Summer 2013

Robert R. Muntz Library

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BANNED BOOKS WEEK

- Alma Ravenell, Head of Public Services

Each year the Library recognizes and participates in Banned Books Week. Banned Books Week celebrates our freedom to read. This event causes Americans all over our nation to examine the negatives of censorship.

The celebration is usually held during the last week of September. This year it will be held September 22nd thru 28th. The theme for this year is: Defend the Freedom to Read, It’s Everybody’s Job.

The library will join in the event by having an opening ceremony; daily trivia; a display of banned books; camo day; read out booth; movie night and banned book photos. Everyone is encouraged to take part.

The number one banned book for 2012 was “Captain Underpants” by Dave Pilkey. Come to the Library during Banned Books Week to find out what the other most banned books for 2012 were.

UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES NEEDS MATERIALS

-Terra Bianchi, University Archivist

The University Archives and Special Collections (UASC) is seeking historical materials from departments across UT Tyler. We collect inactive records that document the teaching, research, community, and administrative functions of UT Tyler that will serve as primary documents for researching the history of the university. These materials of enduring, historical value are preserved, arranged, and described for long-term permanent storage in the University Archives.

Materials to transfer include departmental and student publications, official policies and mission statements, press releases, meeting minutes, official correspondence, and more. Our staff is happy to help departments determine whether materials are appropriate for transfer. If necessary, we can also assist in packing materials and moving boxes to the archives.

To learn more, contact us at archivist@uttyler.edu or 903-565-5748.

You can also relive the history of UT Tyler through our Facebook, Twitter, and Blog. We post weekly updates, including historic photographs, fun facts about UT Tyler, and information on our special collections.
Harold Fry is a very average, retired, British man. There is nothing exciting or out of the ordinary about him. In fact, if anything, his extreme ordinariness is the only thing that screams at the reader in the first chapters.

Rachel Joyce's "The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry", reveals to the world that we all can have an impact and make a mark in this world, if we follow our hearts.

The book starts with Harold sitting at the table having a most dull breakfast – toast. His (just as ordinary) nagging wife interrupts his thoughts with an announcement of, “Post!” signifying that he has mail. The letter is from Queenie Hennessy, a friend he has not heard from in years. It is this letter, which causes a shift in the story. Queenie announces in the letter that she is dying.

Harold writes a reply to the letter and then decides to walk to the post office to mail it. After passing a few post offices and speaking with people along the way, (in particular a young woman at a service station) Harold is inspired to walk to see his friend. He asks her to wait until he arrives. Harold is about to take a six hundred mile walk!

It is quite likely that after reading "The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry", readers will want to stop and “smell the roses” along the way.
Letters of Home: War and Love

Dorothy and Frank McClendon
1943-1945

by Vandy Dubre

On October 1, 2013, Vandy Dubre, liaison librarian to the Art, Literature, and Music Departments, will present “Letters of Home: War and Love—Dorothy and Frank McClendon 1943-1945” at the Smith County Historical Association October meeting at the Carnegie History Center (located next to the public library).

This presentation chronicles a small section of letters written between Dorothy and Frank McClendon (brother to Sarah McClendon—famous Washington News Correspondent) along with some letters from others in the household.

These letters give us firsthand insight into how World War II affected Tyler families from husband and wife, brother and sister, and even the children. Included are crudely sketched maps trying to communicate where he is, to heart wrenching accounts of his personal feelings about being away from his child (who will most likely not remember him when he returns).

Frank chronicles his two year journey through boot camp, and then his years in Europe on the Red Ball Express. At the same time, numbered letters were being sent from home. These writings were mailed nearly every day and reported the most mundane of home news.

These scripts not only reveal personal family trials, but also the affect WWII had on nearly every home in Tyler and the town itself. Presented in the style of Love Letters by A.R. Gurney, the letters are read while the cast members stand behind the audience. Viewers see images of the letters and photos as sounds of era songs play faintly in the background.

“A library is not a luxury, but one of the necessities of life.”
- Henry Ward Beecher

Library Welcome Tent
Aug 26 & 27
7am-Noon
Between the ponds
Need help finding classes?
Buildings? Want some free supplies?

UPCOMING LIBRARY EVENTS

August 1-30
LBJ Day Exhibit

September 22-28
Banned Books Week

September 1-30
Constitution Day Display

September 17
Constitution Day

October 1-31
Spanish Heritage Month Display

November 1-30
Thanksgiving Display and Native Americans Month

December 1-31
Christmas Décor/Display; Aids Awareness; Bill of Rights Day
MEET YOUR SUBJECT LIBRARIANS

Here at UT Tyler we have a special group of librarians who take care of the subject needs for all of our Schools. These librarians are responsible for all of the needs of their subject departments including student and faculty research. From book selection to the research guides, these librarians take care of you even when you are not thinking about the library.

Michael Skinner is the Health, Kinesiology, Nursing, and Religion Librarian. Michael comes to us by way of Baylor University where he was the Religion and Philosophy Librarian and studying nursing. He has keen amateur interests in metaphysics, cosmology and the history of science. When he’s not serving our students, Mr. Skinner likes to cook (makes a mean lemon cheesecake), play the guitar and spin the odd pun on FaceBook. Did we mention he also lived in Australia for many years?

Spencer Acadia is the librarian to the Business fields of Accounting, Human Resource Development, Finance, Management, Marketing, and Public Administration; Psychology and Counseling; and the social sciences of Anthropology, Economics, and Sociology. Dr. Acadia has a background in both psychology and sociology. He has taught courses in the social and behavioral sciences, published in several peer-reviewed sociology and library science journals, presented at international conferences, and been awarded several grants. His non-academic interests include listening to 80’s new wave music, reading books about alternative realities, and finding amusement from memes and YouTube videos of cats.

Vandy Dubre is the Art, Literature, Languages, and Music Librarian. In addition to her work in the library, Ms. Vandy (as she is known to her students) can also be seen working with the student musicals, attending art exhibitions on campus, prowling through the tombs of the reference stacks or the archives of local historic homes. Ms Dubre also presents research on local history topics such as “The Life and Times of Sarah McClendon”, “The Bonner Family Exhibit”, and “Letters of Home: War and Love”.

Vicki Betts is the Criminal Justice, Education, Geography, History, Political Science, and Pre-Law Librarian. In addition to her diligent work keeping resources available to our students, Vicki Betts is also a renowned researcher in history specifically for her work on Southern newspapers. Ms Betts also has a large CV of publishing/presentations on various local history topics such as the Great Tyler Chicken War, Suffragettes in Smith County, Women in the South during the Civil War, and the Southern homespun movement to list a few.

ISABEL ALTAMARANO

The new STEM (Sciences, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Liaison librarian is Isabel Altamirano. A native of New Orleans, she has B.S. degrees in biology and electrical engineering from the University of New Orleans. She has worked in mobile communications companies, environmental inspection, and software/hardware support. She graduated from Louisiana State University in mid-August 2013, with her Master’s of Library and Information Science degree. During the next six days, she drove from New Orleans to Tyler, found a place to live, transferred all automobile-related paperwork to Texas, and started working at the Muntz Library. She enjoys reading international fiction and dystopian novels, and looks forward to learning more about East Texas.
ALMA RAVENELL

Alma Ravenell joined the Muntz Library team on July 8th. She comes to us from Wiley College in Marshall, Texas where she served as Director of Library Services for four years. Preceding her time at Wiley, she served as Manager of Instructional Services and Reference for seven years at East Texas Baptist University. Mrs. Ravenell worked briefly in public schools (Hallsville, Texas) before deciding to choose a career in academic libraries. Outside of the library, Mrs. Ravenell enjoys reading, cooking, writing, art, meditating, walking, traveling, and spending time with her family. She faithfully attempts gardening each year and has lost many plants in the process. She is married to Donald Ravenell and they have one son, Mario.

Mrs. Ravenell’s role at Muntz Library is serving as Head of Public Services. She holds a Masters of Science in Information Science (MSIS) and a Bachelor's Degree in Organizational Management. She looks forward to many years with UT Tyler at Muntz Library.

“Each day we should do our best to do that which we are called to do—and do it as though this will be our last day to do it!” - Anonymous

EDIBLE BOOKS

~April Borromeo

Once a year on a magical, magical, day our most beloved books and most tasty treats come together in a mad celebration of “literal gastronomy”. On this day, Edible Books Day, we celebrate books literally as food for thoughts. Normally held on April 1st, we, your librarians and library staff, partook in a test run celebration in honor of July, National Picnic Month. Oh how The Grapes of Wrath deliciously sank down to our bellies! How, indeed, could we eat those fried worms? To even think of eating that “radiant” pig from Charlotte’s Web! And to gorge on salami ‘wich trials like a mob in The Crucible! Yet, feast we did on these wonderful literary delicacies. A satisfied thanks to all who participated in filling our stomachs with the books that mark our culture. Look forward to April 1st for a formal celebration. Have books and recipes in your thoughts!

Cooks and Books

Left to right: Alma Ravenell (Librarian) – How to Eat Fried Worms; Terra Bianchi (Librarian) – Charlotte’s Web; Tiffany Lemaistre (Librarian) – Grapes of Wrath; April Borromeo (Library Assistant) – The Crucible (Salem Witch Trials); Michael Skinner (Librarian) – Cloud Atlas; Vandy Dubre (Librarian) – Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons
Swoop Search Results

During finals week in the spring semester the library offered free coffee coupons to 25 students who participated in a usability test of the library’s search tool, SwoopSearch. SwoopSearch is the big orange search box on the library website which contains listings of all of the library’s books, ebooks, audiovisual materials, and many of the articles and streaming media in our 150+ databases. The usability test took about 15 minutes per person and students were asked to perform a search and limit their results to find materials.

Overall, students participating were happy with SwoopSearch. Of the students that participated 96% agreed that it was easy to find relevant results using SwoopSearch. Ninety two percent said SwoopSearch would be a useful tool for their personal research or coursework. We did discover that many students didn’t know about SwoopSearch or weren’t aware that they could limit their results to just books. If the Books option doesn’t appear on the left hand side under Format you can click “Show More” to select it. Some people also had trouble finding the full text of ebooks from SwoopSearch and we are working on ways to make that more clear. In the meantime, look for the “Click here to view this ebook” hyperlink on your results list.

We received some excellent feedback on how to make SwoopSearch a better tool for you, but we need more. If you have any ideas on how to improve SwoopSearch or if you are interested in participating in a future usability study please contact Margo Duncan (mduncan@uttyler.edu) or Tiffany LeMaistre (tlemaistre@uttyler.edu).