

# Notes & Tracings

Newsletter of the Academic Section

## *From the Chair* by Patricia Brown

### Teaching the Academic Library

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*As librarianship, education, technology, and funding continue to mutate, our professional responsibilities also widen. How might we advance these values in the next year? What could the Academic section be doing (besides working and partying at LLA)?*

Patricia Brown  
Chair

I've just come back from the annual conference in Lafayette - what good hosts those Ragin' Cajuns are! At a session on information literacy, incoming LLA president Robert Bremer commented that collaboration fits both parts of his slogan for the 2015 conference, "Evolving Libraries, Enduring Principles." Michael Gorman, a former ALA president and one of my favorite curmudgeons, has published several books about library evolution, endurance, and values. Here's his description of the results of our work in *Enduring Values* (2003): "a student from a disadvantaged background...enters the library confident that someone with an advanced degree will help her in her life-changing pursuit of education, without charge, without prejudice, and without constraint" (80).

As librarianship, education, technology, and funding continue to mutate, our professional responsibilities also widen. How might we advance these values in the next year? What could the Academic section be doing (besides working and partying at LLA)? Here are a trio of possibilities:

1. Raising awareness: what is a library for, anyhow?

The *Advocate* newspaper recently published a review of *Are Libraries Obsolete?*, by Mark Y. Herring (author of the 2001 "10 Reasons Why the Internet is Not a Library"). The print review was headlined "End of the Line for Libraries?" These titles may seem like rhetorical questions to Herring, but too many people would say, "yeah, I guess so."

The review closed with a hope that "as a civilization, we will continue to deserve the noble, thousand-year-old institution of the library." Only one thousand years? The ancient Alexandria library was destroyed longer than a thousand years ago (not to mention the Sumerian archives and Ashurbanipal's collection. See the review, by LSU history professor Andrew Burstein, at <http://theadvocate.com/entertainment/books/8734989-123/end-of-line-for-libraries>).

2. Advocating as well as enacting our values.

Service, fairness, equal access, intellectual freedom, privacy, property rights, diversity, collegiality. As a reminder, the

first item in the ALA Code of Ethics reads

We provide the highest level of service to all library users through appropriate and usefully organized resources; equitable service policies; equitable access; and accurate, unbiased, and courteous responses to all requests.

3. Teaching.

This activity combines awareness-raising, values, and library instruction. Last month a student asked for help finding a reference book for his English paper. As I began to show him the book catalog, he firmly refused to learn how to search because, he asserted, he would never need the library again: he was majoring in math. Well, I replied, you may want to read about math someday.

"You have books about math?" he whispered in a stunned voice.

I smiled and pointed. "Yes, over there in the beginning of the Q class, which starts with general works and history, then branches of mathematics--"

"You have books about the history of math?" he interrupted, his excitement growing. So

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Academic Section news

### *Academic Section Business Meeting* submitted by Melinda Matthews, Secretary

Minutes of the ACRL-LA/LLA Academic Section Meet and Greet & Business Meeting Thursday, March 27, 2014

The ACRL-LA/LLA Academic Section Meet and Greet & Business Meeting occurred Thursday March 27, 2014, 4:00pm-6:00pm at the LLA Annual Conference at the Lafayette Cajundome and Convention Center in Lafayette, Louisiana in the St. Martin Room. Around forty librarians attended. The group mingled for thirty minutes. A bar with wine and beer, lovely colored tortilla chips, salsa, cookies and brownies were offered. There were comments about the excellent food and how wonderful to have a bar with wine.

Chair Patricia Brown brought the LLA Academic Section meeting to order at 4:30pm. Patricia stated that former Chair Neil Guilbeau resigned during his term of office and she became chair. Brown commented there is no specific new business. She thanked Michael Matthews, Rob Bremer, and Karen Niemla for their help during her new assignment as Chair when Guilbeau left and their help keeping the office running smoothly.

Patricia Brown announced the new LLA Academic Section officers as Sonnet Ireland, Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, Melinda F. Matthews, Secretary, and Academic Section Representative of *Louisiana Libraries* Editorial Board, Jeremiah Paschke-Wood. Patricia Brown announced the President of ACRL-LA Karen Niemla will disclose the ACRL-LA news. Patricia Brown showed the group the latest issue of *Notes & Tracings*. Susan Richard, editor, said to mention the winner of the LLA Academic Section Outstanding Academic Librarian Award is Elaine Smyth.

Karen Niemla stated the ACRL-LA officers' election will be soon and asked for volunteers to nominate themselves or others. Karen Niemla said she will probably not run for President again. Karen encouraged volunteers to submit book review manuscripts and article manuscripts to the ACRL-LA online periodical, *Codex*.

It was noted that the Awards Ceremony was great. Dean Beth Paskoff stated she is retiring in June after working with libraries fifty years. Rob Bremer, LLA President 2015, invited everyone to come to the Shreveport LLA Conference, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup>, at the Shreveport Convention Center. Rob said he will be asking for volunteers for the LLA Conference such as serving on the Exhibits Committee. He and Karen Cook served on it before. Sara Zimmerman took a picture of the group.

Patricia Brown ended the business meeting at 4:40 pm with the statement "go back to meeting, eating, and greeting." The Meet and Greet ended at 6:00 pm.

### *Officers Elected*

2014-2015 Academic Section Officers

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Patricia Brown, LSUE - Chair  
 Sonnet Ireland, UNO - Vice-Chair  
 Melinda F. Matthews, ULM - Secretary



### *From the Chair* cont.

(Continued from page 1)

I showed him. We're a library, for goodness' sake; why wouldn't we have books even about math? How can college students at whatever level not know that? And how can we overcome the obstacles to the public's understanding of libraries, most of which are paid for by their tax dollars?

At next year's conference in Shreveport, I hope to sponsor a "future of the Academic Section" discussion, either at the Meet and Greet/Business Meeting or as a stand-alone session. Please send your suggestions or thoughts about this to [pbrown@lsue.edu](mailto:pbrown@lsue.edu).

Have a good summer.

# Library news

## Centenary College *submitted by Kristi Kohl*



Photo submitted by Kristi Kohl, Centenary College

Centenary College's Magale Library hosted Dr. Bennet Sewell's traveling exhibit "It's What You Make of It, A Celebration of Life" during the month of March. Dr. Sewell led a discussion on March 11th about his photographic, narrative exhibit. His talk focused on the struggle between serving self and society, the natural tendency for people over the age of 75 to reflect on their lives, and the significance of interpersonal relationships during the aging process. The exhibit and discussion were free and open to the public. Nearly 40 students, faculty, staff and community members attended the discussion, and over 200 students viewed the exhibit during March.

The traveling exhibit "It's What you Make of It" is based on interviews Dr. Sewell completed with 24 individuals over the age of 75. Dr. Sewell asked people to share their life experiences, prompting them with questions such as What was it like growing up during the Great Depression? What was your working life like? Where are you presently? What are your hardships and joys? Photos of the participants, captured by photographer Brian Lewis,

were also included in the exhibit.

Dr. Sewell is a retired pathologist and lives in Shreveport. Please contact Kristi Kohl, Reference/eResource/Web Librarian at [kkohl@centenary.edu](mailto:kkohl@centenary.edu) or (318)869-4057 if you are interested in displaying Dr. Sewell's photographic/narrative exhibit in your library.

## Louisiana State University *submitted by Lois Kuyper-Rushing*

**David Comeaux's** article, "Accessibility of Academic Library Web Sites in North America: Current Status and Trends (2002-2012)" has received the 2014 "Outstanding Paper" Award for Excellence by *Library Hi Tech*. Read the article here: [www.emeraldgroupublishing.com/authors/literati/awards.htm?year=2014&journal=lh](http://www.emeraldgroupublishing.com/authors/literati/awards.htm?year=2014&journal=lh). David serves as Web Development Librarian.

**Linda Smith Griffin**, Head of Cataloging, is the recipient of the 2014 Louisiana Library Association Anthony H. Benoit Mid-Career Award.

**Elaine Smyth**, Interim Dean, is the recipient of the 2014 Louisiana Library Association Outstanding Academic Librarian Award.

**Stephen Bensman**, Cataloger, recently published, along with Lawrence J. Smolinsky and Daniel S. Sage, *Comparison of the Research Effectiveness of Chemistry Nobelists and Fields Medalist Mathematicians with Google Scholar: the Yule-Simon Model*. Available on the Web arXiv.org at the following URL: <http://arxiv.org/abs/1404.4904>.

**Cristina Caminita**, Agriculture and Instruction Librarian, was appointed co-chair of the ACRL Science and Technology (STS) section's Continuing Education Committee and to the STS Advisory Council. Cristina presented several programs at the March 2014 LLA Conference. She presented with **Jessica Lacher-Feldman**, "Libraries and Cooperative Extension: A Shared History and Mission"; with **Patricia Brown**, LSU Eunice, and **Mitch Fontenot**, "Information Literacy in the Transition from High School to College: New Technology for New Students"; and with **Gina Costello**, "Sweetening the Deal: A Digitization Partnership between LSU Libraries and the LSU AgCenter Sugar Research Station."

Cristina published the review "USDA National Agriculture Statistics Service" in the March 2014 issue of *CHOICE: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries*, and she co-curated with **Leah Jewett** the mini exhibit on display in LSU Libraries Special Collections, "Planting the Seeds of Commemoration: 100 Years of Cooperative Extension."

**Jessica Lacher-Feldman**, Head of Special Collections, recently published *Exhibits in Archives and Special Collections Libraries*. Chicago, IL: Society of American Archivists, 2013.

Hill Memorial Library is currently hosting the travelling exhibition, "I Remember: An Art Show of Environmental Significance," produced by the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) Task Force in partnership with LSU Libraries' T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History. "I Remember" will be on display through August 30th. The exhibition features oral histories, photographs and original art depicting individuals who work, live, and play in Louisiana's coastal wetlands. Archival materials from LSU Libraries Special Collections will complement "I Remember," and include an octavo edition of John J. Audubon's *Birds of America* (1840), the speech delivered by U.S. Senator John B. Breau on the occasion of his introduction of CWPPRA legislation in 1986, and close to 100 other items from every major collection within the Hill Memorial Library's holdings. Visit [exhibitions.blogs.lib.lsu.edu/](http://exhibitions.blogs.lib.lsu.edu/) for details.

Also in Hill Memorial Library, through August 23, 2014, is the exhibit "Cooperative Extension: Celebrating 100 Years" which is a preview of the Fall Exhibition commemorating the centennial of the passage of the Smith-Lever Act on May 8, 1914. This act authorized the federal government to support, with matching state funds, the establishment of the Cooperative Extension Service at the land grant colleges. The exhibit features photographs, documents and publications from the University Archives, and oral histories collected through the T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History. The exhibition is a collaborative project between LSU Libraries and the LSU College of Agriculture.

## Library news

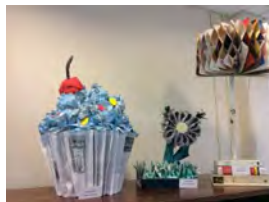
### *Louisiana State University Eunice* submitted by Patricia Brown

LeDoux Library held several events this Spring. The second annual "Refreshments: Spring Poetry," event was held on April 23. The event



2014 poetry audience

featured students, faculty, and community poets. **Patricia Brown**, Reference and Instruction Librarian, organized the event.



Book art cupcake, flower, and lamp

An exhibit featuring the artwork of the students in the ART 1001 class will be displayed throughout the Summer.

During Campus Community Day 2014, the Library organized a Cookbook exchange.

Give a book...Get a book!



Photos submitted by Patricia Brown, LSUE

### *University of Louisiana at Lafayette* submitted by Betsy Miguez

Librarians at Dupré Library were busy this spring planning for and presenting at the 2014 LLA Conference. Associate Dean **Susan Richard** and Louisiana Room Librarian **Jean Kiesel** served as co-chairs of the Publicity Committee and coordinated the poster sessions. Assistant Dean of Public Services **Betsy Miguez** and Instructional Services Librarian **Jeremiah Paschke-Wood** handled press releases for award winners. In addition, Paschke-Wood and **Emily Deal**, Distance Learning & Virtual Services Librarian, documented the conference as photographers.

**Jeremiah Paschke-Wood** organized the program "Don't Give Up: Tips for Students, Recent Grads and Job Hunters in the Library." **Allison Gal-**

**laspy**, Head of Cataloging, spoke at that program. Paschke-Wood was also a panelist for "Peaks and Pitfalls: What They Didn't Teach You in Library School."

**Sheryl M. Curry**, Head of IT & Web Services, and **Betsy Miguez** presented "New Directions for Signs: Using Digital Signage to Communicate on Campus," and **Emily Deal** spoke on the topic "Meeting Students Online: Developing Library Services for Distance Learners."

**Andrea Flockton**, Head of Collection Development, and **Heather Plaisance**, Research Librarian, participated in the poster sessions. Their topic was "Upgrades to Audiovisual Equipment at Edith Garland Dupré Library."

**Jeremiah Paschke-Wood**

was recently appointed the Academic Section representative to the *Louisiana Libraries* Editorial Board. He is also the author of "Special APA Library Leaders - APALA Founders, Dr. Sharad Kar-khanis and Dr. Suzine Har-Nicolescu," posted March 2014 on the website for the Asian Pacific American Librarians Association, an affiliate of ALA.

Special Collection Services continued its commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War with an exhibit and two talks. The exhibit in the Jefferson Caffery Reading Room, "Louisiana in the Civil War, 1864" was curated by **Jean Kiesel**. **Bruce Turner**, Assistant Dean of Special Collection Services, arranged talks by retired UL Lafayette history

professor **Judy Gentry** and local history author **Jim Bradshaw**. A grant from the Gilda Lehrman Institute of American History supported the talks.

The Library Outreach & Events Committee offered "Blind Date With a Book" selections for Valentine's Day. Committee members **Emily Deal** and **Casae Hobbs** chose a variety of library books, wrapped them in brown paper with heart decorations and short, enticing descriptions. The project ran February 11-16. It attracted many admirers.



Photo submitted by Betsy Miguez

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## *Academic Section Officers*

*2013-2014*

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Chair

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Melinda F. Matthews (University of Louisiana at Monroe)

Secretary

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### Notes & Tracings

is on the web:

[www.llaonline.org/fp/newsletters.php](http://www.llaonline.org/fp/newsletters.php)

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Susan Marshall Richard, UL Lafayette

Editor

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## *Library news*

### *University of New Orleans* submitted by Norma Mukherjee

On February 25th, **Sonnet Ireland**, Federal Documents Librarian, was one of three people participating in a GPO webinar called Using Social Media for Collection Development of eGovernment.

At the March LLA conference Sonnet led a panel called “Peaks and Pitfalls: What They Didn’t Teach You in Library School.” She also presented “Changing the Subject” with **Connie Phelps**, Chair of Library Services, and “Why Not Wikipedia? When and How It Can Work for You” with **Jennifer Jackson**, Instruction Librarian. Sonnet was also the guest speaker for the GODORT Breakfast. Her presentation was called “When the Government Hands You Lemons...Or Nothing at All: Turning a Bad Situation into a Good Opportunity.” The talk was about using social media to assist patrons with government information, including work-arounds during the federal government shutdown. On April 25th, Sonnet did a Google presentation as a Learning with LOUIS webinar: “Googling for Answers: The Ins and Outs of Using Google Effectively.” Sonnet will be the new incoming Vice Chair for the Academic Section of LLA and the new incoming 2nd Vice Chair for GODORT, starting July 1st.

**Florence M. Jumonville**, Chair of the Louisiana and Special Collections Department, contributed an article to the December 2013 issue of *LA Créole: A Journal of Creole History & Genealogy*. The article, “Is a Woman of Color a Lady?: The Case of Josephine Decuir,” drew upon testimony from the UNO Library’s Historical Archives of the Supreme Court of Louisiana to chronicle Decuir’s 1872 efforts to obtain private accommodations on a steamboat. This case, which reached the U.S. Supreme Court, set the precedent for Plessy v. Ferguson, which gave rise to the doctrine that came to be known as “separate but equal.”

In cooperation with the Department of Foreign Languages, the Earl K. Long Library prepared a small exhibit, “The French Language in Nineteenth-Century New Orleans.” The exhibit highlighted the nineteenth-century literature of American poet, novelist, and dramatist Alfred Mercier, supplemented by newspapers, sheet music, and other books and pamphlets in French that also were published locally. It coordinated with an international conference, “Emile Zola and Naturalism,” that was held on the UNO campus in March.