

# Mane Lines

A PUBLICATION OF SIMS LIBRARY, SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA UNIVERSITY

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## From the Director by Eric Johnson

We live in uncertain times, financially speaking. State budget problems have been affecting higher education for the past few years, and are expected to continue in the foreseeable future. How fortunate Sims Library is, then, to have been the recipient of several recent gifts and to have the support of an active Friends of the Library.

Ms. Marjorie Miller, a former cataloger at the library, passed away in the spring and generously remembered us in her will. Dr. Richard H. Collin, professor emeritus in History at the University of New Orleans, made certain before his death earlier this year that Sims Library would be the recipient of his many-thousand-volume book collection, donating books in art, history, cultural studies, literature, and a host of other topics. Mr. Donald George, Southeastern's Alumnus of the Year for 2010, donated funds to create the Donald George American Vocal Music Collection.

The Friends of Sims Library, or FoSL, has been working behind the scenes to promote Sims Library and to secure financial support for its collections and programs. Rejuvenated about three years ago, FoSL has been working diligently to raise funds through pursuing memberships; hosting a concert, two wine tastings, and an arts lecture series; and assisting in the library's annual book sale.

It is through the kindness and generosity of these individuals that the library can continue to grow and support research despite the fluctuations of the state budget. Gifts and donations such as these will be crucial in ensuring that the quality of the library does not suffer despite the fluctuations of the economy. And it goes without saying that every faculty and staff member is extremely grateful for this library support.



The Friends of Sims Library hosted a successful wine tasting and silent auction Friday, Nov 5.



Mr. Donald George, Southeastern's Alumnus of the Year for 2010, donated funds to create the Donald George American Vocal Music Collection at Sims Library.

## Editor's Welcome by Kathryn Munson

As the chair of the 2010-2011 Publications Committee, I am pleased to bring you this newest issue of Mane Lines. Thanks to all who provided content.

We hope you enjoy learning about the latest news and events at Sims Library!

## SIMS LIBRARY PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE, 2010-2011

*Kathryn Munson, Chair*

*Leslie Davis*

*James Lovitt*

*Lynette Ralph*

*Bethany Simpson*

*Cathy Tijerino*

## September Recital Features Piano Duo

by Cathy Tijerino

On September 26, the Department of Fine and Performing Arts joined Friends of Sims Library (FoSL) in hosting a recital featuring the piano duo of Kenneth Boulton and JoAnne Barry. The concert was dedicated to Ronald D. and the late Mildred Boyd Stetzel, former Southeastern music professor and local piano teacher, respectively. The couple frequently performed duo piano music together amassing a collection of over 200 duo piano scores. Dr. Ronald Stetzel is well-known in Louisiana as the co-founder of the annual Louisiana Music Teachers Association state-wide piano rally first held in 1970. He retired in 1981 after thirty years at Southeastern and now resides in Arizona.



The Sunday afternoon concert featured works from the Stetzels' collection of music for two pianos which is part of the larger collection of musical scores the couple had donated to Sims Library. Library volunteer JoAnne Barry recently inventoried the collection and became aware of the number of duo piano scores. After attending several FOSL events, Ms. Barry proposed the idea to Eric Johnson, Library Director and FOSL member, to collaborate with the Department of Fine and Performing Arts and perform pieces from the Stetzels' donation to highlight the library's collection. Ms. Barry recruited her husband and performing partner, Kenneth Boulton, an Associate Professor of Piano at Southeastern and the Interim Director of the Columbia Theatre.

"KENNETH BOULTON AND JOANNE BARRY HAVE BEEN PERFORMING BOTH PIANO DUET AND DUO CONCERTS FOR OVER 20 YEARS."

Around sixty attendees including Southeastern students and staff, FOSL and community members gathered at Pottle Recital Hall on a Sunday afternoon to hear selections from the Stetzel Duo Piano Collection.

Kenneth Boulton and JoAnne Barry have been performing both piano duet and duo concerts for over twenty years throughout the United States and Europe. Boulton and Barry have also recorded music of William Mason on the Naxos label which is available through the Naxos Music Library. Barry plans to utilize the Sims sizeable gift collection for future performances.

## Banned Books Week

by Beth West



Sims Library celebrated Banned Books Week this year from September 27 to October 2.

The first floor lobby featured a display of Banned Books from Popular Music and Librarian Beth West was a special guest on the award-winning KSLU radio program, Rock School. The show featured songs that reference banned books, with fascinating trivia about these incendiary works.

Sims also joined with the Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society and the Alpha Psi Omega Honor Society to present short readings and scenes from challenged and banned books in the Library lobby.

Thanks to all who made this year's Banned Books Week events a success!

## LOUIS Users Conference 2010

by James Lovitt

This year the Louis Library Network held its annual conference (LUC 2010) in Patrick Taylor Hall at LSU on October 21st and 22nd. The conference was well attended and hosted a large number of presentations from librarians all around Louisiana including Sims.

Due to the current financial difficulties being faced by universities in Louisiana it has become increasingly challenging for librarians to pursue professional development in Louisiana. However, with the support of LOUIS along with other organizations like the Louisiana Library Association (LLA) and the Association of College and Research Libraries – Louisiana Chapter (ACRL-LA), librarians have continued to commit themselves to excellence within both their professions and institutions.

The presentations this year were well attended and included four from Sims Library including:

- “A Five Year Review of Text Message Reference” - by Beth Stahr
- “Promoting Academic Library Services (Simple and Inexpensive Ideas)” – by Kathryn Munson and James Lovitt
- “Lessons Learned from a New Interlibrary Loan Manager” – by Kathryn Munson
- “The Library Safety Manual: Challenges and Policies for 21st Century Libraries” – Herb McGuin and James Lovitt

The conference was also an excellent opportunity to network and to discuss the ongoing changes to higher education, along with the challenges implicit in working in Louisiana. Overall, LUC was a success; not only were the accomplishments of Sims Memorial Library showcased, but the programs provided insight into the future of academic libraries in the coming decade.

## Linda Higginbotham Retires

by Leslie Davis

Linda Higginbotham began her career in the library on April 22, 1991 and retired on July 29, 2010 after 19 years of service as a dedicated classified staff member.

When Mrs. Higginbotham was first hired, the title of her position was called a Chief Clerk I but that title changed through the course of the years and she retired as a Library Specialist 2. She was hired to work in the Acquisitions Department when the library was given over a million dollars in bond money to spend on books and new materials. According to Mrs. Higginbotham, this was the most hectic and busiest time in all of the years she worked in the library. Her duties involved entering the orders for library material into the computer system, receiving the orders when they arrived and creating the invoices. She experienced many changes during her time in the library with the most significant being greater student access to technology. She believes that “Linus A. Sims Memorial Library is one of the most important and needed places on campus.”



She certainly misses the people she worked with for so long and, of course, the great lunch events. The faculty and staff here at Sims certainly miss her too!

“It is awfully quiet without her being nearby.” -Jean Caswell.

“I miss the good coffee Linda made and the fresh vegetables from her garden” -Erin Ballam.

“I miss the fresh garden vegetables, but I also miss the heart to heart talks we use to have at lunch!” -Leslie Davis.

Linda is enjoying her retirement and hopes to take a vacation soon. She is spending quality time with her two grandchildren, William, 2 years and Hayes 3 months. She loves being a Grandmother! We all wish her the best in her retirement.

## Betty Burroughs Honored With Civil Service Award Upon Retirement

by Leslie Davis



Betty Burroughs retired in August of this year and has been selected as one of twelve Louisiana Civil Service employees to receive the prestigious Charles E. Dunbar, Jr. Career Service Award for 2010. Betty began her career at Linus A. Sims Memorial Library in a classified staff position in the Cataloging Department in January 1977. At that time, the card catalog was still in use, but the library had begun using OCLC as an online provider of bibliographic records and catalog cards.

Betty moved to Denham Springs about a year after starting at Sims, so in the fall of 1981, she took an accounts receivable position in a music store in Baton Rouge to shorten her work commute. In the fall of 1982, a cataloging position opened at Sims and Betty returned to the library in basically the same position that she had when she left. While in the Cataloging Department, she cataloged books, music, audio-visual materials and performed some original cataloging. She also assisted a librarian assigned to the Government Documents Department in receiving documents when that department

lacked personnel. When positions in the Cataloging Department were upgraded, Betty supervised three classified staff and several student workers.

In 1986, the entire library was moved to a new facility and Betty, along with the Sims faculty, staff, and graduate students, assisted in moving the entire library collection. She also worked with the same librarian she assisted in Government Documents to accumulate measurements of the Serials bound collection, predict ten years growth of active titles and possible growth with new titles, then measure stacks accurately to fit the collection into designated stacks area on the third floor of the new library. The move came to within three feet (one bookshelf) of being perfectly accurate. Betty also was able to complete a Bachelors Degree in General Studies from Southeastern in December, 1987, while working in the Cataloging Department.

Betty was assigned to head the Circulation/Reserve Department in January, 1993, by former library director, Dr. F. Landon Greaves. In that position, she gained experience with the Circulation module of the NOTIS system to add to her previous experience with the Cataloging module of NOTIS. When Sims Library was without a "formal" Systems Librarian and going from a standalone NOTIS system to join the LOUIS network in 1995/96, Betty worked with Kay McIntyre (then Sims Library Director) and Kim Justice (Interim Head of Cataloging) and LOUIS personnel to set up Sims Library on the statewide network. In addition to Head of Circulation, Betty later continued as an acting library Systems person until a Systems Librarian was hired. She continued as a backup Systems person when needed for library NOTIS/SIRSI problems until her retirement at the end of August, 2010.

“ONE OF 12 LOUISIANA CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEES TO RECEIVE THE CHARLES E. DUNBAR, JR. CAREER SERVICE AWARD FOR 2010.”

Recipients of the Charles E. Dunbar, Jr. Career Service Award will be honored at a luncheon at the Doubletree Hotel in New Orleans at 12:00 noon on February 11, 2011.

## Sims Library to Host Traveling Exhibition

by Lynette Ralph

“Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War,” a traveling exhibition opening at the Linus A. Sims Memorial Library on February 9, 2011, examines how President Lincoln used the Constitution to confront three intertwined crises of the Civil War—the secession of Southern states, slavery and wartime civil liberties.

Lincoln is widely acknowledged as one of America’s greatest presidents, but his historical reputation is contested. Was he a calculating politician willing to accommodate slavery, or a principled leader justly celebrated as the Great Emancipator? This exhibition provides no easy answers. Rather, it encourages visitors to form a nuanced view of Lincoln by engaging them with Lincoln’s struggle to reconcile his policy preferences with basic American ideals of liberty and equality. This exhibition develops a more complete understanding of Abraham Lincoln as president and the Civil War as the nation’s gravest constitutional crisis.

Abraham Lincoln was elected President of the United States in 1860, at a time when the nation was on the brink of war. Lincoln struggled to resolve the basic questions that divided Americans at the most perilous moment in the nation’s history: Was the United States truly one nation, or was it a confederacy of sovereign and separate states? How could a country founded on the belief that “all men are created equal” tolerate slavery? In a national crisis, would civil liberties be secure? President Lincoln used the Constitution to confront these three crises of war, ultimately reinventing the Constitution and the promise of American life.



“We are delighted to have been selected as a site for this exhibition,” said Eric Johnson, Library Director. “Sims is one of only 25 libraries in the United States selected to host the traveling exhibition.” As a new president, Abraham Lincoln was faced with enormous challenges. This exhibition shows how Lincoln struggled with issues of secession, slavery and civil liberties—all questions our country’s founding charter left unanswered. Each section of the exhibit features information about a different aspect of Lincoln’s presidency. For example, the section about slavery examines the various policy options Lincoln once embraced and how his thoughts about slavery evolved over time.

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TRAVELING EXHIBITION”

The National Constitution Center and the American Library Association Public Programs Office organized the traveling exhibition, which was made possible by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Librarians Lynette Ralph, Mary Frances Marx, and Kathryn Munson applied for the grant and will be directing programming for the exhibit. The traveling exhibition is based on an exhibition of the same name developed by the National Constitution Center and currently touring the United States.

The traveling exhibition is composed of informative panels featuring photographic reproductions of original documents, including a draft of Lincoln’s first inaugural speech, the Emancipation Proclamation and the Thirteenth Amendment.

The library is sponsoring free programs and other events for the public in connection with the exhibition. Contact Lynette Ralph, (985) 549-3962, [lralfph@selu.edu](mailto:lralfph@selu.edu) or visit <http://www.selu.edu/library/> for more information. “Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War” will be on display at the Library from February 9 until March 25, 2011.

## “Let’s Talk Art” Lecture Series Proves Popular

by Eric Johnson



SELF-PORTRAIT, HENRY HENSCHÉ

Two years ago a collaboration between Sims Library and the then Department of Visual Arts resulted in a series of art lectures entitled "Let's Talk: Art," in which faculty in the visual arts presented one-hour lectures on topics in art history ranging from the treasures of King Tut to the Frank Gehry's splendid Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain. The series has been revived this year under the auspices of the Friends of Sims Library and the Department of Fine and Performing Arts along with a new partner, the Hammond Regional Arts Center.

Two lectures have already been presented, one at the Arts Center and one at Sims Library. In October, Dr. Irene Nero spoke on "Scratches and Hatches: Degas Pastels" in conjunction with an exhibition organized by the Degas Pastel Society. The following month, Carolyn Biggio, an Art History BA candidate here at the University, talked about Henry Hensche (*self-portrait, right*), an American Impressionist painter with ties to Louisiana.

The next two scheduled lectures are a discussion of the Minoan frescoes on the island of Akrotiri by Rachel Carazo, an Art History BA candidate, to be held on Thursday, January 27 at 5:30 p.m. at Sims Library, and a talk on Hitler and "degenerate" art by Cayla Johnson, Art History BA candidate, on Thursday, February 17 at 5:30 p.m. at the HRAC. Three more lectures, presented at either the Library or at the HRAC, will conclude the spring series.

The Library is delighted to be part of this very popular series. "Every lecture has been fascinating," said Eric Johnson, Library Director, "and Hammond is very fortunate to have the joint forces of the University and the Hammond Regional Arts Center as a cultural resource. Museums in major cities provide lectures all the time. Now we can enjoy the same benefits without having to leave Hammond." For more information on the series, or for a schedule, contact the Hammond Regional Arts Center at 542-7113.

## Senior CHAT program serves community

by Ladonna Guillot

Southeastern Louisiana University librarians Mary Lou Strong, Jean Caswell, and Ladonna Guillot were awarded a grant from the National Network/Libraries of Medicine South Central Region to instruct local senior citizens in the use of online consumer health information. The project entitled Senior CHAT (Consumer Health Awareness Training) is a cooperative venture between the Tangipahoa Parish Voluntary Council on Aging and the University. Through this program, Sims librarians provide senior citizens basic Internet usage training as well instruction in the use of MedlinePlus and NIHSeniorHealth databases.



First Senior CHAT class photo with Sims Librarians Ladonna Guillot, Mary Lou Strong, and Jean Caswell.