A YEAR OF APPRECIATION
SMU libraries take center stage as milestone celebration continues

At the University’s 99th Opening Convocation in August, President R. Gerald Turner told the first-year students, “if you come to SMU without an appreciation for libraries, that will soon change.” With those words, President Turner acknowledged the crucial part libraries play in academic life and the reason 2013 has been proclaimed the Year of the Library (YTL) at SMU.

As the unprecedented commemoration continues this fall, the focus turns to the library-community bond reinforced by beloved campus traditions. Convocation, Family Weekend and Homecoming brought together students, parents, alumni and all other University supporters to pay tribute to the special role of libraries in shaping SMU’s success today and in the future.

‘This is your time’
Before the first day of classes, SMU formally welcomed first-year students to the fold at Opening Convocation, held August 25 in McFarlin Auditorium.

President Turner introduced principal speaker Gillian M. McCombs, Dean and Director of Central University Libraries, as “a person who will play a central role in your academic progress.” He commended McCombs for initiating “many innovations and improved services in the interest of students” such as establishing the CUL Student Advisory Council, extending library hours, augmenting technology resources and adding space for group study.

In her speech titled “In a minute there is time . . .”*, McCombs encapsulated the mixed emotions experienced by students and their families at this pivotal juncture in their lives. Noting that “time is a nonrenewable resource,” she challenged students to spread their wings. “Take risks, try new disciplines, new personas,” she said. “This is your time. Treasure it, value it, and make the most of it.”

* T.S. Eliot, The Lovesong of J. Alfred Prufrock

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She also divulged some “insider info” about the libraries:

• “You do, as President Turner said, need to get to know the library system and the library staff, because it might surprise you to know that not everything is on Google or available via YouTube. And, you need to do this before you have that 10-page research paper due. It’s much better to have your go-to librarian already on speed dial or your BFF list.”

• “Get to know the library space. Find your own special nook. SMU Trustee Fred Leach [and chair of the SMU Libraries Executive Board], who graduated in 1983, recently showed me the place he used to study in the Science and Engineering Library.”

• “Club Fondy, the informal name for the group of students who congregate at 3 a.m. in Fondren Library, really does have a life of its own.”

She also encouraged students to send her an email with any suggestions regarding the Fondren Library Center renovation (see p. 3). “We want your input into this process.”

Shaping a hybrid

McCombs described SMU’s second-century library and the possibilities it holds during a program at Fondren Library for parents and students October 4. Coinciding with the event, libraries across campus showcased their services and collections at open houses for Family Weekend visitors.

The Fondren renovation will go beyond the “band-aids” of past remodeling efforts in reconfiguring the 268,000-square-foot resource center to fulfill the needs of students over SMU’s next century.

The plans call for more study rooms to address the “shift to active learning methods” that center on research projects and team presentations, she said. The demand for study rooms is currently so high that they must be booked weeks in advance.

Infrastructure upgrades will support the library’s role as a technology leader, said McCombs. “Nothing happens in the library without technology, and we see ourselves as change-agents for technology.”

Today’s students experience a “hybrid library” that integrates print and digital resources in

FANTASTIC MR. JOYCE AND THE MAGIC OF BOOKS

Bill Morris, in New York, he wrote the “Morris Lessmore” story. The film was the first made by Moonbot Studios, the multimedia company that he helped found in his hometown of Shreveport, Louisiana.

After the discussion, the author-illustrator-filmmaker signed copies of his bestselling books and his two newest titles: The Mischievians, a picture book, and The Sandman and the War of Dreams, the fourth chapter book in his Rise of the Guardians series.

Friends of the SMU Libraries joined the Centennial Special Events Committee in hosting a free family-friendly event October 25 featuring alumnus William Joyce ’81. Joyce discussed his work with host Sean Griffin, chair of Film and Media Arts in Meadows School of the Arts, and screened his Academy Award-winning film, “The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore,” for 350 fans of all ages.

Joyce said he has “always liked to draw and make up stories” and had long considered doing a project that involved flying books. On a flight to visit his publishing mentor, the late
a brick-and-mortar setting. Even though those resources also can be accessed remotely via computers or smart phones, “there is always a person behind the technology to help students,” she explained.

Joining McCombs to answer questions and provide information about their areas were key CUL staff members, including Mary Hollerich, Assistant Dean of Scholarly Resources and Research Services; Carolyn Carpan, Assistant Director for Scholarly Research; Tyeson Seale, Information Commons coordinator; and Paulette Mulry ’83, Director of Development.

May and Carroll Barger of Gastonia, N.C., parents of first-year student Josie Barger, were on campus for Family Weekend when they stopped by for the presentation. They said they were impressed by what they heard.

“I really like the idea of a café so that students will have a place to eat when they’re busy studying,” Mr. Carroll said. “It sounds like the plans focus on the students and what kind of library will be best for them.”

Homecoming, library style

SMU Homecoming took a literary turn this year with a theme of “Boulevard Bound: Many Stories, One Tradition.” Book-focused activities paid homage to the Year of the Library throughout the weekend.

On October 26, author and filmmaker William Joyce ’81 served as grand marshal of the 87th annual SMU Homecoming Parade. Library staff and their families joined other members of the SMU community at a breakfast held in Joyce’s honor at Fondren Library Center before walking in the parade. Sporting red CUL T-shirts emblazoned with “I Hang with the Smart Kids,” they traveled the Hillcrest Avenue to Bishop Boulevard route with an SMU first – the Year of the Library float. Along the way they handed out “Smarties” candy and mini Frisbees stamped with the familiar YTL logo as reminders of this significant year in SMU’s history.

As 2013 comes to a close, CUL’s renaissance is just beginning. Inspired by the impending library renovation, McCombs said she and her staff are ready for momentous changes. “We are charting the course for the next hundred years.”

Library specialist Ryan Taylor, right, talks with students about the CUL’s government documents collection during SMU’s Constitution Day celebration at Hughes-Trigg Student Center September 17.
CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF COLLECTING IN THE YEAR OF THE LIBRARY

This “best of the best” survey covers DeGolyer’s major collecting areas: Western Americana, exploration and discovery, photography, transportation, literary works and the history of science, as well as business.

Among the treasures highlighted:
• The 1493 “Columbus Letter.” Printed in Rome, the small pamphlet is the earliest account of Christopher Columbus’ first voyage. While the explorer thought he had reached Asia, he had, in fact, discovered islands in the Caribbean. He describes the natural habitat and indigenous people he encounters, ending the letter with predictions of future wealth for the Spanish crown and spiritual salvation for the natives.
• Texas’ “Unanimous Declaration of Independence.” Only 12 copies of this famous document declaring the Republic of Texas’ independence from Mexico in 1836 are known to exist.
• Revised edition of the Murphy and Bolanz official map of the City of Dallas and its suburbs, 1891. Measuring approximately 11-by-11 feet, the map by an early real estate development firm offers a bird’s-eye view of Dallas at a time when the population was around 38,000 and the SMU campus was still farmland.

Also included are selections from the SMU Archives, such as Founders’ Medals from 1912, small commemorative medallions presented to early donors to the University.

Early next year, a companion book to the exhibit will be published by DeGolyer Library. Check the library’s website – smu.edu/cul/degolyer – for more information as details become available.

“Treasures of DeGolyer Library” continues through February 28, 2014. More information is available on the library’s website or by calling 214-768-3637.
PRESERVING HEROIC HISTORIES FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Elizabeth Ivy Hudson ’05 remembers studying for exams at Fondren Library Center – “on the first floor, at a square table, with three of my girlfriends and lots of Starbucks” – and spending hours at Hamon Arts Library, doing research for papers in her major, art history.

She still spends time in SMU’s libraries. As the Director of Historical Research for the Monuments Men Foundation, she frequently depends on Central University Libraries’ vast and reliable resources to document and preserve the history of the “Monuments Men.”


Hudson started working for Edsel, founder and president of the Monuments Men Foundation for the Preservation of Art, as a research assistant shortly after graduating from SMU. She helped Edsel, a 1979 graduate of SMU, with his first book, Rescuing Da Vinci (2006), and assisted with Saving Italy (2013), his third Monuments Men book. When Edsel established the foundation in 2007, she was named lead researcher.

Her recent research has focused on documents in the National Archives relating to Hildebrand Gurlitt, an art dealer with strong Nazi ties. Earlier this month, German authorities revealed that 1,500 artworks missing since WWII had been found in the Munich residence of his son, Cornelius Gurlitt. Some archival materials have been posted on the Foundation’s website – www.mounmentsmenfoundation.org/news/ – with more to come as new information is discovered, says Hudson.

“My duties are broad and varied,” says Hudson. “One of the Foundation’s objectives is to facilitate the recovery and restitution of important artistic, cultural and historic treasures and documents stolen during World War II.”

While the Internet provides immediate access to some information, “it is still hard to find materials dating back more than 50 years online,” she says, and libraries’ paper holdings can be invaluable resources.

“Having a specialized arts library like the Hamon is incredibly helpful. The library is easily accessible, easy to navigate, and the staff is knowledgeable,” Hudson says. “The library’s access to databases such as JSTOR is also essential when a hard copy of a particular journal is not available.”

She also takes advantage of Fondren Library Center’s holdings, finding out-of-print books and articles about the broader subject of World War II, she says. “Fondren’s collections of National Geographic and TIME magazine back issues, for example, have been very helpful.”

WELCOME NEW FRIENDS

New members of Friends of the SMU Libraries who have joined as of October 21, 2013:

Matthew Adamic
Janet Allmon
Joyce Andrews
Geailya Armour
Heather Barrett
Karen Bradberry
Patricia Coggan
Charles Cowden
Elizabeth Dillard
Vicki Draudt

darrah Rippy
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Seal
Diana Shaffer
Amber Surmiller
Sandy Thatcher
Michael van Breda
Nancie N. Wagner
Rob Walker
Kay M. Weatherford
Katie Wright

Who is Wes Moore? He is a Rhodes scholar, a decorated combat veteran, a television host and a bestselling author. Wes Moore is also a convicted felon serving a life sentence for murder. The author of The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates, the 2013 Common Reading selection, spoke to a standing-room-only crowd at the Mack Ballroom in Umphrey Lee Center August 29. Friends of the SMU Libraries was among the sponsors of the program, which was also streamed live online. Author Moore and his unfortunate counterpart both endured rough childhoods in Baltimore. Using alternating narratives, Moore chronicles how their paths diverged so radically and led to his success and the other Wes Moore’s failure. “Potential is universal; opportunity is not,” Moore said. He challenged students in the audience to think about their post-SMU futures in terms of what they can do “to make the world better.”
NUMBERS SPEAK VOLUMES ABOUT CUL

As Central University Libraries’ Director of Assessment, Zoltán Szentkirályi not only keeps track of long-term statistics to monitor trends over the years, but he also identifies new areas to analyze as user needs and library resources change.

The complex user-library network makes the job challenging, says Szentkirályi, who joined CUL in June 2012. “The reach of library operations is very broad, and the services we provide extend to a wide range of constituents through many modes of delivery, whether it is the physical space and collections in the library, personal interaction with librarians and staff, or online access.”

CUL gathers many different measurements on a continuing basis – everything from the number of print and e-book volumes to library usage data such as e-journal article downloads, study-room bookings, research consultations and online searches via the Discover SMU search engine. “Developing efficient methods of archiving all this data is a key component of my job,” he says.

The quantitative and qualitative data captured not only “inform decision-making,” but they also “show the value that the libraries provide to the University,” says Szentkirályi.

Since earning a master’s degree in statistics from Ohio State University, he has been “drawn to fields in which I could learn about human behaviors and be involved in research that could benefit people in the long run.”

He worked for the Nielsen TV ratings company in Chicago, the music industry in Los Angeles and Abbott Laboratories in Irving, Texas, before becoming a statistical consultant. “I focused on a number of interesting projects for Ph.D. candidates, which turns out to have been great preparation for my current job,” he says.

When he is not poring over library statistics, Szentkirályi enjoys spending time with his five-year-old son, John Lazarus, and occasionally playing drums for 508 Park Ave., an instrumental jazz funk band.

“My dad named me after the Hungarian composer Zoltán Kodály,” he says, “and I aspire to develop my compositional skills.”

EXPLORING THE ART OF COLOR PRINTING

Drawing on the resources of the Hamon Arts Library’s Jerry Bywaters Special Collections, “Post Chiaroscuro: Prints in Color After the Renaissance” explores how color prints were made after the 16th century, when the technique known as chiaroscuro woodcut had been developed.

The exhibit continues in the library’s Hawn Gallery through December 13. Samantha Robinson, a second year master’s student in art history, is the exhibition’s student curator. Sam Ratcliffe ’74, head of the Bywaters Special Collections and exhibit coordinator for the gallery, provided assistance.

Print matrices, including metal plates and linoleum blocks, assorted proof impressions and finished prints give viewers insight into the painstaking printing process. The exhibit focuses on the works of Janet Turner (1914-1988) and Octavio Medellin (1907-1999) from the Bywaters Special Collections, as well as prints by James Gillray (c. 1756-1815), on loan from the Sarah Campbell Blaffer Foundation in Houston.

The prints represent three main printing techniques: intaglio, in which the design is incised into the matrix; relief, in which the negative space around the design is cut away from the matrix surface; and planographic, a chemical process in which the matrix remains perfectly flat.

Students in two art history courses – “Arts: the History of Western Printmaking, 1400-1750” and “Early Modern Print” – taught by Lisa Pon, associate professor in Meadows School of the Arts, are using the exhibit for class assignments. Members of the general viewing public are invited to answer questions from the class assignments, which are available on gallery handouts. Responses from students in the class will be added while the exhibition is on view.
BIBLIOPHILE FINDS LEB ‘A NATURAL FIT’

Important writing remains thought provoking and relevant over the passage of time, characteristics that inspired Dan Boeckman to assemble a notable collection of Southern literature.

“Literary criticism interests me, particularly the work of Robert Penn Warren, Alan Tate, John Crowe Ransom and Donald Davidson,” says Boeckman, who serves on the SMU Libraries Executive Board (LEB). “Their way of thinking about literature is still very valid.”

In the 1920s and ’30s, the writers developed the New Criticism – literary analysis based on the text itself rather than on non-textual influences and connections. They also were members of a movement referred to as the Fugitives or Southern Agrarians, which emphasized the importance of the nation’s roots in agriculture to maintaining its traditions and culture, especially in the South.

Boeckman explains a local link to the Agrarians: Well-known Dallas scholar Louise Cowan was a doctoral student of Donald Davidson at Vanderbilt University. Some consider her an heir to their legacy of literary criticism.

Also a respected collector of Latin American and contemporary art, Boeckman began accumulating books by Agrarian authors as a freshman at Sewanee, The University of the South. A volume of essays by Andrew Lytle, a gift from his mother, sparked his interest. Lytle, now deceased, was a professor at Sewanee and editor of its prestigious literary magazine, The Sewanee Review. He and Boeckman became good friends.

“He encouraged me to go to graduate school, as much to be part of a community of scholars as anything else,” says Boeckman. “He also introduced me to [Pulitzer Prize-winning author] Peter Taylor, who became a friend.”

Another teacher who became a mentor and remains a close friend is Luis Martin, SMU Professor Emeritus of History who now conducts a lauded lecture series at the Meadows Museum. At the urging of his father, Boeckman spent the first semester of his junior year with the SMU-in-Spain program led by Martin. The historian’s gift for bringing the present into sharper focus by deconstructing the past made the immersion experience “truly life-changing,” he says.

After graduating from Sewanee with a bachelor’s degree in English, Boeckman heeded Lytle’s advice and earned a master of fine arts degree in fiction from Columbia University. While building a successful career in real estate development – he serves as president of Turtle Creek Holdings, Inc., and partner in Boeckman Investments – he continued to collect works by the Agrarians. In a 2006, his collection comprised 700 titles. Seven years later, it has expanded to 3,000 books and now includes other themes in Southern literature, as well as contemporary Southern writers. Like Lytle, a number of the authors he favors also have become his friends.

With a passion for the written word, Boeckman describes his involvement with SMU’s libraries as “a natural fit.” He says he appreciated libraries as “wonderful, quiet places to go to study” as a student. Now he values the University’s library system for its role in preserving historical documents and artifacts and providing important research resources.

“My family has a long history of interest in libraries, which I share,” he says. “And, as a book collector, I have gotten to know many of SMU’s librarians and administrators, and it is a pleasure to be associated with such knowledgeable, quality people.”
An estimated 500 fans of Elizabeth Gilbert, author of Eat, Pray, Love, filled Highland Park United Methodist Church’s Wesley Hall November 4 to hear about her latest work, The Signature of Things. Gilbert, shown with Gillian M. McCombs, Dean and Director, Central University Libraries, signed copies of her book after her talk. A new partnership forged by Friends of the SMU Libraries with the Friends of the Highland Park Library and HPUMC has expanded its esteemed author series. Coming in 2014: Jane Pauley, January 16; Nancy Horan, February 11; and Kelly Corrigan, March 4. Visit smu.edu/libraries/friends/events for more information.