It began in the library...

By Fred Olness, Professor of Physics and President of the SMU Faculty Senate

As a child, I looked forward to visiting the library with my mom, finding a new book, and immersing myself in it. Jules Verne was a favorite author. His books took me on fantastic trips to mysterious islands, the center of the earth and even the moon. (That was before Neil Armstrong.)

My curiosity eventually led me from science fiction to science fact. My work today is focused on the Large Hadron Collider in Geneva, Switzerland, where we learn about nature at the highest energies and smallest scales. This curiosity was fueled by the discoveries and ideas I found as a child in library books.

I now enjoy rediscovering the books of my childhood with my children. My daughter is a bookworm who will read anything she gets her hands on, and my older son loves to write. Often the highlight of my day is reading books before bedtime with my youngest son. My love of books is a special gift I received from my parents, and I’m happy to pass it along to my children.

I’m also a history buff and enjoy reading not only those books that reflect history, but especially those that have influenced history. Reading Uncle Tom’s Cabin, I could understand how, upon meeting Harriet Beecher Stowe, Abraham Lincoln reportedly remarked, “So this is the little lady who made this big war.” Having actually seen some of the roads, dams and canals that were built by forced labor under Stalin, I appreciate why George F. Kennan called The Gulag Archipelago, “the most powerful single indictment of a political regime ever to be levied in modern times.”

As I reread these texts, I feel a thrill, realizing that these powerful words moved people to action.

SMU is fortunate to have wonderful library facilities. One of SMU’s gems is the DeGolyer Library whose holdings include rare books, manuscripts, photographs, maps and other historical treasures. Not only did Fondren Library win “Best Place to Study” in the recent Daily Campus poll, but it has over two million volumes inviting readers to two million adventures.

Mine is just one story, but imagine the host of stories that students and faculty across campus could tell.

Footnotes:

1“Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn. Speaking truth to power,” The Economist, 7 August 2008

Forty years — and counting — of Friends

In 1970, SMU Libraries needed friends. Four decades later, more than 200 book lovers and University supporters count themselves as Friends of the SMU Libraries/Colophon.

Founded as Colophon 40 years ago, the Friends intervened when a reduced University budget could not accommodate the purchase of all materials required for a flourishing library system. The original mission of promoting and enriching the resources of the SMU Libraries remains the group’s focus. To date, it has funded more than $500,000 in materials and library services.

“A central purpose of the Friends has always been to support the SMU Libraries, especially by providing funds for materials outside the normal budget,” says Mike Hazel, a Friend for more than 20 years, a two-term president and a member of the SMU Libraries Executive Board. “In the early years, these materials were generally

continued on page 2
books or periodicals. In the last two decades, they have increasingly been digital media.

"But the grants made by the Friends have always been in response to proposals submitted by the library staff, so we feel we are providing things they want and need," he adds.

In 2009, grants conferred across the University Library System totaled $5,186.

Hazel documented the first half of the Friends' history in a keepsake booklet, "Colophon: The First Twenty Years." Here, he remembers some of the highlights of the second 20 years.

- Horton Foote, John Henry Faulk, A.C. Greene and Shelby Hearon are just a few of the notable writers who have shared their perspectives in an array of book-related programs.
- Friend Jackie McElhaney spearheaded a drive to establish the Friends of the SMU Libraries Endowment Fund in 1992. This fund secures a permanent source of support for the Friends' grants program, as well as staff to implement the organization's activities.
- To mark the Friends' 25th anniversary in 1995, the organization sponsored a special exhibit of the Colophon Moderns Collection, "Visionaries & Rebels: American Literature After the Atom Bomb," with a catalog by Mary Courtney. A series of programs, including lectures, films, readings, music and a panel discussion, were held in connection with the exhibit at DeGolyer Library.

The Friends provide an annual grant for the collection, which was established by the 1971-72 membership and numbers over 1,500 significant books published in 1950 and thereafter.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Robyn O'Brien, author of *The Unhealthy Truth: How Our Food Is Making Us Sick and What We Can Do About It*, signs books after a lecture sponsored by Friends of the SMU Libraries Jan. 21. O’Brien calls herself an “unlikely crusader,” but that hasn’t kept the former financial analyst and mother of four from becoming an outspoken advocate for reform in the production and regulation of the U.S. food supply.

**Forty years continued from page 1**

This invitation for a program on printmaking illustrates the scope of topics covered by Friends’ programs through the years.

- Tables of Content, which was launched in 2000, "has proven an enjoyable and effective fundraiser," Hazel says.
- The annual holiday lunches, held in recent years at the Royal Oaks Country Club, have featured a variety of entertaining speakers, including TV producer Bob Banner and George W. Bush Presidential Library Director Alan Lowe.

Hazel and other longtime Friends — Marshall Terry, alumnus, author, former administrator and English professor emeritus; and James E. Brooks, SMU provost emeritus and chairman of the University’s Institute for the Study of Earth and Man — will offer their reflections on the 40-year history at the Friends’ annual dinner and meeting May 3.

For more information, contact Friends of the SMU Libraries Director Amy Carver at 214-768-1939.

**User Group to further define Fondren renovation project**

Preliminary approval has been granted by the University for a major renovation project for the Fondren Library Center. A User Group has been formed to further define the project. Members include faculty, students, SMU administrators and SMU Libraries Executive Board members as well as Central University Libraries staff.

The group will advise the project manager, Philip A. Jabour, AIA, on the program needs and will coordinate the development of the formal program with the design team. Watch for further details this fall!

Central University Libraries User Group Members:

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<th>Gillian M. McCombs, chair</th>
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<td>Jason Ballman</td>
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Friends of the SMU Libraries welcomes a new generation of supporters to its ranks with the Young Literati.

Creation of the Young Literati came after the board looked at membership trends and "saw a distinct gap in young supporters," says Valentina Doyon, who serves on the Friends Board of Directors and as president of Young Literati. "An active, under-50 membership is necessary to ensure the long-term growth and continued effectiveness of the Friends." Membership is available to supporters under age 50 with a minimum contribution of $25.

The Young Literati shares the Friends’ goals of promoting and enriching the resources, services and operations of the 11 SMU libraries, she explains. "However, what sets this group apart is the opportunity for young book lovers to socialize and network with peers as they become involved in a worthy organization."

Last summer, about a dozen people joined at the first meeting. This year membership is growing, often one conversation at time. "When I first mention it to young professionals, they immediately think that it’s only for SMU alumni," she says, "and that’s certainly not the case. We welcome anyone interested in books and libraries."

Doyon’s enthusiasm for the written word fuels a desire to ensure the future vitality of SMU Libraries. "I have always been passionate about education and supporting libraries, mainly because my parents are book lovers," she says.

She is the daughter of Michael and Missy Collins of Dallas, longtime members of the Friends. There was no TV in their home, so Doyon relied on books for entertainment. She remembers the Preston-Royal branch of the Dallas Public Libraries as her home away from home. "My brother and I devoured books and went to the library almost every day."

As a child she loved the Berenstain Bears books and calls Crime and Punishment by Fyodor Dostoevsky her all-time favorite.

"My father’s an attorney, so the legal angle intrigued me, and I appreciate the dark humor," she says.

The Young Literati represents an added dimension of support as SMU Libraries move forward to meet the challenges of the digital information age, Doyon says. "In this online world, a lot of young people think libraries are antiquated," she explains. "My hope is the Young Literati will help educate them on the treasures we have in the SMU Libraries and get them involved and excited about the future."

Join Young Literati

Membership in Young Literati is open to anyone under age 50. Join online at smu.edu/libraries/friends.

For more information, please contact:
Amy Carver, director, acarver@smu.edu; 214-768-1939
Cindy Ruppi, coordinator, cruppi@smu.edu; 214-768-3815

Digital collections open an online window to the past

Four cowboys, two on horseback, gather in front of a small, thatched-roof shack. It’s not much, but it’s home.

This ca. 1900 picture (shown right), which was taken on a ranch near Barstow, in West Texas, is just one of 263 photographs from the Central University Libraries’ “Lawrence T. Jones III Texas Photographs Collection” that can be viewed online.

Selections from the prized collection of 5,000 early Texas-related photographs are among the latest additions to the CUL digital collections.

“We’re digitizing as many rare and unique photographs, manuscripts and imprints as we possibly can,” says Cindy Boeke, the digital collections developer for the CUL’s Norwich Center for Digital Services. "In almost two years, we’ve gone from three digital collections to 19, of various sizes.

A total of 3,283 items from the DeGolyer Library, the Hamon Arts Library, SMU-in-Taos, CUL’s Government Information Department, SMU Archives and the Edwin J. Foscue Map Library have been digitized and made available on the CUL Digital Collections Web page. Each item contains information, such as author, date created, description, notes, digitization details and more.

Anyone with an Internet connection can view the files, making them a boon to scholars, researchers and history buffs located anywhere in the world. Boeke uses Google Analytics, a Web tool that offers detailed visitor statistics, to track viewings. In November 2009, for example, the digital collections received 3,593 visits and 31,321 page views.

"Page views were up by 20 percent over October, indicating that people are looking at more items when they come to our collections,” Boeke explains.

The “Lawrence T. Jones III Texas Photographs Collection” recorded the highest usage in that month. "Civil War: Photographs, Manuscripts, and Imprints" also was popular, she says. Both were added to the Web site last summer.

“These collections offer a rare glimpse into social and domestic history,” Boeke says. “They are used by people examining a wide range of topics, from the history of ranching and agriculture to fashion.”

The Civil War collection is notable for pictures taken in 1884 by brothers T. Dwight Biscoe (1840-1930) and Walter S. Biscoe (1853-1933). They primarily photographed Civil War battlefields and cemeteries in Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania.

The newest digital collection, “Southern Methodist University Campus Memories,” is a sampling of 188 photographs from the SMU Archives.

"As we head toward the Centennial, more images will be added," Boeke says.

Visit digitalcollections.smu.edu/all/cul to see the collections.
Board Chair Win Padgett’s interests intersect at SMU Libraries

Win Padgett’s appreciation for books goes beyond the written word. As a third-generation printer, he respects each element of the creative process, from the binding to the bibliography.

Padgett, chair of SMU Libraries Executive Board, is the co-owner and chair of Padgett Printing, which was established in 1903 by his grandfather. He started a second enterprise, Padgett Performance Group, Ltd., a human resources business, in 2005.

Through collecting, Padgett combines three passions: printing, books and golf. Over the years he has amassed several hundred volumes of golf history.

"Unlike many collectors, who focus on a specific niche, mine covers the gamut: golf architecture, technique, locations and specific events."

A 1968 graduate of Princeton University, Padgett was a keen SMU student for decades. About 30 years ago, he and boyhood pal Pat Guillot, a local attorney, found a unique way to renew their friendship. They embarked on an intellectual journey through SMU’s Informal Courses for Adults. After one class, they were hooked, and until recently, participated almost every semester.

"We took turns selecting the course," Padgett explains. "We tried everything you can imagine: lots of history, art, geography and even some poetry."

As chair of the SMU Libraries Executive Board, he directs efforts to "broaden the reach" of the SMU Libraries by "attracting interested members of the community to support them and even to donate their collections and important artifacts," Padgett says.

Another emphasis: ensuring that libraries are customer-focused resources where students’ needs are monitored and addressed. "Something as simple as adjustable, more modular seating was installed because that’s what students requested," he says.

Padgett adds that "under Dean Gillian McCombs’ guidance, responding quickly and effectively to students’ questions and concerns regarding use of the library system is Job One!"

Technology produces many interesting possibilities for SMU Libraries, he continues. "Interlibrary links that tie resources together are very exciting. Imagine being able to access all library resources from one location."

SMU Libraries Executive Board visits notable libraries in L.A. area

"Under Dean Gillian McCombs’ guidance, responding quickly and effectively to students’ questions and concerns regarding use of the library system is Job One!"

Steve Weeks, a distinguished collector of the first novel of Charles Dickens, The Pickwick Papers, and Dean and Director of Central University Libraries Gillian M. McCombs examine a manuscript at an exhibition of Dickens’ first editions hosted by Weeks and his wife, Cyndi, at the Luxe Hotel Sunset Boulevard in Los Angeles.

At the Getty Center in Los Angeles, the executive board and their guests had an opportunity to tour the Getty Research Library, which focuses on the history of art, architecture and archaeology.

Maggie Hall (left) and Ann Brookshire with Air Force One at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation & Library in Simi Valley, CA.

Fred Currey (left) and Barbara and Cliff Miercort view a rare book at the Huntington Library in San Marino, CA.
There’s no lone star in badge collection

Michaux Nash Jr. loves history – and a challenge.

Three decades ago, the 1956 SMU graduate discovered a small collection of deputy sheriff badges at the Texas Rangers’ central headquarters in Waco.

“That collection gave me the idea to start my own,” Nash recalls. “I decided to collect each one of the 254 Texas county sheriff’s badges.”

When he told a Ranger friend about his ambitions, Nash was dismissed.

“He said I would never be able to do it,” Nash says. “So, of course, I had to do it.”

He wrote letters to each county sheriff, detailing his quest, and received his first badges in the 1970s. Answers varied from a simple “yes” to colorful interpretations of “no way.”

After years of phoning, coaxing and calling in favors, he ended the treasure hunt a few years ago with the final badge, from Limestone County.

The fourth-generation Dallasite and third-generation banker recently donated the comprehensive collection to DeGolyer Library.

“It truly is a one-of-a-kind collection,” says DeGolyer Library Director Russell Martin, because laws now prohibit private individuals from obtaining genuine law enforcement badges. “It can be studied by those interested in the variety of designs, and how they’ve changed over time, or by those interested in the men behind the badges, as a window on their lives and times.”

The stories surrounding the acquisitions are as distinctive as the emblems themselves. When the Brewster County sheriff turned him down, Nash took the advice of a deputy, who suggested he contact the sheriff’s wife. Several days later, the badge arrived in the mail.

Other sheriffs required a bit of arm-twisting, courtesy of Nash’s statewide network of friends, mostly banking associates. Nash was chairman, CEO and president of Dallas National Bank for 12 years. The bank merged in 2008 with American National Bank of Texas, where he now serves as executive marketing director and chairman of the Dallas Advisory Board. The constellation of law enforcement stars enjoyed pride of place in his office until it moved to the DeGolyer.

The collection even has a Hollywood connection. During the filming of The Last Picture Show (1971) in Archer City, the production designer decided the sheriff’s badge didn’t photograph well. A flashier star was made and the original star was returned to the sheriff and passed along to Nash.

Texas badges come in various sizes and shapes, he says. Most are five-sided stars, some of which are encircled by a border. All of them bear the name of the county of origin and many also are stamped with the sheriff’s name.

Border-county badges have distinguishable characteristics, he notes. “They are much like the Texas Ranger badge and made from silver or gold Mexican pesos.”

The collection is a natural extension of his interest in law enforcement and history. He was president and chairman of the Greater Dallas Crime Commission (now the North Texas Crime Commission) and has served on the board of the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum.

Parting with the prized collection "was really difficult, but I’m glad it can be seen, enjoyed and studied by those who appreciate Texas history as much as I do.”

Michaux Nash Jr. recently donated his collection of sheriff’s badges from each of Texas’ 254 counties to DeGolyer Library.
Tips for preserving family history in the digital age

When Rob Walker, director of the CUL’s Norwick Center for Digital Services, approached his mother about converting old family photos and documents to digital files, she was “really reluctant to give up any of her treasures, thinking they would be lost or destroyed,” he recalls.

Once she saw the results of digitization, however, “she could not give me the rest of the materials fast enough,” Walker says. “She liked that it was much easier to look at images on the computer, rather than digging out old photo albums.”

Converting pieces of family history from the original format, like a photograph or letter, to digital files is a practical measure for several reasons. Digital files are not only easier to view, store and share with family members, but they also provide back-up copies of originals. Anyone who is comfortable using a computer, a scanner and an external storage device, like a USB hard drive, can tackle a digitization project, Walker says. However, there is one caveat: “When items are rare or of historical value, seek the advice of professionals,” he says. The materials may need special handling to avoid damage and would not be good candidates for home digitization.

With less precious items, basic computer skills and equipment are all one needs. He shares these tips for getting started:

Photographs and historical documents

• Included with every scanner is software that allows the user to scan and save photos and documents. Images saved as uncompressed .tif file ‘masters’ can be used to create image files of any size and type for distribution.
• Scan photos at as high a resolution as possible – 300 to 1200 ppi (pixels per inch) is a good range for most photos. Scan documents at 300 ppi.

Video and audio recordings

• It is better to transfer videotape to digital files rather than moving it directly to DVD (digital video disc) or Blu-ray (a next-generation optical disc format).
• Special conversion devices are available to transfer old formats to multimedia digital files. The interface connects the original playback device – Super 8 movies require the camera, VHS tapes require a VCR – directly to the computer.
• Audio recordings should be transferred to files, not burned to CDs. iTunes software can be used for this purpose.

Think LOCKSS (Lots Of Copies Keep Stuff Safe)

• Back up your external drive to a second drive and send it to a relative for safekeeping.
• Copies also can be stored on an online server from a reputable provider. Two examples: MobileMe (apple.com/mobileme/) and Mozy (mozy.com).
• Avoid password protection of files.

For Walker, digitizing his family photographs was a labor of love. “I found negatives that were ‘lost’ in my mother’s basement. They were pictures she hadn’t seen in 40 years, and she was thrilled,” he remembers. “It’s finding these lost memories that are the real magical part of the process.”

For more information, contact Rob Walker, Norwick Center for Digital Services, 214-768-4317.

BUSH ARCHIVES SERVE AS A PRESIDENTIAL TIME CAPSULE

Alan Lowe ticked off a daunting inventory: “68 million documents, 177 million e-mails, 4 million photographs, 42,500 artifacts …”

As director of the George W. Bush Library and Museum, Lowe leads the effort to identify and catalog the vast cache of materials accumulated during the 43rd president’s two terms in office.

A group from Central University Libraries, including members of the executive board, Friends and the Campaign Steering Committee, learned about the presidential library process during a behind-the-scenes look at the Bush archives’ temporary location in Lewisville. The George W. Bush Presidential Center, which will include the library and museum, will open in 2013 at SMU.

The Office of Presidential Libraries, in the National Archives and Records Administration, oversees all presidential libraries, Lowe said. In 1955, the Presidential Libraries Act established the system of privately funded and federally maintained libraries that continues today.

Because the Bush years, 2001-2009, coincided with an upsurge in e-mail communication, the current staff of approximately 12 archivists will eventually expand to 36.

Selected gifts to former President Bush and Laura Bush will be displayed in the museum. “The gifts serve as kind of a time capsule,” said Registrar Jennifer Schulle. Bush, a former owner of the Texas Rangers, is especially fond of the baseball memorabilia, like the bat (shown left) signed by all living members of the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 2001, Schulle added.

For more information about the George W. Bush Library and Museum, visit www.georgewbushlibrary.gov.
Save the date for Tables of Content and other Friends’ programs

Please do talk during dinner

The 10th annual Tables of Content is a fundraiser for the Friends of the SMU Libraries. Notable SMU and Dallas leaders facilitate dinner discussion at each table. Guests indicate where they wish to sit when making reservations. The event will feature the “Top 10 Haute Young Authors” and the presentation of the first Annual Literati Award to James V. Hart ’69.

April 24, 6 p.m. reception, 7:15 p.m. dinner, Collins Executive Education Center, reservations required

Understanding history through letters

David J. Weber, Robert and Nancy Dedman Professor of History and director of SMU’s William P. Clements Center for Southwest Studies, will discuss Fiasco: George Clinton Gardner’s Correspondence From the U.S.-Mexico Boundary Survey 1849-1854 (SMU Press, 2010). Weber is co-editor of the collection of personal letters by Clint Gardner, who traveled for five years with a U.S. Boundary Commission survey team. The letters offer an insider’s perspective at a pivotal point in U.S.-Mexico border history. Weber edited the book with Jane Lenz Elder, reference librarian at SMU’s Bridwell Library.

April 27, 6 p.m. reception, Texana Room; 6:30 p.m. lecture and book signing, Stanley Marcus Reading Room, DeGolyer Library

Forged in Fire rescheduled

The U.S. Congress purchased Thomas Jefferson’s library for $23,950 in 1815. A fire on Christmas Eve in 1851 destroyed nearly two-thirds of the 6,487 volumes. Mark Dimunation, chief of the Library of Congress Rare Book and Special Collections Division, will share his insight about reconstructing the landmark collection in Forged in Fire: The Jefferson Collection at the Library of Congress.

April 29, 6:30 p.m. reception, 7 p.m. lecture, Elizabeth Perkins Prothro Hall, 5808 Bishop Blvd.

Celebrating four decades of Friends

Friends members James Brooks, professor emeritus of earth sciences; Mike Hazel, SMU Libraries Executive Board; and Marshall Terry, professor emeritus of English, will lead a celebration of the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Friends of the SMU Libraries/Colophon.

May 3, 6:30 p.m. annual dinner meeting, DeGolyer Library, reservations required

Visit smu.edu/libraries/friends or call 214-768-3225 for more information and reservations.