



## FRIENDS OF THE UT ARLINGTON LIBRARY

*Highlights 2006 – 2007*

Those who are looking for an opportunity to exercise their brains and socialize need look no further than joining Arlington's Smart Set: the **Friends of the UT Arlington Library**. Chartered in 1987, the Friends is an organization committed to enhancing the resources of the Library system at UT Arlington.

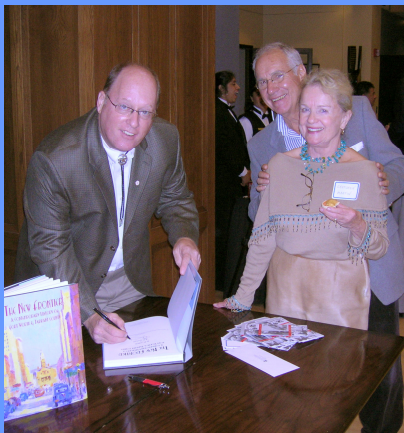
The Academic Calendar dictates our scheduled events. Running from September to May, we hold at least six meetings a year. Members attend talks, usually by regional authors, that further their awareness and appreciation of the Library while contributing to the enrichment of its collections and services as members of this unique community partnership. Our programs also feature a holiday program, often musical, and a bus trip to a local attraction. The following list describes our recently completed program year.

**September 15, 2006.** Humorist, storyteller, and *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* "Watchdog" columnist **Dave Lieber** spoke to a standing-room only crowd when he discussed his latest book *The Dog of My Nightmares*. His book was available for sale and he signed copies at the reception after the talk.

**October 20, 2006.** Offering up an unvarnished glimpse into local lore, author and historian **Ty Cashion** presented an illustrated talk entitled "Coffee Talk: A Casual, But Serious History of Fort Worth and Tarrant County." Cashion is the author of the recently published book *The New Frontier: A Contemporary History of Fort Worth and Tarrant County*. Many of the photographs used in the book have come from the historical photograph collections held in Special Collections of the UT Arlington Library.

Also at this meeting the Friends presented a \$500 award and a special plaque to two students who participated in the McNair Program. The second annual **Friends of the UT Arlington Library McNair Scholars Awards Program** recognizes McNair students who have conducted and presented exemplary research. Winners were **Monet Yousef** and **Samuel Odamah**. The amount raised to date for this award program is \$25,530! A reception followed the program and Dr. Cashion autographed copies of his book.

**December 8, 2006.** The Friends' holiday program usually features local musicians or performers, and this year was no exception. The **University Singers** ensemble performed under the direction of Dr. **Gordon K. Page**, adjunct professor of music at UT Arlington. This group of twelve ladies performs a variety of music ranging from classical to popular, both sacred and secular. Their selection of "Songs for the Joy of It" ushered in the holiday season. A reception honoring the singers followed the program.



**February 2, 2007.** Retired prison warden **Jim Willett** has overseen more executions than anyone in the nation, and described the solemn and dignified routine that he followed with each of the executions he witnessed. Currently the director of the Texas Prison Museum in Huntsville, Willett's talk "The Day of an Execution" touched on some of the material in his recent book, *Warden: Prison Life and Death from the Inside Out*, co-authored with Ron Rozelle, that chronicles Willett's life and career with the Texas prison system. Willett signed copies of his book at the reception after his talk.

**February 24, 2007.** The Friends and the Honors College joined together for a road trip to the **Dinosaur Valley State Park**. Honors Dean and Professor of Biology **Robert McMahon** led the group through the Paluxy riverbed in search of dinosaur tracks. The group had lunch at the Merry Heart Tearoom in Granbury where **Karen Nace** spoke to them about the history of Hood County.

**March 23, 2007.** The Friends welcomed Dr. **Gene Wright**, author of the popular Jerry Valdez novels. He spoke on "Why I Write—How I Write." Dr. Wright is a retired professor of English and currently is on modified service at the University of North Texas where he serves as faculty ombudsman. Copies of his books were available for purchase at the reception following his presentation.

**April 20, 2007.** This was a very moving program with **Tim Madigan**, author and award-winning journalist for the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*. Madigan's most recent book, *I'm Proud of You: My Friendship with Fred Rogers*, reveals his life-altering friendship with children's television icon, Fred Rogers. He talked about how his relationship with Rogers changed his life. Following his presentation, copies of his book were available for purchase at the reception.

### **Friends of the Library Officers**

Also at the April 20 meeting, the Friends elect the **2007-2008 officers**. They are Penny Acrey, President; Betty Clark, First Vice President; Tommie Wingfield, Second Vice President; Linda Simmons, Secretary; Greg McKinney, Treasurer; and Bill Stallings, Parliamentarian. Lynda Myers and Dorothy Burton were elected to the Friends' Advisory Council.

**Every September 1** the Friends begin their season with new officers taking office. The **2006-2007** officers were Bill Stallings, President; Penny Acrey, First Vice President; Betty Clark, Second Vice President; Kit Goodwin, Secretary; Brent Nicholson, Treasurer; and Mary Ellen Emery, Parliamentarian. Tom Hellier, Melissa Deur, Daniel Kauth, and Betty Bob Buckley were elected to the Friends' Advisory Council, which also included Shirley Applewhite, Richard Browning, LaVerne Knezek, Don Kyle, Lisann Peters, Judy Reinhartz, Allan Saxe, Terry Wang, Tommie Wingfield, and the officers.

**May 2, 2007.** Friends' president Bill Stallings presented the STAR Award (Super Talent Appreciated and Recognized) to **Gretchen Trkay**, who works in the Information Literacy program area. The award is underwritten by the Friends and is given to the library staff member who has played a significant role in moving the library forward in terms of services and/or outreach. Gretchen was recognized for teaching the largest number of non-GIS instruction sessions and for developing the Paper's Due Drop Inn program.

**September 1, 2006-August 31, 2007.** Membership dues or gifts in kind from Friends' members (other than through the Adopt-A-Journal program) total \$15,205. There are 334 members who joined the Friends or renewed their membership during the year. The new Friends season will begin on September 1, 2007 and a number of programs are currently being planned. For more information please contact Betty Wood at 817-272-7421 or [bwood@uta.edu](mailto:bwood@uta.edu).