I love books and libraries because I love words. And where better than in books and libraries to find words in all their magnificent possibilities?

I am told that I see in words possibilities that others sometimes do not see. For instance, SMU’s motto Veritas Liberabit Vos — often translated as “The Truth Shall Set You Free” — contains a hidden clue about books, at least for the dwindling number of persons who have studied Latin or know a bit about etymology (and I don’t mean bugs!). You have already figured it out, haven’t you?

I see in the University’s motto an idea about the central role of books in our lives. In Latin, the word liber means “free” when used as an adjective, but it means “book” when employed as a noun. Seen in this way, SMU’s motto is not only about truth, but about a special way of finding truth — through books. Thus, an alternate translation might be: “The truth will come to you through books.”

Martin Luther and other reformers of the 16th and 17th centuries translated “The Book” (i.e., the Holy Scriptures or the Bible) from Latin into the contemporary languages of the people in their nations. The dissemination of their translations became acts of empowerment for millions of people. In the 20th century, the Chinese government printed millions of Chairman Mao’s “Little Red Book.” Thus, reading became — and continues to be — a revolutionary and subversive act.

In our own time and place, the most revolutionary and subversive places at SMU are the libraries. When students, faculty, and alumni come to the libraries, we do not merely encounter information. Ultimately, we encounter the truth.

For many moviegoers, George Stevens’ epic Giant did for Texas what Gone With The Wind did for the South. It forever burned an image in the mind about a place and its people. Yet before one location was chosen or a single actor was cast, the director asked late Dallas artist and SMU Art Professor Ed Bearden to draw the film’s storyboards.

Bearden created pen portraits of sets, scenes, and major characters that Stevens used as guides for casting, costumes, and makeup. Now his art will be the star attraction of “On Location: Sketches of the Movie Giant by Ed Bearden,” on display January 27 through April 28 at the Hawn Gallery in SMU’s Hamon Arts Library.

“This exhibition celebrates the 50th anniversary of what has been called ‘the national film of Texas,’” says historian Sam Ratcliffe (’74), head of the Bywaters Special Collections in Hamon Arts Library. Events will include an opening reception and panel discussion January 26 featuring Professor Emeritus of
Texas myths and reel legends continued from page 1

Within two days after Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast, SMU libraries began welcoming faculty members from Tulane, Loyola, and other Gulf Coast universities. Scholars relocated to the Dallas area soon settled into study areas at SMU libraries to continue their research, says CUL Dean and Director Gillian McCombs.

Stephanie Hale also has settled into a library staff position at Fondren Library. Hale worked in periodicals at Xavier University’s library in New Orleans until the hurricane hit. After evacuating to Dallas she learned of a temporary position in CUL’s Government Documents Collection at a job fair for hurricane evacuees.

“I’m very glad to be here,” she says.

Central University Libraries also assisted hurricane victims by conducting a book drive. More than 1,600 books were collected and given to the Louisiana State Library for distribution to libraries damaged by Katrina, says drive organizer Alisa Rata, music, theatre, and dance librarian.

Libraries provide hurricane relief

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Libraries: A global view — and a world of opportunities

Central University Libraries Dean and Director Gillian McCombs represented SMU internationally last August when she attended the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) conference in Oslo, Norway. She is serving a four-year term on a standing committee that discusses policy and technical issues in library services.

Why is it important for SMU to be involved in an international library organization?

It enables SMU to make connections with other libraries at an international level through services such as interlibrary loan. Right now we do very little borrowing from international libraries because it is so expensive and we don’t have agreements with international libraries. Membership in IFLA provides potential access to these libraries for our faculty. It also offers our library staff opportunities to reach out to other countries through exchange programs.

How do international libraries compare to American libraries?

We take for granted our freedom of expression, our support for libraries, and very organized library associations. Many libraries in other parts of the world are closed libraries, open only to their immediate constituents. In some countries, such as China, the Internet is very closely controlled. The United States could play a very important role in supporting libraries and literacy in Third World countries.

What are the technical issues facing libraries worldwide?

Open access to scientific journals is a hot topic. So much scientific information is controlled by the big publishers and available only by paying their very expensive subscription rates. Libraries in Africa and other poor countries don’t have the resources to subscribe. To whom does this scientific information belong? The digitization of important historic documents worldwide also is an issue. It’s important that we retain and preserve access to those documents and to cultural heritage worldwide.

When you reflect on your trip, what are your most significant memories?

I think of documentaries I saw in the Nobel Peace Center, the reminders of Norway’s occupation by the Germans during World War II, the Oslo Chamber Music Festival, and the opening of the new National Library of Norway. One of the most moving things was hearing the Norwegian author Linn Ullmann speak. She is the daughter of actress Liv Ullmann and director Ingmar Bergman. She was very understated and spoke straight from the heart. She talked about growing up with a grandmother who taught her how to read, and how books were the savior of her life, she concluded, “You are not alone when you have a book.”
A rare collection of first-edition works by Mark Twain now lines the shelves of DeGolyer Library. Dallas physician and book collector Ludwig Michael donated his collection of 33 Twain titles, assembled over 40 years. “Mark Twain is the most important Western writer,” says Russell Martin, DeGolyer Library director. “His novel, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (1885), continues to be the most read book of American literature.”

Twain, a pseudonym of Samuel Langhorne Clemens (1835-1910), is known for his humor, satire, and creation of memorable characters. He wrote 44 books and numerous short stories and nonfiction pieces for popular magazines. Nearly 100 years after his death he remains a popular subject. Actor Hal Holbrook has performed his one-man show “Mark Twain Tonight” more than 2,000 times. At age 80 he continues his latest appearance at Broadway’s Brooks Atkinson Theatre. A new Twain biography by Ron Powers, Mark Twain: A Life (Free Press, 2005), has received glowing reviews from The New York Times and Publishers Weekly.

The DeGolyer collection includes Twain’s widely known tales such as Adventures of Huckleberry Finn and Life on the Mississippi as well as hard-to-find titles such as the 1879 collection of short stories, Punch, Brothers, Punch, and the 1907 nonfiction book, Is Shakespeare Dead?

“First editions are the best way to travel back in time to get an idea of how the original audiences experienced the book,” Martin says. “The first edition of Huckleberry Finn has wonderful full-page illustrations. There’s something tangible and important about the historical artifact. It helps you see and understand things you can’t get in a Penguin paperback.”

**FRIENDS, MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**Roasted chestnuts or fruitcake?** Many holiday traditions can be traced to Victorian times. Learn more when Michael Hazel, Dallas historian and author, presents “Victorian Holidays: Dallas Style,” focusing on area holiday traditions in the 19th century. December 6, noon, Royal Oaks Country Club. Reservations required.

**Answers to Giant questions** A symposium celebrating the 50th anniversary of the release of Giant will be held in conjunction with the Hamon Library exhibit, “On Location: Sketches of the Movie Giant by Ed Bearden.” Panelists include Ron Davis, SMU professor emeritus of history, Rick Worland, professor of film studies at SMU and Bob Hinkle, who served as Texas accent coach for the film and taught James Dean rope tricks. Fran Bearden, Ed’s widow, also will attend. January 26, 6:30 p.m. at Owen Arts Center

**New look for Old Red** “A New Life for Old Red” lecture will trace the restoration of one of Dallas’ oldest landmarks — the Old Red Courthouse. Historians Jackie McElhaney and Michael Hazel will discuss the building’s transformation to the Museum of Dallas County History and Culture. The two served as charter members of the project’s research team. March 9, 6 p.m. reception and 6:30 lecture at DeGolyer Library

**Treasure Hunters: past and present** In a new DeGolyer exhibit learn how entrepreneurs yesterday and today still search for riches on Southwest borders. Attend the exhibit opening and lecture “Business in the Borderlands: From the Seven Cities of Cibola to Semiconductors.” March 31, 6 p.m. reception and 6:30 lecture at DeGolyer Library

**Tables of Content** Dine with notable SMU and Dallas leaders when the Friends host “Tables of Content.” Participants may choose their dinner hosts when they make reservations for this popular annual event. April

**Mustang treasures** University Archivist Joan Gosnell offers a look at SMU history through her lecture, “University Archives: Past, Present and Future.” May 2, 6 p.m.

Visit www.smu.edu/libraries/friends for more information.
Carver brings new vision to Friends

I am delighted to have the opportunity to become director of the Friends of the SMU Libraries and director of external relations and marketing for Central University Libraries. As CUL development officer since 2001, I’ve enjoyed working with Friends members, library staff, and library donors and I look forward to building on those relationships and on the strong tradition of the Friends of the SMU Libraries.

As director I would like to add more variety to our events by forging partnerships with other libraries, book groups, and nonprofit organizations. I’d also like to increase membership by partnering with the Literary Festival and other student organizations to interest and involve students in the Friends before they graduate. Most of all, I want to continue producing quality events for the core group of book-lovers who started the Friends and have made it what it is today.

I see a great future for the Friends but I will need your help as we explore new ideas and new ways to support the SMU libraries. Please share your suggestions and comments with me any time. I can be reached at 214-768-1939 or acarver@smu.edu. I look forward to working together.

Amy Carver

City artist

Artist Pamela Nelson ('74) was riding an elevator at the DART Mockingbird Station when a little boy noticed the decorated tiles on the floor.

"Look, Mom, bird’s feet!" he said.

Hearing the boy’s comments, "I smiled inside," she says.

Nelson created the bird-feet tiles as part of the brightly colored mosaics she designed for Dallas’ light rail Mockingbird Station. Thousands of commuters see her work each day at the Dallas Zoo, Lovers Lane, and American Airlines Center Stations.

Art in public places is important, Nelson says. "Good design lifts you up automatically even if you don’t notice it."

Her art appears on walls, overhead, and underfoot throughout Dallas. Her work, which she describes as "eccentric abstraction," includes a floor medallion at DFW Airport’s Terminal D, a design in lights at the American Airlines Center Station, and a mural in the children’s collection at the J. Eric Jonsson Library.

Recently reappointed to the U.S. Commission on Fine Arts, Nelson is vice-chair of the seven-member commission that reviews art and architecture for the Washington, D.C., area. "We look at everything from bridges to apartment buildings to national monuments," she says. "We consider the concept, the proportion, and the quality of materials, but sometimes our discussions are philosophical."

Last year the commission met eight times with the National Park Service to discuss placement of protective bollards around the Lincoln Memorial. "Lincoln was all about freedom," she says. "Do we really want to put a row of teeth around his memorial?"

Nelson’s light-filled loft and adjoining studio in downtown Dallas are filled with finished and unfinished art. She is preparing for three one-person shows in 2006 featuring paintings on paper and canvas and is designing a series of stained-glass windows to be installed in the spring at the new First United Methodist Church of Richardson.

"Art is like a piece of good music," she says. "It asks questions more than it gives answers."

Artist Pamela Nelson created the artwork at the DART Mockingbird Station including the mosaic columns at the station’s entrance. Nelson is a member of the SMU Libraries Executive Board and once worked in cataloging at Fondren Library.
For political expert, library research rules

A good teacher never stops researching. When Harold W. Stanley, Geurin-Pettus Professor of Political Science, created a new course in Hispanic politics last year, he wanted to broaden his knowledge. His first stop was Fondren Library Center.

“Latino Politics” was an outgrowth of Stanley’s research concentrations in voting rights, political strategy, and partisan change in the South. Yet the course also needed to reflect new realities in politics. “Latinos are the largest racial and ethnic minority in the United States now, which make them a crucial constituency for political party strategy,” he says. “The most direct and effective way to get up to speed on that was to review the scholarly books that Fondren Library Center had acquired.”

The library’s strong collection on the Southwest, particularly Latino culture and issues, provided the wide-ranging resources Stanley needed to survey the topic and find the information with the most value and relevance, he says.

As the editor of Vital Statistics in American Politics, Stanley revises and updates his book every two years. For the upcoming 10th edition, he used Fondren’s reference section and online databases to find the most recent materials. He finds the electronic materials particularly useful. “A great deal of reference information is in electronic form that I can access from my office. That’s certainly a valuable resource for both teaching and research,” he says.

Many invaluable references still aren’t available in electronic form, and Stanley credits the reference and interlibrary loan staffs with sleuthing skills. “Some material is downright elusive,” he says. “SMU’s librarians are very good at recognizing what we don’t have and where to find it. Or what we do have that’s not easy to find.” He cites a recent example: a set of materials published in the 1970s by the Congressional Research Service, an agency within the Library of Congress that works exclusively for Congressional members, committees, and staff.

“The CRS doesn’t make stuff available on the Net,” Stanley says, “but the University staff found what I needed in the Underwood Law Library, on microfiche.”

PEN Texas award honors Pam Lange

The international literary organization, PEN Texas, honored Pamela Lange with its 2005 Lifetime Achievement Award. Lange is a senior lecturer in rhetoric in Dedman College and a former president of Friends of the SMU Libraries. Previous award winners include Friends member Charlotte Whaley, former Southwest Review editor and cofounder of Still Point Press.

Lange, who has been honored for her poetry, nonfiction, and free-lance editorial work, has been the producer and host of Conversations” since 1988. “Conversations” appears on the Irving Community Television Network for which she conducts interviews with local and national authors. She created the program as humanist in residence and manager of editorial services at the Dallas Public Library, where she also researched and wrote exhibit catalogs.

In Memoriam

James Early, a longtime English professor at SMU and founding member of the Friends of the SMU Libraries, died June 20, 2005. Early joined the English faculty in 1964 and served as its chair as well as dean of the school of humanities and sciences. He continued to teach after his retirement in 1993, teaching his last course last spring.

His family gave his Dallas Hall office library of American and British literature to DeGolyer Library as well as his substantial collection of books on architecture history and Spanish history.

Poetry books with his annotations were included in DeGolyer’s recent poetry exhibit.

“Jim Early loved literature, reading, and teaching,” says Russell Martin, director of DeGolyer Library. “His collection gives us an opportunity to watch a distinguished professor’s mind at work.”
3-D images change world view

A small wooden viewer for three-dimensional images on exhibit at the Crystal Palace Exposition in London changed the world in 1851. The new invention, known as the stereoscope, used binocular vision to view cards with photographs of landmarks such as the Great Wall of China, Egyptian pyramids, and Paris cityscapes.

"The stereograph was the first form of visual mass communication," says Anne Peterson, photography curator at DeGolyer Library. "It changed the world, just like the early days of television would 100 years later."

Peterson curated a stereograph exhibit, "Two X Two," at DeGolyer Library last summer. The exhibit, which showcased DeGolyer’s McLaurin Stereograph Collection as well as a private collection, coincided with the meeting of the National Stereographic Association in Dallas. With more than 10,000 stereographs, DeGolyer owns more stereographs than any library in the area, Peterson says.

From the 1850s to 1920, thousands of stereographs were produced and sold door to door and at local stores. The cards featured travel images, wars, disasters such as the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, historical sites, humor series, and agriculture and factory scenes. Families could hire photographers to create stereographs of their homes and family members, Peterson says.

Alexis McCrossen, assistant professor of history, took American history graduate students to the exhibit on the first day of class in the fall. "I wanted to give the students a sense of the visual culture," she says. "The exhibit enabled them to see 1870 as someone of the time would have seen it."

Collectible for antique lovers, stereographs are developing new respect as a historical resource, Peterson says. The Library of Congress and the Smithsonian Museum recently digitized large stereograph collections.

Art museums also are becoming more interested in stereographs, says Randall Griffin, associate professor and chair of art history. "They were the most popular form of photography for decades," he says. "Stereographs are on the cusp of being accepted into the canon of the history of photography."

Pictured stereoscopes from DeGolyer Library’s McLaurin Stereograph Collection

Texas House honors DeGolyer

The State of Texas House of Representatives last May issued a resolution commending the William P. Clements Center for Southwest Studies and DeGolyer Library for exceptional service to Texans.

The resolution, introduced by Representative Rafael Anchia, commended the center and DeGolyer for "outstanding contributions to preserving the rich story of the American Southwest."

The Clements Center and DeGolyer jointly publish the Library of Texas series, new editions of first-hand accounts of 19th-century Texas. They also partner to provide research-travel grants to enable out-of-town scholars to access DeGolyer collections.

IN THE NEWS

Women’s Wear Daily, March 16, 2005
Merchant kings Stanley Marcus and James Cash Penney built vastly different retail empires from shared visions of value and social responsibility. DeGolyer Library at SMU is the scholarly repository for their correspondence, books, photographs, and other archival materials.

Dallas Morning News, April 27, 2005
Some of the most significant items of the late Stanley Marcus’ personal library were displayed at an exhibit at Meadows Museum. Marcus’ library forms the Stanley Marcus Collection at DeGolyer Library.
Exhibits

- Through January 11 Alessandra Comini, Fondren Library
- Through February 24 Colonial Encounters: Europeans and Native Americans, DeGolyer Library
- January 26 Symposium: On Location: Sketches of the Movie Giant by Ed Bearden
- March 9 A New Life for "Old Red," DeGolyer Library
- March 31 Business in the Borderlands: From the Seven Cities of Cibola to Semiconductors, DeGolyer Library
- April Tables of Content

Events

- January 27 – April 28 On Location: Sketches of the Film Giant by Ed Bearden, Hamon Library
- April 1 – May 31 Business in the Borderlands: From the Seven Cities of Cibola to Semiconductors, DeGolyer Library
- March 6 – April 25 SMU Press, Fondren Library
- December 6 Victorian Holidays: Dallas Style, Royal Oaks Country Club, reservations required

Library Contacts

DeGolyer Library/Special Collections 214-768-2253
Fondren Library – general library information 214-768-7378
Fondren Library
Information Desk 214-768-2326
Circulation/Reserve 214-768-2329
Government Information Resources 214-768-2331
Friends of the SMU Libraries 214-768-9139
Hamon Arts Library 214-768-2894
Norwich Center for Media and Instructional Technology 214-768-3199

Web site
Central University Libraries www.smu.edu/cul/