

Mane Lines

A PUBLICATION OF SIMS LIBRARY, SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA UNIVERSITY

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November 2009

From the Director

As I write this, the weather is finally realizing that autumn has arrived; the temperatures have dropped to more comfortable levels and the seemingly incessant rain has stopped, giving us the October we long for every year, even if it's a few weeks late. Autumn calls to mind piles of burning leaves, but in the library at this time of year "burning leaves" has a different connotation.

For it is in the fall that the American Library Association celebrates the Freedom to Read with its annual "Banned Books Week," in which attention is drawn to the many hundreds of books that, over the years, have been either banned or challenged. The Diversity Committee of Sims Library takes part in the remembrance with a month-long, eye-catching display featuring many such banned and challenged titles.

In the past we've used chained books, a wall of banned books, and a startling figure of someone setting a match to a pile of books to get our point across. This year we adapted classic sci-fi/horror film posters to spread the message of intellectual freedom. "The Censors from the Black Lagoon" and "The Day the Books Were Banned", two such examples, provide a somewhat humorous yet still serious method of demonstrating what can happen when this freedom is denied. Our exhibition, "The Day the Books were Banned," is beautifully enhanced by the impressive graphical talents of Robin Rodrigue, who works in the Center for Faculty Excellence.

Students are always surprised to see that favorite titles from their pre-teen years appear in the cases, and some have been heard to state their intent to read some titles by banned authors. What I always remember when I see the finished display each year is that, while we are so lucky to

be living in a country that protects our various freedoms, we still need to be attentive to efforts by some to erode those freedoms because of personal, political, or religious beliefs.

Celebrate Banned Books with us! The display runs from September 26 through November 8 and is located on the second floor of the library. Read a challenged book, and appreciate the fact that you can.

—Eric Johnson, Director

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The Sims Library Diversity Committee stands with their Banned Books Week Exhibition. From left to right: Belita Schilling, James Lovitt, Mary Lou Strong, Penny Hecker, Ginger Newman, Director Eric Johnson, Barbara West (not pictured)

Joining the Facebook Family

Recently the Sims Memorial Library became one of the millions of users of Facebook, the social utility that connects people with friends, co-workers, and colleagues. The library is using the service to share information about library resources, activities, and events. Facebook is yet another forum by which the library can communicate with our patrons. We can receive feedback, answer your questions and just get to know you better through Facebook.

We invite all members of the Southeastern community as well as our friends and patrons to become fans of the Sims Library through Facebook.

—Lynette Ralph, Assistant Director



Sims Library is now on Facebook!



The newly improved reference area in fall of 2009.

“STUDENTS RETURNED IN THE FALL 2009 SEMESTER TO AN OPEN, BRIGHTER SPACE.”

Changes to our Reference Area

Beginning in 2006, Sims Library staff began planning changes to the library to enhance student access to computers, printers, scanners, quiet study space, and collaborative learning and work space. Libraries across the county have moved to this model, which is often called an Information Commons.

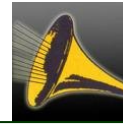
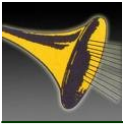
Consultants visited our library, met with library personnel and university administrators in October 2007 and May 2008, and, as funding became available, change happened. The Information Desk, formerly in the Lobby area, was dismantled. New carpeting was installed in 2007 and early 2008. New PCs and a scanner for student use were installed in the Reference area in March 2008.

Most recently, during the summer of 2009, contractors removed some dated lighting fixtures and re-painted the atrium ceiling. The glass wall which separated the lobby from the Reference Room was removed to provide a more open feeling. The Wall of Honor that acknowledges University supporters was relocated to the southeast wall of the lobby.

Hanging signs were added to help visitors identify the different service areas on the first floor: Interlibrary Loan, Reserve Department, Government Documents Department, Circulation Department and Reference Desk. A third printer was added to the Reference area to improve printing turnaround time.

Students returned in the fall 2009 semester to an open, brighter space. Additional enhancements are planned in the near future, and include new lighting fixtures in the lobby area and new wooden desks for collaborative computer work on the east side of the reference area, just opposite the Circulation Desk. Some additional computers will be added to ease congestion during peak usage. These improvements to the Reference area on the library's first floor are just some of the visible results of ongoing efforts to improve the look and feel of Sims Library while also providing a technology-rich environment for students.

—Beth Stahr, Head of Reference



Tenure and Promotion News from 2008 - 2009

Compiled by interviewer Leslie Davis

Since 2008, four Southeastern librarians have been either promoted or earned both tenure and promotion. The staff of Mane Lines congratulates Beth Stahr, Angela Dunnington, Ladonna Guillot, and Dayne Sherman for their recent professional accomplishments. We highlight their activities at Southeastern and Sims Library below.

Beth Stahr first came to Sims Library in spring of 1999 as an unpaid intern and worked with Eric Johnson to create and implement a user survey for the library. Next, she taught six sections of LS 102 as a temporary full-time instructor during fall 1999 and spring 2000. Her first permanent full-time position was as Reference/Distance Learning Librarian which began in June of 2000.

By 2006 Beth earned tenure and was promoted from Assistant Librarian to Associate Librarian and was also named as the Interim Head of Reference at Sims. She was promoted to Head of Reference and Instruction in June 2008.

When asked what she enjoys the most about being a librarian, Beth had this to say:

"It's really difficult to identify a single most enjoyable aspect of librarianship. The excitement and mystery of what each new work day brings is part of what I enjoy. I like the variety of activity in my current position. I enjoy the traditional public service role of librarians like helping people find information; I enjoy the questions that we answer at the reference desk. I've had the great opportunity to administer some innovative service models, including the virtual reference and the text message reference services. I find the transcripts of the virtual reference sessions to be really fascinating.

"I like teaching the Library Science class, but I also enjoy the single-session bibliographic instruction sessions. It's very gratifying to help students learn how to find resources for their course work. My current position also involves planning, implementing and coordinating the various activities in the Reference Department which has been a huge challenge in our busy library building. University committees and my work with staff from the Center for Faculty Excellence allowed me to build relationships outside the library. We work with a very supportive and gracious staff and faculty at Sims Library, and I have enjoyed partnering with them in all the different positions I've held."



Beth Stahr, Head of Reference and Instruction

"IT'S REALLY DIFFICULT TO IDENTIFY A SINGLE MOST ENJOYABLE ASPECT OF LIBRARIANSHIP. THE EXCITEMENT AND MYSTERY OF WHAT EACH NEW WORK DAY BRINGS IS PART OF WHAT I ENJOY."

Angela Dunnington, Library Science 102 Coordinator, began her employment with Southeastern in January of 2002 as a Reference/Instruction Librarian in Sims Library. By 2003, she was hired as Library Science (LS) 102 Coordinator. As LS 102 Coordinator, Angela oversees curriculum development, implementation, analysis, and assessment of the library's for-credit instruction program.

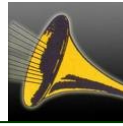
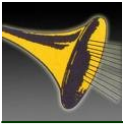
What does she enjoy most about being a librarian? Angela says, "I really enjoy working in an academic library environment, especially assisting students in finding the information they need."

Angela earned tenure and was promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor on August 18, 2008.

"I REALLY ENJOY WORKING IN AN ACADEMIC LIBRARY ENVIRONMENT, ESPECIALLY ASSISTING STUDENTS IN FINDING THE INFORMATION THEY NEED."



Angela Dunnington, Library Science 102 Coordinator



Tenure and Promotion News from 2008 - 2009 continued

Our Health Services Librarian and Head of the Baton Rouge Nursing Library, **Ladonna Guillot**, began at Southeastern in 2002. To Ladonna, working with the nursing students and the School of Nursing faculty at the Baton Rouge and Hammond campuses is the best part of her job.

Ladonna describes an assignment on historical public health crises with which she frequently assists students: "My favorite reference assignment is helping students identify a public health crisis from each century, because it combines my love of history with medicine and nursing. Did you know lead poisoning was pervasive during the Roman Empire due to early plumbing techniques? There were at least five cholera pandemics in the 19th century and a Spanish flu pandemic in the early 20th century. Each student has to come up with a different crisis, and that is often a real reference challenge!"

Ladonna earned tenure and was promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor on August 28, 2009.



Ladonna Guillot, Health Sciences Librarian

"MY FAVORITE REFERENCE ASSIGNMENT IS HELPING STUDENTS IDENTIFY A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS FROM EACH CENTURY, BECAUSE IT COMBINES MY LOVE OF HISTORY WITH MEDICINE AND NURSING."

Dayne Sherman began his position as a Sims librarian in 2003. His first job title was Reference/Instruction Librarian and he was later promoted to Coordinator of User Education in 2006. Dayne has distinguished himself by publishing his first novel in 2004, "Welcome to the Fallen Paradise: A Novel." He was awarded Southeastern's President's Award for Excellence in Artistic Activity in 2005, and he recently completed a Master of Arts in English at Southeastern in 2008.

When asked what he enjoys most about being a librarian, Dayne comments, "The books. I love books. And databases, like World Cat and Dissertation Abstracts. If you have not found the excitement of using these two databases, you are missing out. Interlibrary loan is the coolest, and I have been using it since I was twelve or thirteen years old."

Dayne earned tenure and was promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor on August 28, 2009.

"I LOVE BOOKS. AND DATABASES, LIKE **WORLD CAT** AND **DISSERTATION ABSTRACTS**. IF YOU HAVE NOT FOUND THE EXCITEMENT OF USING THESE TWO DATABASES, YOU ARE MISSING OUT."



Dayne Sherman, Coordinator of User Education

Photo by Chris Johns

Sims Staff Bids Fond Farewells to Karen Jung and Gayle Riché

Karen Jung

In early June of this year, we said goodbye to **Karen Jung**, Sims Library's Head of Access Services and Music Cataloger. Karen came to Sims Library in March of 1994 as a music cataloger librarian so that the library could maintain and update the music collection and have a knowledgeable liaison with the growing Southeastern Music Department. Karen earned B.M., B.M.E., and M.M. degrees from Indiana University, as well as an M.L.S. degree with a music specialization. Within a short period of time, she began ordering music CDs to enhance Sims' music collection and worked with the music department to get the music score collection moved from the music building, where it was unsupervised, to Sims Library. She physically moved the majority of the music scores by herself on book trucks and worked with the Head of Circulation to assemble the new book shelves to accommodate the scores in the stacks.

Karen was made Head of Access Services in March, 1997. She retained her music cataloging position along with this promotion. As Head of Access Services, Karen supervised and oversaw the functions of the Circulation, Interlibrary Loan, SGA Computer Lab and Media Departments. Many changes occurred in these departments during Karen's tenure: online access to Reserve materials, e-mail overdue notices in Circulation, online ILL requests, progressive ILL programs such as Ariel, Illiad, and Odyssey, and in-house laptop checkout. She oversaw several physical, organizational, and personnel changes to enhance Access Services to the users.

In addition to Karen's duties as library liaison for the music department, she taught both undergraduate and graduate courses in the music department, gave music bibliography sessions to upon request, taught cello lessons, and performed with the University's orchestra. She assisted innumerable music students in their library research. Her combined knowledge of music and library resources will be sorely missed by both the Sims Library and the Southeastern Music Department.

As if all of the above were not enough, Karen served on several university committees, most notably as Chair of the Technology Advisory Committee for several years. She was also the Sims Library Webmaster, the duties of which included redesigning and updating the webpage to accurately reflect the library's resources and services.

Karen has moved with her family to Brunswick, Maine, and taken a position as the Music Librarian at Bowdoin College. We would like to wish Karen the best in her current and future endeavors and sincerely thank her for her contributions to the Sims Memorial Library, especially the Access Services Departments, and to the University.

—Betty Burroughs, Circulation/Reserve Department Supervisor

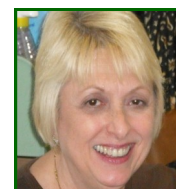
Gayle Riché

For this issue of Mane Lines, I had the opportunity to interview **Gayle Riché** as she prepared for her retirement after 10 years at Sims Memorial Library. Gayle began working for Sims in the Circulation Department in December of 1993 until July of 2000 when she moved to Waveland, Mississippi. After Hurricane Katrina, she was blown back to Louisiana and returned to the library in July 2006 in the Media Department. Over the length of her career she has noticed many changes in Sims Library and on campus. Computers were purchased and installed first in the Reference room and then the rest of the library. She watched as Sims grew from simply being the place where students check out books, to the heart of the campus with books, computers, and coffee shop— everything students think they need to have a successful college life. As technology on campus changed she learned to adapt with the times, moving from books to computers, from floppy disks to jump-drives. Now as she prepares for her retirement she looks forward to finishing building her house, visiting her godchildren and volunteering at church. We wish her the best of luck and a happy retirement.

—Bethany Simpson, Evening Media Supervisor



“KAREN HAS MOVED WITH HER FAMILY TO BRUNSWICK, MAINE, AND HAS TAKEN A POSITION AS THE MUSIC LIBRARIAN AT BOWDOIN COLLEGE.”



“SHE [GAYLE] WATCHED AS THE LIBRARY GREW FROM SIMPLY BEING THE PLACE WHERE STUDENTS CHECK OUT BOOKS, TO THE HEART OF THE CAMPUS WITH BOOKS, COMPUTERS, AND COFFEE SHOP...”

Getting to Know You

Several librarians began working at Sims in 2007. *Mane Lines* will be running a series of biographical profiles from these relatively new librarians. This issue presents James Lovitt, Reference and Instruction Librarian.

James Lovitt is originally a native of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, and has several degrees from different institutions in that region. He moved to Hammond in August 2007 to work for Sims Memorial Library.

James earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Simon Fraser University in the summer of 1995 with a major in English Literature, and an extended minor in Linguistics with additional foci on Psychology and Creative Writing. While attending SFU he became involved with a university placement program and spent a semester working in Victoria for the Ministry of Forests – Library Division creating a bibliography of high-demand articles for dissemination. He then proceeded to work two and a half years as a student assistant in the W.A.C. Bennett Memorial Library performing shelf-reading and sorting. James also received his T.E.S.O.L. (Teacher of English to Speakers of Other Languages) Certification in the fall of 1995 while attending SFU.

After graduating from SFU, James spent two years working as a library assistant at Canadian International College for Japanese foreign exchange students in Vancouver. He then accepted a position and moved to Japan for three years to work as an E.S.L. teacher. While there he lived in Susono, a small Japanese village, in the shadow of Mount Fuji, for one year, and then moved to a coastal town, Shimada, in the heart of the Japanese tea growing community, where he remained for two years.

Returning to Canada, James then received his Master's Degree in Library and Information Science at the University of British Columbia in 2004. While working on his degree, James had the opportunity to do his practicum at the University of Toronto in the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library where he learned to catalog rare 16th and 17th century manuscripts and monographs. He also helped create an annotated bibliography of rare 18th century log books in the UBC Rare Books and Special Collections Library. James's first job was working as a cataloger for SFU's Special Collections and Rare Books Library. He then worked for a year at the University of Northern British Columbia as a reference and instruction librarian. Following this he worked for several public and academic libraries as a reference/instruction librarian in Vancouver before accepting a position at Southeastern in 2007.

In his spare time James enjoys doing stargazing with the Pontchartrain Astronomy Society, singing with the North Shore Choir, cooking, and raising tropical fish.

—James Lovitt, Reference/Instruction Librarian

Diving Into Immersion

This past summer, I was honored to attend the *Immersion* program which is offered annually by the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL). *Immersion* exists to give teaching librarians, who often do not have strong backgrounds in education theory, exposure to current trends in instruction and information literacy. It's called "Immersion" because librarians are literally immersed in classes for four days straight from about 8 AM until about 5 PM and, even on the fifth and final day, have sessions to attend from 8 AM until noon, when most attendees leave for the airport to return to their relatively un-immersed lives. Immersion is held in different places in the U.S.; this year I attended classes at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida.

At *Immersion* I took part in Teacher Track sessions on learning theories, learning styles, assessment, student-centered learning, active learning, presentation techniques, and teaching creatively. I have been percolating on several ideas and innovations to overhaul my current method of LS 102 instruction since my time in St. Petersburg. I want my instruction to be more student-centered with an increased active learning emphasis. I will undertake my revision of LS 102 during the summer of 2010 and will implement most or all of my changes beginning in the fall 2010 semester.

—Penny Hecker, Reference/Instruction Librarian

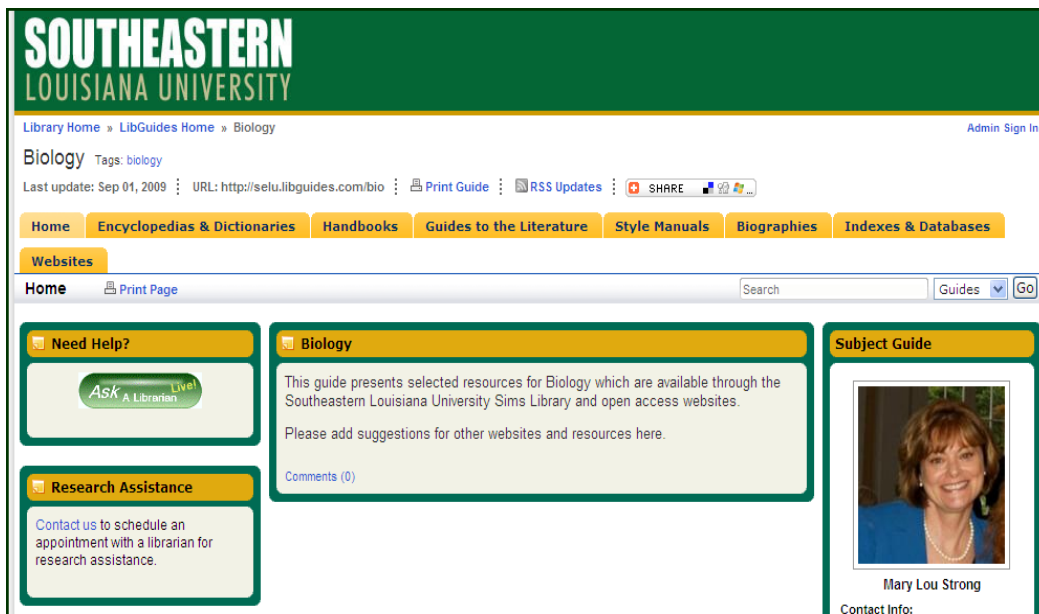


"...HE [JAMES] LEARNED TO CATALOG RARE 16TH AND 17TH CENTURY MANUSCRIPTS AND MONOGRAPHS."



"I WANT MY INSTRUCTION TO BE MORE STUDENT-CENTERED WITH AN INCREASED ACTIVE LEARNING EMPHASIS."

LibGuides Replace Former Research Guides



A screen shot of the new LibGuides, featuring the Biology page with Mary Lou Strong, Sims Library's liaison to Biological Sciences.

Sims Library has a new resource for research, **LibGuides**. The guides are arranged by subject and are available on the Library's Web page: <http://selu.libguides.com>. They list recommended print and electronic resources for most academic disciplines.

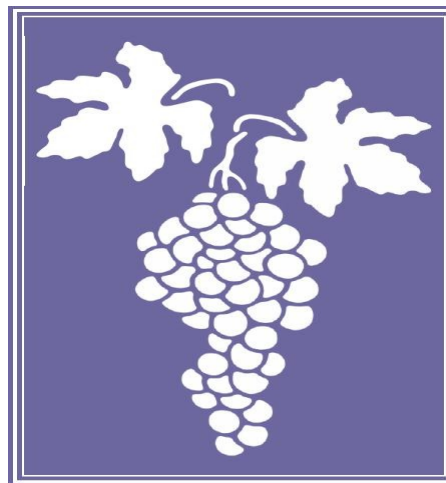
Over sixty guides strong, the project is a work in progress; many guides are currently being updated, while others are being added to accommodate student and faculty research needs. To suggest new LibGuides or to recommend resources, please contact Dayne Sherman: dsherman@selu.edu.

Upcoming Friends of Sims Library Event!

WINE WITH FRIENDS

FoSL – the Friends of Sims Library – is hosting a wine tasting on Friday, November 13, 2009, in Sims Memorial Library on the campus of Southeastern Louisiana University. Tickets are \$30 for individuals, \$50 for couples. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; the tasting starts at 7:00. Wines from around the world will be featured. Hors d'oeuvres will be served as well. Payment is expected in advance, and no tickets will be sold at the door. Space is limited, so make your reservations early. All proceeds benefit FoSL, a nonprofit organization that supports the activities and collections of the Linus A. Sims Memorial Library at Southeastern Louisiana University. To reserve a place, please call 985-549-3962 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday–Friday.

Donors: Thanks to the following businesses for donating wine-and/or food: Agape Pizzeria, Albertsons, Brady's, LeBlanc's, Mariner's Inn, Organic Planet, the Red, White & Brew, and Winn-Dixie.



Calendar of Events for Late 2009

November 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Schedule of Events

FoSL Wine Tasting on 11/13/09

Thanksgiving Holiday 11/26/09

Presidential Closures 11/25 and 11/27

December 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Schedule of Events

Presidential Closures 12/21 and 12/22

University Holidays 12/23 through 1/3

Mane Lines is published by the Sims Library Publications Committee, whose members are: Betty Burroughs, Leslie Davis, Penny Hecker (2009-2010 Chair), Melanie King, James Lovitt, and Bethany Simpson.

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