CUL SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN ACRL ASSESSMENT RESEARCH PROJECT

An interdisciplinary team led by Central University Libraries (CUL) has been accepted into the competitive research program sponsored by the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL). The research initiative called “Assessment in Action: Academic Libraries and Student Success” supports individual research studies measuring the impact of academic libraries on student achievement. More than 300 academic institutions in the United States and Canada will be participating over a three-year period.

Research by the group of SMU staff, faculty and administrators aims to develop effective information literacy teaching strategies, while strengthening collaborative relationships between the libraries and the campus community.

Elizabeth Killingsworth, head of Research Services, leads the CUL team that includes Hollie Gardner, user experience librarian, and Zoltán Szentkirályi, director of assessment. Other project participants include Brad Boeke, director of Academic Technology Services, Office of Information Technology; Diana Grumbles Blackman, director of SMU’s Discernment and Discourse Program, Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences; and Patricia Alvey, director of Assessment and Accreditation in the Office of the Provost and professor of advertising in Meadows School of the Arts.

The investigation stems from CUL’s partnership with the Discernment and Discourse (D&D) faculty. The D&D faculty led by Gillian M. McCombs, Dean and Director, Central University Libraries (left), welcomed U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (center) to the SMU campus September 21 to discuss Off the Sidelines, her best-selling memoir, during a question-and-answer session moderated by Liza Lee (right), who served as the Eugene McDermott Headmistress of The Hockaday School for 14 years. Gillibrand, a New York Democrat, shared stories of growing up in a politically active family and outlined her path from corporate lawyer to public servant. In addressing issues such as salary equity and reproductive rights, she encouraged women to speak out. “That’s exactly what the book is about; you may not think your voice matters, but actually, when you raise it, you do make a difference,” she said. The program was part of the Authors LIVE! series co-sponsored by Friends of the SMU Libraries, Highland Park United Methodist Church and the Friends of the Highland Park Library.
GIFT EXPANDS BYWATERs’ TEXAS REGIONALISM COLLECTION

By day, H.O. Robertson (1887-1970) was an educator, running the shorthand division of a business college in Dallas. But in the evenings and weekends, he was an artist whose talent earned him the friendship of Otis Dozier, Everett Spruce and other members of the renowned Dallas Nine and their circle. The Meadows Museum, along with the Jerry Bywaters Special Collections at Hamon Arts Library, is celebrating a gift of more than two dozen of his works with the exhibition “H.O. Robertson: A Self-Taught Texas Regionalist.” Given by members of the artist’s family — the artist’s son and daughter-in-law, Dr. and Mrs. J. Dean Robertson, and granddaughters Mirinda Robertson Hyde, Sally Robertson Kern and the late Julian Dean Robertson Leverett — the gift includes nine drawings and 10 lithographs to the Bywaters Special Collections and 10 paintings and four litho-verre plates to the Meadows Museum’s University Art Collection. Selections from the Robertson collection will be on display at the Meadows Museum through March 1, 2015.

Sam Ratcliffe ’74, head of the Bywaters Special Collections, and Shelley DeMaria ’04, curatorial assistant at the Meadows Museum, served as curators of the exhibition. With the recent gift of works by Robertson’s family, SMU now holds one of the most comprehensive collections of the artist’s work.

sequence is a prerequisite for every program of study offered at the University, assisting students in developing critical reading, writing and communication skills. Instruction on finding and using library resources for research papers and other projects — information literacy (IL) — is a key component of the courses.

“Our research question is: ‘Does librarian-faculty collaboration via online content management systems improve information literacy?’ For instance, do students who complete the online course cite higher quality sources than students solely in face-to-face instruction?’ Killingworth explains. ‘Basically, we’re comparing the efficacy of face-to-face instruction with flipped instruction.’

Flipped instruction de-emphasizes lectures in favor of more active student interaction and hands-on practice, she explains. Students are assigned information to review outside of class — in this case, videos and lessons about library resources posted on Blackboard, the shared content and collaboration platform of the learning management system, and use class time for discussion and application under the guidance of professors and librarians.

The CUL team began working on the project in April and will have a full 15 months to do the study. They will present results in a poster session at the ACRL annual conference in June 2015. According to Killingworth, “Building information literacy content on an authenticated system like Blackboard gives us the ability to track students longitudinally and hopefully assess such elements as GPA and retention.

“The project is a foundation to begin measuring IL learning outcomes systematically and longitudinally across the entire University Curriculum,” she adds. “Our results will go into the institutional effectiveness accreditation report and will build additional partnerships with faculty across campus.”

SMU Professor Wilford Spiegelman (right), an acclaimed writer and editor, will be honored with the sixth annual Literati Award at Tables of Content March 28, 2015.

Now in his 44th year in the SMU English Department, Spiegelman is the Downs E. Hughes, Jr. Distinguished Chair for English and editor-in-chief of Southwest Review. His contributions to American letters were recognized in 2005 by PEN with the New Magel Prize for excellence in literary editing. He also has won grants and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Amy Clapcott, Guggenheim, and Rockefeller Foundations.

Spiegelman serves as a contributor to the Leisure & Arts pages of The Wall Street Journal and Opera News.

His next book, Senior Moments, a memoir, will be published next year. The Literati Award was created by the Friends of the SMU Libraries/Culiphon in 2010 in honor of the 40th anniversary of the founding of the organization to celebrate the power of the written word and to recognize significant achievements in creativity.

Tables of Content, the evening of dinner and conversation, raises funds for the Friends of the SMU Libraries Grants Program. Nancy Dedman will serve as honorary chair of the event.

For more information, visit smu.edu/libraries/friends.

CUL Selected for ACRL Research Project

WELCOMING A FRESH VOICE IN LITERATURE

NoViolet Bulawayo ’07, author of We Need New Names, the 2014 Common Reading selection, poses for a picture with first-year students Priya Patel and Purnima Gupta before discussing her book on campus September 15. Friends of the SMU Libraries was a sponsor of the program, part of the Gartner Lecture Series. Introduced by one of her former professors, Dennis Foster, the late Dean Frently Chair in English Literature, Bulawayo recalled her student days at SMU “with fondness and appreciation... This is where I learned about my writer self.” While working toward her master’s degree in English at SMU, Bulawayo ’07 started developing some characters that later appeared in her award-winning coming-of-age novel, We Need New Names. Her debut book earned the inaugural Etsiat Prize for Literature and the Hemingway Foundation/PEN Award and was shortlisted for the prestigious Man Booker Prize.

FONDREN PROJECT MOVES AHEAD, FUNDRAISING CONTINUES

Work on detailed design documents for the Fondren Library Center renovation began shortly after the project received the green light from SMU President R. Gerald Turner and the Oversight Committee August 28. This initial phase will continue through mid-February 2015.

The next two milestones will be bidding and negotiations, February 19, 2015 through April 29, 2015, followed by the phased renovation, April 30, 2015 through May 15, 2016. “The aim will be to have a major dedication ceremony for the Centennial Reading Room and Hilbert Exhibit Hall — currently in the DeGolyer Library space as we know it — as part of the final SMU Second Century Celebration in spring 2016,” explains Gillian M. McCombs, Dean and Director, Central University Libraries.

McCombs points out that several caveats affecting the project could cause delays:

• Escalating construction costs
• Changes in local code requirements
• Uncovering additional structural and/or mechanical issues when demolition begins

Central University Libraries also has to raise the balance of $3 million toward the $17 million project, she adds. To learn more about opportunities to support the Fondren Library Center renovation project, contact Paulette Mulry ’83, CUL Development Director, at 214-768-1741 or email pmulry@smu.edu.

AND THE LITERATI AWARD GOES TO...
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"THE NOT SO SECRET LIFE OF THE FACULTY"

In 1995, David Weber wrote "The Secret Lives of Professors," an article for SMU Magazine that outlined the importance of research and publication – the activities filing the "free" time in academic life. Weber, a distinguished professor and historian who died in 2006, wrote: "Most of our students see us only in the classroom, but they need to remember that professors at research institutions also profess to larger audiences, teaching by writing through books and articles."

SMU Archivist Joan Gossnell used the article as a springboard for "The Not So Secret Life of the Faculty," an exhibit highlighting the multifaceted roles of SMU faculty members as teachers, researchers, University donors, mentors, administrators, writers, collectors, community members and more. Faculty letters, manuscripts, photographs, memorabilia, publications and artifacts drawn from the SMU Archives were displayed at DeGolyer Library and Fondren Library Center in honor of SMU’s Year of the Faculty.

EXPLORING THE BIG DREAMS OF A ‘TEXAS VISIONARY’

Author Darwin Payne says his book No Small Dreams: J. Erik Jonsson – Texas Visionary is really two biographies. "One is about ‘a successful industrialist in the same league as people like Carnegie and Ford.’ The other focuses on ‘the greatest mayor in the city’s history, who served at a time when the entire world hated Dallas.’"

Payne, professor emeritus of communications and SMU Centennial historian, talked about Jonsson’s extraordinary life at a program and book signing sponsored by DeGolyer Library, publisher of the biography, and Friends of the SMU Libraries September 18. The event was held in conjunction with ‘The Not So Secret Life of the Faculty,’ an exhibit honoring SMU’s Year of the Faculty celebration in 2014 (see story below).

DeGolyer Library provided significant primary resources for his research, Payne says. The library’s special collections include the Texas Instruments (TI) Records – Jonsson was a co-founder and president of the company – as well as the Jonsson Papers, some 170 archival boxes of materials documenting the civic leader’s entire life. Personal and business letters, report cards, telephone journals and even short stories – Jonsson wanted to be a writer but could aside that career path when he was rejected by Columbia University – are among the items Payne examined during his research.

"He did not cull out things that were not flattering,” Payne says. "He was a wonderful subject because his story is full of so many ups and downs, drama and accomplishments.” Payne’s thorough account follows Jonsson’s life as it weaves into the narrative of Dallas – and SMU – as he crossed paths with Everette Lee DeGolyer, John Clarence Karcher and Eugene B. McDermott, among others.

The Brooklyn-born Jonsson led TI during its meteoric rise from obscurity into one of the nation’s leading electronics firms and guided its adopted city to recovery after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. During Jonsson’s seven years as mayor, beginning in 1964, he created the Goals for Dallas project, which, for the first time, asked ordinary citizens to help plan the city’s future.

The monuments to Jonsson’s visionary leadership retain their luster and importance. He was instrumental in the creation of Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport. He founded the research institute that became the University of Texas at Dallas. He also spearheaded the campaign to build a new downtown public library, which now bears his name, and won the struggle to build the architecturally significant city hall designed by I. M. Pei.

No Small Dreams may be purchased from DeGolyer Library. More information is available online at smu.edu/coll/degolyer, by email at degolyer@smu.edu or by calling 214-768-3637.

When Lottye Brodsky decided it was time to introduce Zachary Goldstein, her 10-year-old grandson, to the world of higher education, one of their first stops was Fondren Library Center.

"Zachary loves to read, and I want him to get to know SMU so a natural starting point was the library," says Brodsky, who serves on the SMU Libraries Executive Board.

Libraries have been a touchstone of her intellectual life since childhood. As a youngster, she used her library card frequently, and as a university student, libraries became her second home as she earned a master’s degree in special education at Texas Woman’s University and a Ph.D. in educational administration from Welden University.

"Good libraries are essential to academic success in college, especially for students pursuing graduate degrees," she says. "SMU students are so fortunate to have the valuable resources of Central University Libraries and the University’s other campus libraries."

She remains an avid reader and researcher and is a longtime participant in the Wellesley College Alumnae book club and recently joined the Dallas Institute of Humanities and Culture book club. And, she still loves libraries.

"When I wander into the library, I always find journals and magazines of interest. It’s such a pleasure to sit for a while and enjoy them,” she says. "That’s my relaxation – what my friends call ‘beach reading.’"

Although she is not a University alumna, she is an active member of the SMU community. “Over the years I have participated more and more, attending football and basketball games, and developing an interest in the programs offered by the Center for Presidential History,” she says. “I also served on the advisory board of the Archives of Women of the Southwest and have the opportunity to continue my connection with the libraries and was pleased to be invited to join the SMU Libraries Executive Board.”

SMU Trustee Bobby B. Lyle ’67, a longtime friend, honored Brodsky through the Remember the Ladies! Campaign of the archives of Women of the Southwest in recognition of her indefatigable efforts on behalf of underserved and marginalized children.

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As a groundbreaking educator, Brodsky championed changes in Texas schools for students with learning challenges. She served in both the Dallas and Richardson school districts, helping to craft special education programs that provide active engagement in grade level curriculum and vital support services.

Later, she applied her insight and leadership skills to the nonprofit sector, guiding The Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Dallas, the Dallas Children’s Advocacy Center, the Vogel Alcove and a host of other agencies through transitional periods to long-term viability.

While serving on the Archives’ board, she relished the opportunity to encourage other notable women to share their histories.

“For so long, women’s roles in shaping our country were undervalued,” she says, “which is why the Archives is so important in documenting the tremendous impact of women from all walks of life. Scholars from near and far come to use the materials for important research, and I’m so happy to be a part of that historically significant project.”

SOUND INVESTMENT

Friends grant funds digitization of rare recordings

Thanks to a $15,000 grant from Friends of Change collection, as well as Meadows School of the Arts Division of Music concert recordings, were delivered to a preservation specialist, according to Sara Outhier, digital media librarian.

“The recordings were chosen for digitization because they were either historically significant or they were deteriorating and in need of intervention,” she explains.

Now that the digitization has been completed, she is working with Central University Libraries’ Norwich Center for Digital Services to add the recordings to the CUL Digital Collections website.

For a number of years, Voices of Change was the ensemble-in-residence at Meadows. The instrumental group, which includes members of the Meadows faculty, performs contemporary classical pieces and is celebrating its 40th season this year. Outhier says some of the ensemble’s concerts and musical works are among those being digitized.

Other recordings undergoing preservation feature the late Robert T. Anderson, an internationally recognized organist who served on the Meadows faculty for many years, performing during the dedication of the Fisk Opus 101 organ in Caruth Auditorium, SMU Choral Union programs; jazz and percussion ensemble performances; and the Dallas Civic Symphony under the direction of maestro James Jones, who also was a Meadows faculty member.

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LONGTIME PARTNERSHIP PROMOTES RESEARCH, PUBLISHING, TEACHING

Josef Kitchens and Ty Wohlsorn are among scholars mining the rich resources of SMU’s special collections library as recipients of research travel grants awarded through the William P. Clements Center for Southwest Studies and DeGolyer Library. With the research support, the Clements Center encourages the broad, extensive use of the DeGolyer’s special collections by scholars living outside the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The Clements Center and DeGolyer Library are longtime partners in funding the grants, as well as presenting lectures and other public programs centered on their shared interest in the promotion of research, publishing and teaching related to the American Southwest and the U.S.-Mexico borderlands.

Kitchens, a humanities librarian and associate professor at Texas A&M University, received an award provided by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas for his research on the topic “Sacred Spaces, Collective Memories and Romanticized Tourist Destinations in the Old Spanish Missions of San Antonio.” He utilized a vast array of materials, including posters, broadsides, pamphlets and books, from a number of collections during two weeks of intensive dissertation research in July and August.

Dallas civil rights leader A. (Antonio) Macio Smith is the subject of Wohlsorn’s recent dissertation research. The University of Houston doctoral candidate focused on materials in the collections of two prominent Dallas mayors, Earle Cabell and J. Erik Jonsson, as well as the papers of civic leader and renowned retailer Stanley Marcus.

Other 2014 grant recipients and their research topics are:

• Thomas Buckley (United Kingdom), “The Productivity Performance of Large Scale Retail Firms, 1945-1982.”
• Francesco Gerali (Italy), “The Geology and the Art of Prospecting for Oil of Everett Lee DeGolyer.”
• Elizabeth Ingleson (Australia), “The End of Isolation: Rapprochement, Globalization, and America’s Trade with China, 1972-1978.”
• José Gabriel Martinez Sarria (Mexico), “Native Mobility and Ethnic Spaces in the Texas Borderlands: The Toboso Indians from the Seventeenth Century to Mexican Independence.”
• José María Rodríguez Jimenez (Spain), “The Presidio of San Antonio de Bexar in the Spanish Defensive Strategy in the Texas Borderlands.”

Annie’s portrait, by Henry A. McArdle, was loaned to Baylor University for a major retrospective of the artist’s work earlier this fall. Sam Ratcliffe, head of the Jerry Bynkers Special Collection, Hamon Arts Library, served as guest curator of the exhibit.

The lasting impressions librarians make on students and faculty partners. For example, some librarians are creating e-newsletters targeted to professors they support in various subject areas. “It’s a good way to let them know about new resources and the many ways in which we can support their research and teaching,” she explains. Teaching students is also a key concern, she says, and innovative approaches to engaging them in non-academic settings are yielding results.

The lasting impressions librarian made on her as an undergraduate at the University of Texas at Tyler spurred her interest in the Department of Library and Information Science from the University of North Texas. She strives to pay that inspiration forward at SMU. "No matter what they end up doing, our students will use the skills they developed here for the rest of their lives,” she says.

Welcome New Friends

New members of Friends of the SMU Libraries who have joined as of November 14, 2014:

Lottey Brooksby
Deanna Charles
Nancy Connor
Kathy Colburn
Ann M. Cromie
Lisa Domskey
Vicki Falaro
Bathory Farley
Margaret Goodnight
Maggs Hall

Elizabeth Killingworth
Chris King
Patricia Miller
Martina Monte
Margaret Sedov
Carol Reeligh
Richard Stamford
Bethany Swanson
Grover Wilkins

Elizabeth Killingworth’s interests in research and information literacy (IL) interest at Central University Libraries.

She arrived at SMU in 2013 from the University of Central Florida, where she had served as head of IL and Outreach. In her role as ILU, head of Research Services, she works with librarians at Faunder Library and Human Arts Library who teach IL skills and offer research assistance.

“I’ve been really impressed by the high level of research activity and the desire and quality of support that everyone I work with at CUL shares,” she says. “They are so reliable and helpful. It’s been a really nice experience to have the opportunity to work with Dr. Ratcliffe in the future on another project.”

Some images were seen by the public for the first time, including “The Battle of San Jacinto,” a small version of his iconic painting that hangs in the south foyer of the Texas State Capitol. Executed in 1901, the 5-by-7-foot oil painting was discovered in 2010 in a West Virginia attic. News accounts at the time called it one of the most important art discoveries of the past 100 years, and described it as not a copy or study of the original painting but a “reimagining” of the subject.

Ratcliffe, who began researching the artist in connection with his doctoral dissertation 30 years ago, was involved in the discovery of the Sam Houston portrait, another “lost” McArdle painting. Documentation showed that it had been loaned by SMU to the Dallas Historical Society and misplaced for more than four decades before being found in an attic at Fair Park. Following repairs and refinishing, the impressive portrait has been displayed in DeGolyer’s Texana Room since 2005.

As a result of the Ratcliffe exhibition, “Henry (Harry) A. McArdle is finally being recognized for his talent as a painter, and his commitment and passion for Texas,” Wilson says. “This would not have happened if Sam Ratcliffe had not been a part of this process.”

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PROVIDING A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON A TEXAS PAINTER

Sam Ratcliffe ’74, head of the Jerry Bynkers Special Collections Library in the Hamon Arts Library, served as guest curator of “Henry A. McArdle, Texas Painter; Patriot and Baylor Professor.” The first retrospective of works by McArdle (1836-1908) at Baylor’s Martin Museum of Art ran from September 21. The exhibition featured onto opening festivities for the university’s new McLane Stadium August 31, when the SMU Mustangs played the Baylor Bears.

Mc Ardle was Baylor’s first art professor, and his paintings often depict the state’s history and the Civil War, as well as images related to the university in Waco, Texas. On display were 22 oil paintings — including a life-sized portrait of Sam Houston loaned by SMU’s DeGolyer Library — 11 drawings and a diary. The Texas State Capitol, Baylor’s Texas Collection, the Nau Civil War Collection and private collectors also contributed works to the show.

John S. Wilson, Director of the Texas Collection at Baylor’s Carroll Library, describes Ratcliffe as “one of the most knowledgeable and respected scholars on early Texas painters and paintings” and praised his insight and willingness to collaborate on the project.

“This is the way higher education and the discovery process is intended to work,” he says, “and I hope we, at Baylor, have the opportunity to work with Dr. Ratcliffe in the future on another project.”

Another Central University Libraries (CUL) renovation project will redefine the Hamon Arts Library lobby as a more functional, user-centric space.

The built-in reference desk in the center of the lobby will be removed to create a more open design while eliminating service desk redundancies, says Hamon Director, Jolene de Verges. The project merges two circulation points – print and audiovisual – into one desk that will handle circulation and reference needs.

“The result will be greater efficiencies in the use of space and in staffing resources,” she says. “Additionally, the 25-year-old lobby will be updated with state-of-the-art technology, creating an exciting public space that encourages and reinforces engagement with the teaching and research activities of the Meadows School of the Arts and the SMU campus community.”

Crews are working toward a December completion. During construction, the Hawn Gallery has been closed and will reopen late this spring.

The preliminary study for the remodeling began in late spring, when Hamon staff and CUL Assistant Dean Mary Holtschneider provided input to the design team. A final plan, which included improvements to lighting and space functionality, was completed in mid-August.

Aaron Mcauliffe with the SMU Office of Planning, Design and Construction serves as the project manager. The project designer is Kelly McCarthy of McCarthy Architecture.

COMING SOON: NEW AND IMPROVED HAMON LOBBY
AUTHOR JODI PICOULT
DRAWS SRO CROWD

Best-selling author Jodi Picoult (at right in top photo) met with fans at DeGolyer Library before her program October 27. She talked about her newest book, Leaving Time, before a standing-room-only audience at Hughes-Trigg Theatre (above) as part of the Authors LiVE! series, co-sponsored by Friends of the SMU Libraries. More than 8,000 people attended the author events in 2014. Programs coming up in 2015 include: Anita Diamant, The Boston Girl, January 18; Richard Rhodes, Hell and Good Company, February 10; Kate Alcott, A Touch of Stardust, February 19; Dave Barry, Live Right and Find Happiness, March 9; and Bryan Burrough, Days of Rage, April 15. Information about Friends of the SMU Libraries is available online at smu.edu/libraries/friends/.