LIBRARIES AS LEARNING SPACES
CUL staff, resources advance SMU faculty’s academic mission

The symbiotic library-faculty relationship started over a century ago, when SMU leadership identified a first-class library as vital to its mission to deliver a high-quality education. In 2013, SMU celebrated the Year of the Library to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the appointment of SMU’s first librarian and acquisition of its first books.

This year, Central University Libraries joins the SMU community in observing the Year of the Faculty and the beginning of the second century of a partnership that expands scholarship and nurtures innovation.

From an immersive exhibition that married art and technology to digital collections that bring history into sharper focus to the hardware and software that expand learning beyond the classroom, CUL offers the resources and staff expertise that shape a world-class academic experience.

Introducing the meta-exhibition

How is an art exhibit curated? How do students apply their studies outside the classroom? How do libraries bolster teaching and learning?

These are just a few of the questions addressed in the meta-exhibition “Are You Close Enough? SMU Libraries as Learning Spaces.” The meta-exhibition, described as “an exhibition within an exhibition,” takes an in-depth look at how curators and students used SMU libraries and collections to produce “Post Chiaroscuro:

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AWARD-WINNING DEAN

Gillian M. McCombs (second from left), Dean and Director of Central University Libraries, was honored with the first annual “Contributing to Our University Award” presented by the SMU Woman’s Club in December. Club members pictured with her are (from left) Gail O. Turner, wife of SMU President R. Gerald Turner; Caren Prothro, chair of SMU’s Board of Trustees; and Kathy Barry, club president and wife of Thomas E. Barry, vice president for executive affairs at SMU and professor of marketing in the Cox School of Business. The SMU Woman’s Club established the award last year to honor “a current or former member of the SMU community who has demonstrated an exemplary and positive impact on the University and its constituency by building community, enhancing wellness, promoting diversity, creating innovative projects or activities, and exhibiting leadership among students and colleagues.”

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Prints in Color after the Renaissance” at the Hawn Gallery in Hamon Arts Library, September 16-December 13, 2013.

Inspired by a digitally enhanced show at a Dallas museum, Sara Outhier, Hamon’s digital media librarian and a member of CUL’s Year of the Library Committee, developed the meta-exhibition. Outhier, joined by committee member Michelle Hahn, Hamon’s music catalog librarian; Tyeson Seale, Information Commons technology coordinator and committee co-chair; and web designer Beth Andresen pulled back the curtain by utilizing mobile technology, photography and video to craft a unique digital experience that continues to live online at digitalcollections.smu.edu/cul/hamon/gallery/digital.

They worked in tandem with Lisa Pon, assistant professor of art history in Meadows School of the Arts, and Sam Ratcliffe, head of the Jerry Bywaters Special Collections at Hamon Arts Library and exhibit coordinator for the gallery. Pon proposed an exercise that allowed the 10 undergraduate students in her “History of Western Printmaking, 1400-1750” course to serve as curators of “Post Chiaroscuro.” They wrote informational captions about the artifacts displayed, which included works from the Bywaters Special Collections, SMU’s Bridwell Library and the Sarah Campbell Blaffer Foundation Collection at the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston.

Samantha Robinson, a second-year student in the art history master’s program, developed and installed the gallery exhibit and provided support for Pon’s class.

In an entry in the online journal that traces the evolution of the meta-exhibition, Hahn writes that the project defined “what a library is all about: bringing people together to learn from the available resources, to help each other grow in their understanding and to create new information.”

A digital path to the past

The DeGolyer Library’s Fred Harvey Co. materials, part of the U.S. West: Photographs, Manuscripts and Imprints digital collection, inspired students in an SMU-in-Taos May term class to examine the use of Native American imagery from different angles.

In the course “Imaginary Indians of the Southwest,” Steve Weisenburger, Mossiker Chair in Humanities and Professor of English in Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, delves into “popular views of Southwestern Indian peoples – the Navajo, Hopi and Pueblo – at a significant moment in U.S. history, roughly 1900 to 1940.”

A program that explored the myths surrounding Wyatt Earp served as an important American culture and language experience for a group of international students enrolled in SMU’s Intensive English Program (IEP).

Historian Andrew Isenberg, author of Wyatt Earp: A Vigilante Life, talked about the legendary figure at an event October 8 co-sponsored by the Clements Center for Southwest Studies in Dedman College, Friends of the SMU Libraries and DeGolyer Library.

Mary Cates and Rebecca Lommel, IEP lecturers, decided the event would provide the ideal platform for a multidimensional discussion about heroes in history, as well as an opportunity for students to strengthen their English vocabulary and listening skills in an informal academic setting.

In preparation, their advanced-level students “watched a movie about Wyatt Earp, and discussed it afterward, looking at whether the events as portrayed were true,” she says.

Isenberg’s study reveals that the Hollywood Earp is largely a fabrication – fiction fostered by Earp himself. As Isenberg writes: “He donned and shucked off roles readily, whipsawing between lawman and lawbreaker, and pursued his changing ambitions recklessly ...”

According to Cates, the students were “really impressed by Isenberg’s meticulous research. They were also very impressed with the audience. Several students commented on how knowledgeable they were and what interesting questions they asked.” She applauds the historian for “presenting his ideas and information in a format that second-language learners could follow, with enough repetition embedded to help them get the main ideas. And, his slides were great, too.”

John E. Wheeler, director of SMU’s English as a Second Language Program, comments: “The Wyatt Earp lecture is a good example of how we make use of readily available, on-campus resources to support language learning in our program.”
Students got a firsthand look at how two significant businesses in the region at that time - the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway (AT&SF) and the Fred Harvey Co., known for its Harvey House dining establishments located along the railroad - relied heavily on images of North American Indians to promote travel in the Southwest. Digitized booklets, postcards and ephemera from the collection date from 1901 to 1930.

Several students made extensive use of the materials in written projects.

“Probably the most important pedagogical aspect of this course is the students’ extensive uses of primary source materials,” Weisenburger says. “They also learn ways to properly cite digitized materials for which it was good to have clear, easy-to-use metadata.”


Selected materials from the Fred Harvey Co. Collection may be viewed online at digitalcollections.smu.edu/all/ cul/wes/fredharvey_index.asp.

**Anatomy of an instructive partnership**

Fondren Library’s Touch Learning Center (TLC) becomes a virtual anatomy laboratory for students studying the human organ, skeletal and muscle systems.

Equipped with iPads and a large projection screen, the TLC offers an optimal learning environment for students enrolled in Anatomy and Physiology I and II, says Megan Murphy, clinical assistant professor in the Department of Applied Physiology and Wellness, Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development. She calls the TLC “an invaluable resource” for enriching the classroom lab experience.

“Our anatomy-based lab is largely dependent on students viewing models in the classroom, and we have come to the realization that they need additional methods to view, study and quiz themselves on the skeletal and muscular systems,” explains Murphy.

Tyeson Seale coordinated the purchase of software for the classes - iPad apps developed by 3d4Medical, an award-winning technology company - and worked with Murphy and her colleague Scott Davis, assistant professor, to generate a 3D experience that helps students understand the intricacies of the human body.

“In actual dissection, one can visualize the organ, such as the heart, but with the software and access to the TLC, the students can actually observe it at work,” Murphy says. “They can connect a sometimes abstract and limited description of structure and function to an actual observable motion.

“The software allows students to look at structures layer by layer, and there are video options that allow them to see the organ system function,” she explains. “They also can use the self quizzes as study guides.”

She identifies another key benefit of the TLC: “It gives students the flexibility to study and review the material they learn in the classroom and in the laboratory on their own.”

Learn more about the TLC online at smu.edu/cul/flc/ic/tlc.asp.

Heralded as a trailblazer in government and business, former U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison accepted the fifth annual Literati Award at Tables of Content April 5.

The Literati Award honors individuals who have used the written word to advance the ideals of creativity, conviction, innovation and scholarship and who have had a significant impact on culture and the community through their work.


In a career spanning four decades, she has influenced the public and private sectors as a politician, bank executive, journalist and small business owner. She was the first and only woman to represent Texas in the U.S. Senate, where she served from 1993 to 2013.

She currently serves as a senior counsel with the law firm Bracewell & Giuliani.

Dan and Laura Boeckman served as honorary chairs of Tables of Content, which benefits the annual grants program sponsored by Friends of the SMU Libraries. Grants support the purchase of vital materials and equipment for all SMU libraries.
With the opening of the new Residential Commons in the fall will come new opportunities for Central University Libraries to enrich student and academic life on campus, says Hollie Gardner. As the CUL’s user experience librarian, Gardner serves as the liaison between the libraries and the living-learning communities.

“This is an exciting time to be at SMU as the Residential Commons model transforms student housing across campus,” she says. “CUL is working closely with the office of Residence Life & Student Housing to determine how we can best support these new academically focused communities through marketing and programming.”

Gardner, who joined SMU in July 2013, also leads the CUL’s efforts in supporting faculty teaching more than 50 sections of the Discernment and Discourse (formerly Rhetoric) sequence, part of the new University Curriculum implemented in fall 2012. An important goal of the coursework is to teach students to find and evaluate materials and master research protocols.

“We are developing online modules designed to help students develop foundational information literacy skills, skills that they will use for a lifetime,” she explains. “Students will learn how to assess what is good and what is bad information online and to use peer-reviewed journals. They also will learn important lessons on how to use information responsibly by properly citing sources.”

She also introduces incoming students to CUL as the point person for AARO (Academic Advising Registration and Orientation), a two-day orientation program for first-year and new transfer students.

Having filled numerous professional roles at four university libraries over the past two years, Gardner arrived at SMU with a solid background in research and instructional service. She earned a bachelor’s degree in music in 2009 and a master’s degree in library science in 2012, both from the University of North Texas. She has also completed coursework in elementary education teacher certification, music education, and English as a Second Language instruction.

Clearly the term “user experience” in her job title encompasses a sweeping range of responsibilities, which is exactly what Gardner prizes about her work. “Assessment, outreach, marketing, teaching – I get to do it all and don’t have to limit myself in any way,” she says. “And, I really love the student interaction. Their time at SMU is all about discovery, and it’s rewarding to be part of that journey.”

More than 350 SMU students, faculty and staff members took a few minutes to shake hands, high-five and just hang out with visiting therapy dogs at Central University Libraries’ Paws and Take a Break pre-finals study break in December.

Five volunteers with Paws Across Texas, a Fort Worth-based nonprofit group, and their registered therapy dogs immediately attracted a crowd of students when they arrived around 11 a.m. at the Touch Learning Center, located on the first floor of Fondren Library East.

Gopika Shah, an SMU junior majoring in economics in Dedman College, was among the first to spend some time cuddling with the canine stress-relievers. “This is so relaxing. It really is taking my mind off finals,” she said.

Hollie Gardner, CUL’s user experience librarian, worked with SMU’s Altshuler Learning Enhancement Center and Paws Across Texas to offer the four-hour event as a fun way for students to relax as they prepared for finals.

“I watched students come into the room, looking tense from studying, and saw them leave with smiles on their faces,” Gardner said. “It was also remarkable to witness students who did not know each other gather around the dogs and spend some time talking amongst themselves or with the Paws Across Texas representatives.”

The event was the first of its kind for the library, so CUL staff asked students to fill out comment cards to gauge interest.

“The response was overwhelmingly positive,” Gardner said. “We collected 225 comment cards, and more than half stated that they wanted more dogs and/or more events. We’re already planning another therapy-dog visit this spring.”
“The Caring Community” was the topic of the keynote address delivered by Gillian M. McCombs, Dean and Director, Central University Libraries, at the 13th annual SMU Staff Association Assembly and Recognition Program March 6 at Hughes-Trigg Student Center. McCombs traced her colorful life and career through the years - from young university student in France to wife and mother in Washington, D.C., to American ex-patriot fleeing Vietnam during the fall of Saigon to library administrator with the State University of New York system and now SMU. She drew a stark contrast between previous universities, which were impersonal and bureaucratic, and her present environment. “SMU can be described as a caring community. The values of family, relationships, loyalty are all the hallmarks of a caring and people-centered organizational culture that are supported and transmitted from the top down,” she said. “Every day is different, but every day provides the opportunity for gratitude. Thank you, SMU, for keeping me around so long!”


A reception and lecture by guest curator Marc Selvaggio, a renowned bookseller and expert on American advertising ephemera, opened the exhibit March 27. It continues through May 23. Over three decades, Selvaggio has developed a specialty in buying and selling ephemeral materials. He has worked with libraries around the world in building their holdings in social, cultural and commercial material, including the kinds of pamphlets shown in the “Parables” exhibition.

Drawing from numerous DeGolyer collections, the exhibit “breaks new ground” and is especially rich in materials from the golden age of the genre, roughly 1890-1930, says Russell L. Martin ’78, ’86, Director of DeGolyer Library. “One could say that a piece of fiction is always selling something, such as a political idea, a belief of how the world operates or how people (especially men and women) interact, or the promotion of religious or philosophical ideas,” says Martin. “So it is not surprising that fiction – simply put, a non-true or non-realistic story – has also been used to sell material goods, whether plows, windows, patent medicines, cereals, the telephone, bicycles, railroad travel, or insurance, to name a few topics found in this exhibit.”

More information is available online at smu.edu/cul/degolyer/exhibits.htm

Alice in Baking Powder Land, Davis Baking Powder Co., 1924. Much like Alice fell through the looking glass, a young woman “falls” into the label illustration and is taken on a tour of the baking powder factory.


Tales of Three Little Fish, British Columbia Packers Ltd., Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, ca. 1930. From a brochure that explains the life cycle of salmon through a story centered on three young fish.
SALLY GRAYSON CULLUM ’79: HELPING SMU’S LIBRARIES ‘BE THE BEST THEY CAN BE’

While working toward a master’s degree in history at SMU, Sally Grayson Cullum ’79 recalls completing “many research papers that required extensive use of Fondren Library’s resources.” Although the countless hours she spent on coursework nurtured her appreciation for books and libraries, the Dallas native says she arrived on the Hilltop with a fondness for them thanks to her mother, Elizabeth Ann Pearce Grayson.

Cullum, who serves on the SMU Libraries Executive Board (LEB), and her sister and fellow board member, Elizabeth Grayson Donosky ’08, honored their mother as part of the Remember the Ladies! Campaign for the Archives of Women of the Southwest (AWSW). In a tribute that is now part of the archives, the daughters celebrated their mother for her lifelong love of books and learning, independent spirit and community leadership, qualities that Cullum and her sister also exemplify.

With her special interest in history, Cullum applauds the role of the AWSW in “preserving the stories of women who not only had an impact on their families, but also on their communities and often on an even bigger scale. Historians can shed new light on women’s contributions, which were overlooked for so many years.”

As a graduate student, Cullum served as director of SMU’s McElvaney Hall, then an all-women’s dormitory. After her first year, she married G. Mark Cullum ’69, who earned an engineering degree from SMU.

Although she planned a career in higher education administration, Cullum changed direction when her mother suggested she pursue a future in real estate. For the past 25 years, she has been selling properties in her hometown of Highland Park, as well as University Park, North Dallas and Lake Highlands.

Cullum “jumped at the chance” to help shape the future of SMU’s libraries. “The power of a great library on the academic experience cannot be overestimated,” she says. “As a University student, it doesn’t matter what you’re majoring in, you’re going to use the library. Libraries have a huge impact on you, even on your final grade point average. So, you want them to be the best they can be.”

COLLECTOR’S VOLUME HIGHLIGHTS LIBRARIES’ TREASURES

To commemorate the Year of the Library in 2013, SMU has published The SMU Libraries at 100: Celebrating 100 Treasures. The beautifully produced collector’s volume highlights a selection of the most notable rare books, documents, correspondence and memorabilia contained in the collections of the University’s libraries. Items range from the papyrus fragment of St. Paul’s Letter to the Romans and an original copy of Darwin’s On the Origin of Species to corporate archives and the artworks of some of Texas’ finest painters. Entries feature richly detailed color photography and a brief description of each item’s significance and history. The book, which sells for $20, may be purchased online at www.smu.edu/Home/100/Merchandise, as well as the SMU Bookstore, 3060 Mockingbird Lane in Dallas, 214-768-2435.

Sally Grayson Cullum ’79

PROFESSOR INSPIRES LONGTIME DONOR

John R. Dresser, a 1979 graduate of SMU, describes his student experience as “the light switching on.”

“I had so many wonderful professors: Jim Hopkins, O.T. Hargrave, Hal Williams, Jim Early, Bonnie Wheeler, Jeremy Adams, David Weber. They opened up a whole new world to me,” says Dresser, who launched his college career at the University of Michigan, but transferred to SMU as a sophomore business major.

Of all the SMU professors he admired, one in particular, the late historian Dennis Cordell, was not only a teacher and mentor but also a valued friend.

“Dennis was a new professor at the time and about six or seven of us, all transfer students, took one of his North African studies courses,” Dresser recalls. “With his passion and knowledge of the subject, he made it click for us.”

After earning a bachelor’s degree in history from SMU, Dresser earned a law degree from the University of Tulsa. He later joined his family’s law practice, Dresser, Dresser, Haas and Caywood, P.C., in Sturgis, Michigan.

In honor of Cordell, Dresser has contributed to the purchase of materials focusing on Middle Eastern history, one of the professor’s areas of expertise, each year since his graduation.

“Donors like John are so important,” says Gilliam M. McCombs, Dean and Director, Central University Libraries (CUL). “They support the heart of the program – our collections – without which there would be no library.”

Through Dresser’s steady support, the CUL collection will serve as a lasting legacy to Cordell, who died October 13, 2013, after battling cancer.

To learn more about honoring a favorite SMU professor with a gift to the libraries, contact Paulette Mulry ’83, CUL Director of Development, at pmulry@smu.edu or 214-768-1741.
NEW INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT AWSW COLLECTION FUND

Established in 1993, the Archives of Women of the Southwest (AWSW) at DeGolyer Library documents the profound impact women have had at the local, state and national levels. However, with limited funding available for collection development, many acquisitions that would expand the scope and scholarly value of the archives are unattainable.

To remedy the situation, a new initiative launched by Central University Libraries (CUL) is raising funds specifically for AWSW collection development.

To date, $9,903 has been donated toward the initial goal of $50,000. These gifts will be used to purchase rare materials such as books, manuscripts, photographs and more that will add to the historical significance of the AWSW and increase its coverage across formats and subjects.

The archives offer SMU students and other scholars the opportunity to explore women's roles in shaping the history and culture of the region. The collection comprises letters, diaries, speeches, photographs, scrapbooks, periodicals, oral history recordings and other print, audio and video resources.

The AWSW relates to a significant set of University interests and programs, including the SMU sponsorship of an annual Women’s Symposium, the longest continuously running program of its kind in the nation.

To contribute to the Archives of Women of the Southwest collection development fund or to learn more about it, contact Paulette Mulry ’83, CUL Director of Development, at pmulry@smu.edu or 214-768-1741.

OUTTAKES

By Kelly Baxter and Tyeson Seale
Central University Libraries

DUOLINGO

Some say that learning a second language becomes more challenging as one grows older. With my college French classes far behind me and the likelihood of my taking up residence in Paris dwindling, I had almost given up on my Francophile dreams. Then along came Duolingo, a free language-learning app that not only makes learning fun, but addicting! By gamifying written lessons, dictation and speaking practice, Duolingo offers the most productive means of procrastination I’ve ever discovered. And, it’s 100 percent free! The company makes its money by offering a translation service powered by gamers at no cost to Duolingo. I’m only on Level 5, but I’m blowing through plurals, so keep your eyes open for my translation handiwork online soon. À bientôt!
— Kelly Baxter

NARRATIVELY

If The New York Times and “This American Life” had a baby, their progeny would be Narratively (narrative.ly). This digital publication claims to “slow down the news cycle” by focusing on a weekly theme and publishing just one story a day. The medium and subject vary; you may see a comic strip about a belly dancer navigating social turbulence in Egypt or an article exploring the library’s changing role in the 21st century. One of my favorite stories divulges the insider secrets of Ivy League tour guides. This is not the site for breaking news, but Narratively shares the “hidden” stories that have universal appeal.
— Kelly Baxter

TWITTER

I recently jumped on the Twitter bandwagon, and it has been great! I can follow my favorite authors, chefs, comedians, athletes, news anchors and organizations. Variety is the spice of Twitter: at the same time a famous chef is telling me what book he is reading, another is giving me a new trick to poaching an egg. Breaking news hits Twitter first, one of the reasons Central University Libraries (CUL) has joined the conversation and is tweeting and retweeting everything from library hours to archived rare photos to information on services to campus photos. If you aren’t on Twitter, sign up today; it’s free. And don’t forget to follow us @SMUCUL!
— Tyeson Seale

‘AGENTS OF CHANGE’

For many years, Arthur Koch’s sculptural media of choice were man-made. Switching to wood some years ago became a creative game changer, pushing him to ponder the relationship between “natural” and “artificial.” Koch, SMU Professor Emeritus of Art, exhibited examples of his creations in “Agents of Change: Works by Arthur Koch” at the Hawn Gallery in Hamon Arts Library January 3-February 16.

CUL’s Kelly Baxter, advancement associate and a library science master’s student at Texas Woman’s University, and Tyeson Seale, Information Commons technology coordinator, served as co-chairs of the CUL Year of the Library Committee.
SPRING SPEAKER SERIES OPENS WITH JANE PAULEY

The Authors LIVE! series, presented by Friends of the SMU Libraries in partnership with the Friends of the Highland Park Library and Highland Park United Methodist Church (HPUMC), continued this spring with a discussion and book signing by Jane Pauley in January. More than 900 people filled Wesley Hall at HPUMC to hear about Pauley’s “second act” segments for NBC’s “TODAY” show and the book they inspired, Your Life Calling: Reimagining the Rest of Your Life. Pauley started out as a news reporter in 1975 and is best known for her 13-year run as co-anchor of “TODAY,” followed by 12 years as co-host of “Dateline NBC.” She spoke candidly about having to scale back public appearances – she has been diagnosed with bipolar disorder, which she says is exacerbated by fatigue – and trying to find new purpose when her solo career as a daytime talk show host fizzled after a year in 2004. She says she has come to the realization that “reimagining your life isn’t necessarily about doing something different; it’s about becoming the person you want to be.” Other speakers featured in February and March were Nancy Horan (Under the Wide and Starry Sky), Sue Monk Kidd (The Invention of Wings), Kelly Corrigan (Glitter and Glue) and Ross King (Leonardo and the Last Supper).