever read, Mertz sets out to teach several thousand years of ancient Egyptian history but does so in a way that keeps you coming back for more. In a field characterized by dry tomes and voiceless writing, Mertz's history shines as an accessible and dazzling summation of one of the world's first great empires.

Robin Harris, Law Library

Dear Prudence: The Story Behind the Song, by Prudence Farrow Bruns

Fans of The Beatles (and probably most people familiar with music of the 1960s) know the beautiful song from *The White Album* called, "Dear Prudence." The haunting tune asks the question, "Dear Prudence, won't you come out to play?" Based on his fascination with Prudence's famous refusal to come out of her room (for three months!) at the Transcendental Meditation academy at Rishikesh, run by the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, John Lennon penned "Dear Prudence." The song made Prudence the subject of debate for decades—why did she choose to stay by herself, instead of mingling with the celebrities there, including members of The Beatles?

In her 2015 memoir, the subject of the famous tune answers this question through the telling of her life story. The answer does not really emerge until close to the end of the book, but the journey to the end is enlightening and fascinating, and sometimes harrowing. Her story includes tales about growing up in her famous family—her mother was actress Maureen O'Sullivan, her father was director John Farrow, and her older sister is



Mia Farrow—and about her struggles with self-image and alcohol and drug abuse. Prudence finally finds her salvation in transcendental meditation (TM), which she feels can save those who practice it. She now lives in Florida and teaches TM.

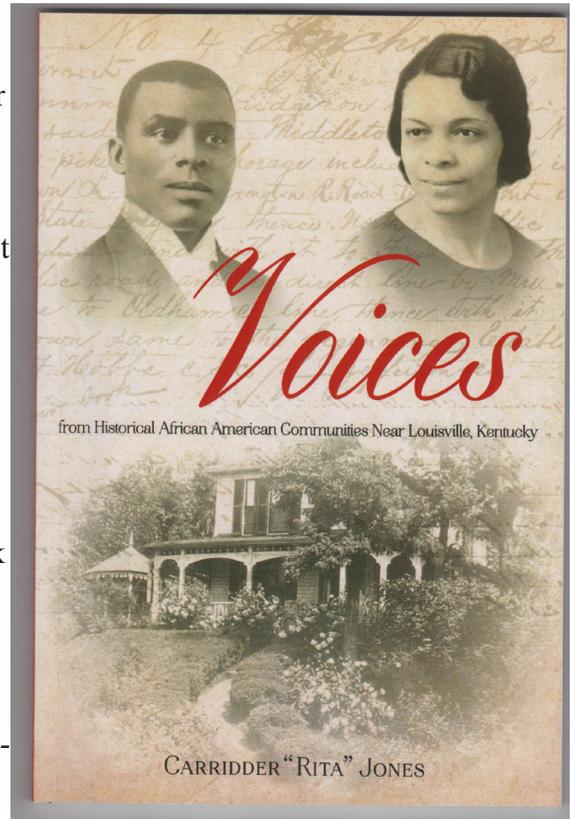
I recommend this book to those who can't get enough information about The Beatles and their songs, as well as those who are interested in the 1960s, as Prudence weaves a lot of the social upheaval of the period into her own story of personal upheaval. Black and white photos make the read even better!

Voices from Historical African American Communities Near Louisville, Kentucky

Carridder “Rita” Jones is a local playwright, published fiction/non-fiction writer and historian. Over the years, her plays have been produced at Actors Theatre of Louisville for the Juneteenth Festival, at the Kentucky Center for the Arts Martin Experimental Theatre, and at the Market House Theatre in Paducah, Kentucky. Recently her work has focused on historical prose, rather than theatre pieces, and her newest book is *Voices*.

This intimate look at six communities—Harrods Creek, James Taylor Subdivision, Griffytown, Berrytown, Newburg, and Jeffersontown--grew out of the Filson Historical Society Project aimed at gathering stories of African American communities in the Louisville area. Because Rita Jones had worked on a similar project dealing with the black hamlets of the Bluegrass region, the Filson selected her to give life to the story of the black hamlets that surround Louisville.

The book opens with an article from *The Filson News Magazine* followed by another from *The Courier-Journal*, which provide necessary background material. Then the personal interviews begin, accompanied by family photographs and a few historical documents. You may recognize some of the people who are covered in the book—Arthur Walters of the Louisville Urban League, Reverend Thurmond Coleman, Sr., and long-time Coroner Dr. Richard Greathouse, a white physician who ignored the social customs of his day in his friendships and his hiring practices. *Voices* will be a welcome addition to the collection of anyone who enjoys Louisville history.



Note: Carridder Jones will participate in a panel discussion at the 10th annual Kentucky Women's Book Festival, on Saturday, March 5, 2016, at Ekstrom Library. *Voices* is available at Carmichael's Bookstore.

Anna Marie Johnson, Ekstrom Library

All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr stayed with me for a long time. Just gorgeous writing, very careful and precise but it didn't seem pretentious to me. I'm a super-fast reader, used to skimming more than reading, but I found myself slowing way down to enjoy this one. The characters too were just really well-drawn. Plot follows two main characters just before and during WWII: a blind teenage girl, Marie-Laure, whose father is the locksmith at the National Museum of Natural History in Paris, and a German orphan, Werner, who is brilliant with radios. The book is essentially the journey toward their brief, hours-

long meeting near the end. I won't spoil the end, but I did quibble with it a bit; for so much build-up, it didn't quite clear the bar, but I still think it is one of the best books I've read in a long time.

Calling Me Home by Julie Kibler – The author was an engaging speaker at last year's Kentucky Women's Book Festival. This first novel is based on the author's imagining of her grandmother's life, and the story is told through two narratives: Isabelle's life in the 1940s and Dorrie, Isabelle's hairdresser, in the present day. Isabelle, a white woman, falls in love with Robert, an African American man, and complications ensue. Bonus points for including interesting historical details, a surprise twist, and the fact that the story takes place in Northern Kentucky. Kibler makes a couple of first-time novelist mistakes (o.k., o.k., the crossword puzzle words segueing into the next plot sequence are really annoying and lose credibility after the second time, for example). The African American characters are not as fleshed out as I would have liked, but still a satisfying, heart-wrenching read.

Benediction by Kent Haruf – Sort of Wendell Berry-like in his celebration of the ordinary aspects of people's lives. The book is the story of Dad Lewis, an older man dying of cancer, of his wife, daughter, and neighbors who care for him throughout the process, and of his absent, estranged son. The author doesn't use any quotation marks, which takes a bit of getting used to. The language is simple and straightforward, and the dialogue is really spot on. It is a tough book to get through, however—it doesn't shy away from the pain of death, nor does it have any clichéd happy endings.

Ben King, Ekstrom Library

I have been enjoying adventure books lately. One of them is ***Adrift*** by Steven Callahan. He left the Canary Islands in a small sloop he called “Napoleon Solo” bound for the Caribbean. Six days out his sloop sank. So he had to try to survive in his five-and-a-half foot inflatable raft. He had only three pounds of food and eight pints of water. He could not fully stretch out his body. He had to try to sleep in a curled-up position. He had to constantly fear sharks or some other fish with a sharp fin ripping a hole in his raft. When his sloop sank he was jarred to alertness by a tremendously loud sound, and it felt like something slammed into the side of his sloop. As he reflected back on it, he thought it was probably a whale. Anywhere there was a protrusion below his raft—such as where his body was or where something in his raft with weight made a protrusion at the bottom—dorado fish would butt their heads against it really hard. At one point he says, “I could not understand why the fish were in such a frenzy.” There were barnacles all over the sides and bottom of his raft so he thinks the place where the protrusions were might have been places where it was easier for the dorado fish to eat the barnacles off of the raft. Not only did he have to worry about sharks and their rows of jagged teeth, he had to worry about a shark just scraping the bottom of his raft. He says their skin is like sandpaper, and just one scraping his raft could rip a hole in it. His raft also developed little leaks that he had to try to repair with glue and tape. The instructions said to make sure the area was dry before doing the repair, which was totally impossible. He said that was a “good joke.” Numerous big ships came by and did not see him. He fired off a bunch of flares when he saw the first big ship. He said it was probably about four miles away. Then he chastised himself for shooting them off and wasting them, because the ship never saw him. He also had an “EPIRB” (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon). Its signal could be picked up by any commercial aircraft in the area, which could then radio ships also in the area. But for many days he was in an area where his chart showed no commercial aircraft. He wrote little messages and left them in bottles in the hopes that if he died maybe someone would find them, and it would help future sailors. Many times he attempts to spear a fish. He actually manages to spear a dorado and hoist it aboard. He talks about how sorry he feels for, as he says, “murdering the fish.” He talks about the dorado fish often traveling in pairs. After he hoists his catch aboard, he says the fish's mate keeps striking his raft with unmitigated fury. He manages at one point to spear a trigger fish, tries to drink the blood,

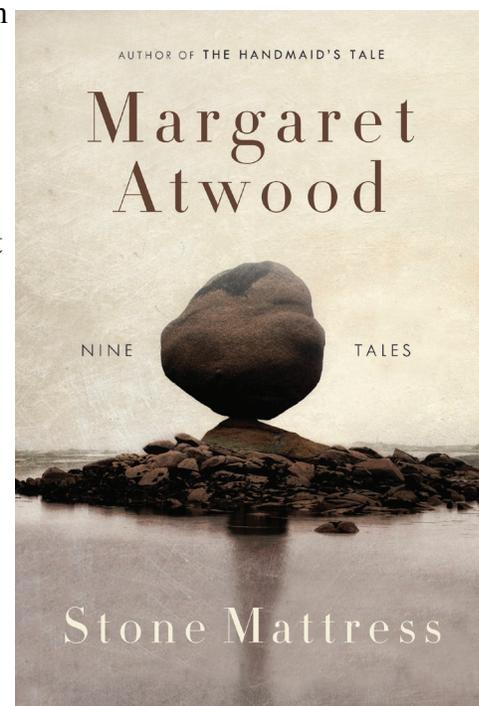
which was so rancid he spits it out, and eats the liver and some of the internal organs. He has to use little solar stills to make the sea water palatable. These do not always work well, and he constructs a makeshift solar still. In his favor, he had much better equipment and more supplies, and knew more about the sea than most people would have. There are myriad things that can kill him if they go wrong. His body developed sores and boils all over it from the constant wetness of the sea water. He was lost at sea for seventy-six days, during which he promises that if he survives he will spend more time with family and friends and tell them he loves them.

I also enjoyed several Bill Bryson books. One of them was *A Walk in the Woods*. Bill wanted to hike the Appalachian Trail. Everyone he called said they did not want to do it with him, but then his old friend Steven Katz told him he would go, which was kind of surprising because Katz was not known for being in the best of shape. So they hit the trail together. Bryson's account made me almost feel like I was there on the trail with them. His descriptions are so vivid, and there is also no shortage of humor in the book, which made it a really fun read. The two hikers manage to get on each other's nerves a number of times on the trail, such as when Bryson would not buy Katz a six-pack of beer in a convenience store. After this incident they would hardly speak to each other for several days. Then they both finally realized they needed to help each other, so they started laughing and got over it. Numerous times Katz would fall way behind on the trail, and Bryson would have to wait for him or go back and look for him. They also met one rather eccentric lady who was hiking the trail by herself and who criticized just about everything they did. They decided to get up early and try to get way ahead of her to lose her, but later they ended up feeling kind of guilty about it. Katz had some health issues that did not become apparent until they were out on the trail for some time. At one point Bryson asks Katz if he wants to go home, and Katz says that he really does. So they never made the whole trail but at least they hiked some of it. It was interesting to read about how carefully one has to plan an adventure—for example, making sure that supplies and money are sent to some point ahead along the trail, such as the next town. Bryson also talks about how most people hiking the trail are really helpful, although you do occasionally meet the odd character. He cautions that if you leave a piece of cheese or something like that in your sack when you go to bed at night, you better just leave the sack open; otherwise the mice will just gnaw a hole in your sack to get to the cheese. I also went recently to see the movie *A Walk in the Woods*, which I think I enjoyed even more because I had read the book.

Amy Purcell, Archives & Special Collections

Margaret Atwood – I reprised my love of Margaret Atwood with the *MaddAddam* trilogy and greatly anticipated her next novel. But what came next was a set of nine tales in *Stone Mattress*. I find that Atwood's style of intelligence, wit and quirkiness can make me enjoy and even laugh at the darkest of ideas, making "short" work of expertly establishing the setting for each story. Actually there is a trilogy within these tales. *Stone Mattress* was a look at the end of life with a touch of fantasy – including stories of a widowed serial husband-killer on a cruise, an author who escapes into her books, and a mob of young people who are part of a world-wide effort to push out people living in retirement homes to make way for the young.

Atwood's *The Heart Goes Last* is set in a dystopia similar to the *MaddAddam* trilogy, where people on the "inside" have all their

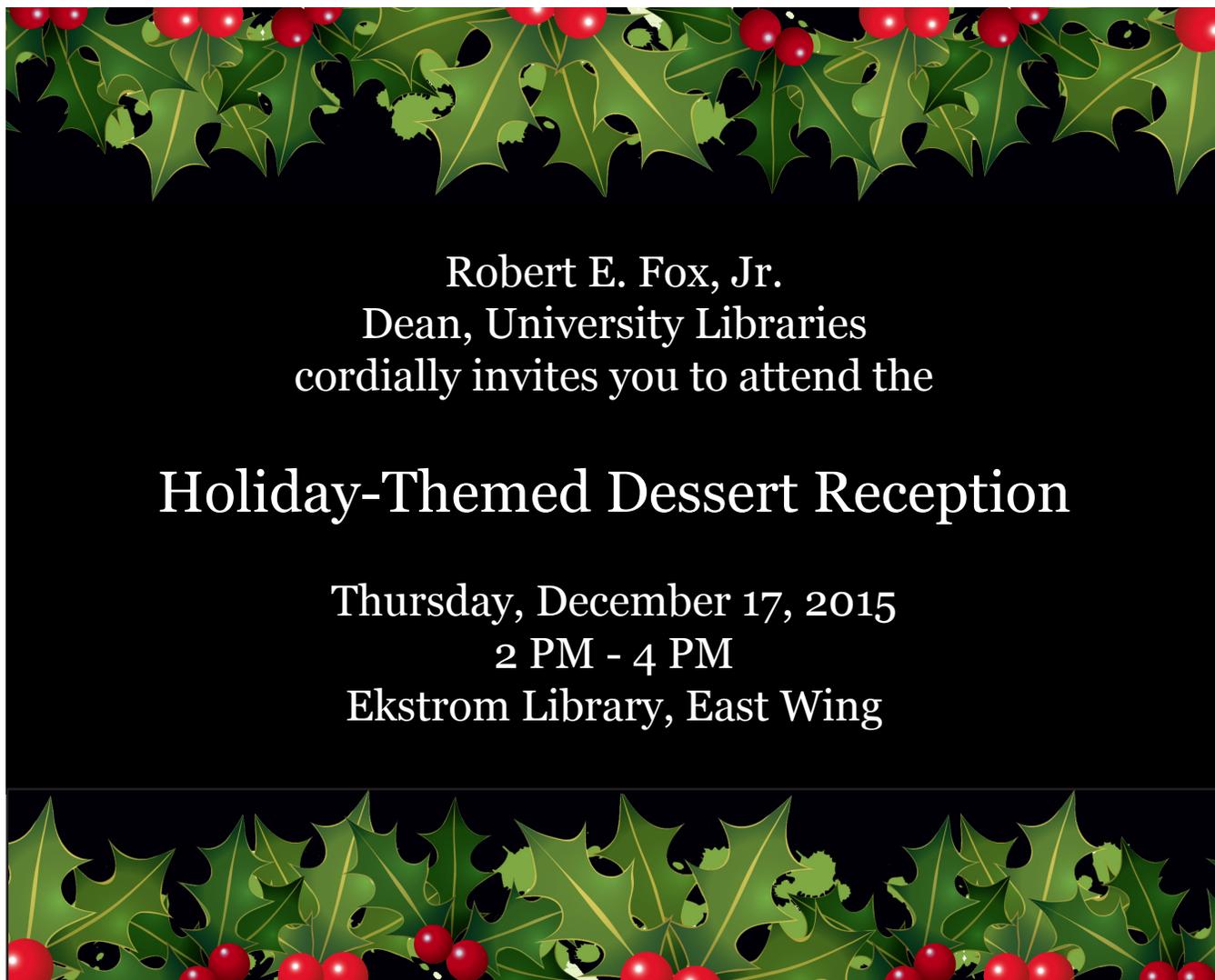


physical needs met but something isn't quite right, and those on the "outside" have their freedom but must live in chaos. But this novel isn't nearly so serious as the *MaddAdam* books. The frustrations of the characters was often funny rather than tragic.

In my quest for a good read, I often turn to authors I've enjoyed in the past. I loved *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri so I tried *Unaccustomed Earth*. This collection of short stories also had a common thread. This common thread idea in short stories is a recent discovery for me and I like it! As in *The Namesake*, the "new world" reader gets a glimpse into what the young people view as outdated, old world cultures. I find it very interesting.

I will second two of Anna Marie's selections - *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr is a stand-out fabulous book and winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction 2015. And I loved the "based on true life story" *Calling Me Home* by Julie Kibler. I also heard this author at the Kentucky Women's Book Festival last year. Julie Kibler is a lovely person and the audience quickly warmed to her. Kibler's sincerity comes through in her writing.

Welcome to *Owl* Board member Matthew Goldberg, who contributes for the first time. Thanks to all who contributed to this column and Happy Holidays to all! – *The Owl* Book Editor.



Robert E. Fox, Jr.
Dean, University Libraries
cordially invites you to attend the

Holiday-Themed Dessert Reception

Thursday, December 17, 2015
2 PM - 4 PM
Ekstrom Library, East Wing

NEW EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Christina Roberts

UofL position and department: Administrative Assistant, Kornhauser Library
Hometown: Riverside, California
Schools attended: University of Louisville & Eastern Kentucky University
Significant Other/Family Memebers: Married, one daughter Kathryn
Hobbies/Activities: Hiking, Camping, Running, and Reading
Favorite Books: *Pride & Prejudice*, *Emma*, *Brave New World*, *Something Wicked This Way Comes*
Favorite Movies: *The Fountain*, *Upside Down*, *Mirromask*, *Hogfather*
Favorite Food: Indian, Japanese, and Korean
Favorite Quotes: “A book is a dream that you hold in your hand.” –Neil Gaiman
“A room without books is like a body without a soul.” — Marcus Tullius Cicero



George Martinez



UofL position and department: Diversity Residency Librarian, Research Assistance and Instruction
Hometown: Salinas, California, which is also the hometown of John Steinbeck.
Schools Attended: UC Santa Barbara, New York University, and University of Maryland, College Park
Significant Other/Family Members: My partner, Gilbert, who lives in Los Angeles.
Unusual previous positions: I worked as a Gallery Educator at the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles. The position included some fun storytelling and puppetry related to Noah’s Ark.
Favorite Books: *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy and *Charlotte’s Web* by E.B. White
Favorite Food: Pizza and Thai Food
Favorite Vacation Spot: New York City is a fun place to catch up with some old friends and see some live theatre. The city always has something interesting to offer all year round and there’s so much to see that I’ll never see it all.

Anything else you would like to tell us about yourself: I’m excited to learn as much as I can in my new position!

Library and Department News

Ekstrom Library

Access & User Services

Student News

Ashley Triplett, Student Supervisor, AUS, announces the following student news:

Kelsey Headden will be doing study abroad in Botswana, Africa in the spring.

Sarah Stegman was elected president of Delta Zeta sorority.

Katie Connor was elected Vice President of Philanthropy of Delta Zeta.

Office of the Dean

Welcome, Christopher, Matt and Jessica!

Christopher Dresing is the new Administrative Assistant at the front desk in the Dean's Office. Prior to working in the Libraries, he worked in a similar position at the UofL Student Counseling Services. Please stop by and say hello the next time you are in the office.

Matt Ertz accepted the position of Music Librarian, effective December 1, 2015. Matt received his MLS from Indiana University with a specialization in music librarianship in 2010. He also has a Master of Music degree in composition from the University of Oregon, and his undergraduate degree from the University of Iowa is in composition and trombone performance. Many of you already know Matt, as he has held a staff position in the Music Library. In addition to his current position in the libraries, Matt works as a Music Cataloger for Flourish Music Contract Cataloging, and previously held both intern and staff positions in the IU libraries. Congratulations to Matt on his new position!

Jessica Petrey has accepted the position of Clinical Librarian pending final approval by the Board of Trustees. She will begin her new position on January 11, 2015. Jessica received her MLS from the University of Kentucky in 2014 and is currently a Library Technician in Acquisitions at the University of Pikeville College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Farewell, Michelle and Ren. . .

Michelle Rodriquez has resigned her position in Access & User Services and will be joining Baptist Health in an IT position. Her last day in the office is December 18, 2015. Congratulations, Michelle!

Ren Hinshaw has announced his retirement effective January 8, 2016. Ren has been a Technology Specialist at Kornhauser since 2000 and will be greatly missed by his colleagues.

Thank You

Alice Abbott-Moore

Rachel Howard

Anna Marie Johnson

Melissa Ianing

Christopher Poché

Jessie Roth

Ashley Triplett

... for contributing to this issue of The Owl

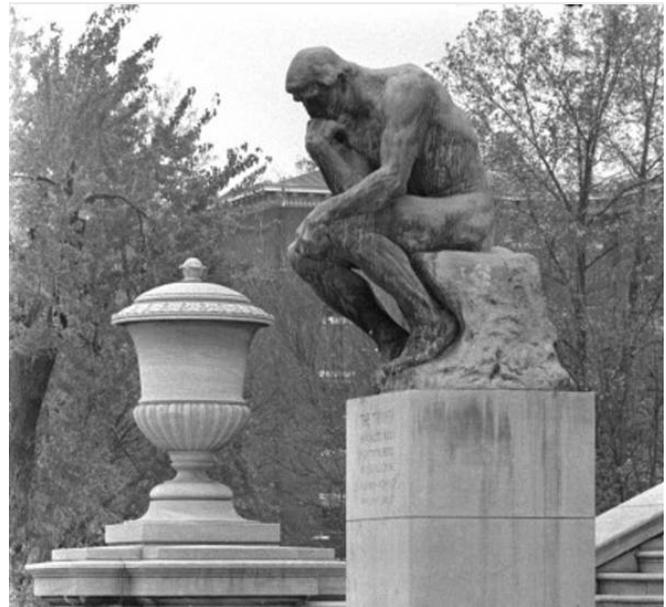


Congratulations to Dedicated Staff!

At the Staff Recognition Luncheon on September 25, the following Libraries' staff members were honored for their dedication and service to the libraries and university.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES:
Colleen Eubank, 10 years
Sarah Frankel, 10 years
Christopher Poché, 10 years
Angela Ren, 10 years
Jason Friedman, 15 years
Ren Hinshaw, 15 years
Tami Sexton, 15 years
Sherri Pawson, 25 years
Joan Nailon, 30 years

LAW LIBRARY:
Jerome Neukirch, 15 years
Jodi Duce, 20 years



Rodin's "The Thinker" by Stephen Gruebber

Congratulations and sincere thanks to this year's honorees for their many contributions.

Research Assistance & Instruction

Welcome Justin and Akoni

Research Assistance & Instruction would like to welcome two new members to the department: Our newest human member is Justin Erickson who comes to us from AUS. We're glad to have you! Our newest aquatic member is Akoni, who was a lovely gift from Sheila and friends. He's become quite the celebrity in the department, so come meet him!



Sneak Preview Success

Our Learning Commons Sneak Preview was a success despite miserable weather. We interacted with over 300 students on October 28 to tell them about services in the Learning Commons that would help support their academic work, including the Digital Media Suite, the Writing Center, Research Assistance & Instruction, REACH Computer Resource Center, and the Access & User Services desks. Oh, and we gave them lots of candy!

Did you know? UofL has a pilot Personal Librarian program?

We have partnered with TRiO Student Support Services to send out personalized emails to approximately 120 students enrolled in their program. The emails alert the students to services the library can provide to support their success at UofL. Ask Anna Marie or Latisha more about it!



DigiNews

Digital Collections Update

ThinkIR The University of Louisville's Institutional Repository

A realization and analysis : the manifestation of Franz Schubert within Manuel Maria Ponce'...
Parker S. Scinta 1988-
Electronic Theses and Dissertations



By Rachel Howard
Digital Initiatives Librarian

This time last year, the Scholarly Communications and Data Management (SCDM) Work Group had just begun setting up our newly-licensed bepress Digital Commons software for the University of Louisville's Institutional Repository (IR), [ThinkIR](#).



Recent Downloads
102 of 489
in the past day

Embed



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View Larger

2,322
Total Papers

71,586
Total Downloads

71,586
Downloads in the past year

ThinkIR features Readership Maps at the bottom of every browse list, showing the global reach of the collection materials. Authors who have submitted scholarly works to ThinkIR can view a personalized Readership Map on their Author Dashboard.

By mid-February, we had migrated 1,655 electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs), including a small number of undergraduate honors theses, from CONTENTdm into the new system, and begun to discuss processes and

possibilities with administrators in the School of Interdisciplinary and Graduate Studies (SIGS) and the College of Arts and Sciences Honors Program.

Technical Services faculty and staff members resumed adding older, scanned theses and dissertations and more recent, born-digital ones delayed by the software transition. Archives and Special Collections intern Riley Cantrell tackled a backlog of Honors theses. SIGS uploaded all of the May and August master's theses and doctoral dissertations, augmented with controlled vocabulary terms by the Technical Services team. Graduate students due to graduate in December are uploading their own ETDs directly into the system, although they will not be publicly viewable until after graduation. Honors plans to have students submit their draft theses for review within the system, so there will be electronic tracking of requests for revisions and approvals.

As of this writing, we have 2,327 papers in ThinkIR, resulting in 64,884 downloads since February. Readership maps at the bottom of each browsable Research Unit, Center, or Department page reveal the far-flung locations where this UofL scholarship is being accessed; more detailed information about usage is available to each author via the Author Dashboard feature.

Meanwhile, SCDM members are planning for the next phase, including faculty scholarship in the IR. We've presented on this topic to the Reference and Instruction department, library directors, and the Faculty Advisory Board. We eagerly anticipate the release of a new version of SelectedWorks, an optional add-on to Digital Commons which permits the creation of a customized page to highlight a faculty member's scholarship. We also eagerly anticipate hiring an Open Access and Repository Coordinator, reporting jointly to Dwayne Buttler and me, to assist with tasks such as researching author/publisher agreements to determine which materials may legally be added to the IR.

We will share more updates about ThinkIR as plans progress. It's been a productive 2015, and we are grateful to colleagues who have been, and will continue to be, willing to share their time and expertise to implement this long-discussed way to provide open access to scholarship produced at UofL.

Library Exhibits

Archives & Special Collections

Photographic Archives

Collecting Shadows - Works by the Calotype Society through December 18, 2015

NEXT

Commission on Coal - Ted Wathen photography January - March 2016

Kain Gallery, Rare Books

Timothy Hawley

Contre Coup Press

an exhibition of books and broadsides

Featuring the launch of its latest

The Laundry Book

RIGHT: The hookah, an illustration from The Laundry Book

December 6, 2015 - March 18, 2016

Ekstrom Library

First Floor, West Wing

Parkland – Past, Present and Future

December 2015 - February 12, 2016



Santa and his mail.

Louisville, circa 1930s

R.G. Potter collection

P 03390_1

Photographic Archives

University of Louisville