

UT ARLINGTON

Library Notes

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON LIBRARY

FALL 2006 • Vol 12 • No. 2

The Social Life of Paper—Library-Style

By Maggie Dwyer

When we look at printed words these days, what many of us read comes to us via computer monitors and from the Internet. Need quick information? Turn on the computer and Google it. Want to find a line from a poem or song you can only remember a couple of words of? Do a quick Boolean search through your browser, and *voilà*, there it is in the top three hits on the results screen. For quick reference and short to medium length articles, the computer is great, much faster than going to almanacs and textbooks, but how often do we read long articles, essays, or novels, on a computer screen? In a world where we save everything electronically and where computer technology was at one time predicted to reduce the amount of paper we use, we actually consume more paper than ever before. I have a citation for that statistic, but if I didn't, I could easily get one. Open Internet Explorer, type in the search bar "American office paper consumption history" and maybe tweak the search with + "printer" to indicate that I want to know about the amount of printer paper used in whatever American context the results are placed. We continue to use paper because we don't like to read everything on the screen, we can't make notes on a virtual page, and we know that computers can fail. This is part of what keeps people buying and borrowing books in the computer age.

Why are we so reluctant to give up our paper copies of the printed word? The reason, according to Malcolm Gladwell in his 2002 essay "The Social Life of Paper," is that "when it comes to performing certain kinds of tasks, paper has many advantages over computers." The "unique affordances" of paper—we can skip around in a document, we can spread it out to look at, and we can annotate it—are all "qualities that permit specific kinds of uses." He notes that our desks, cluttered with piled stacks of paper, are actually "living, breathing archives" in which each compiler has a method of hierarchy and organization and can explain lucidly why those papers are there. "Over time they get broken down and resorted, sometimes chronologically and thematically; clues about certain documents may be physically embedded in the file by, say, stacking a certain piece of paper at an angle or inserting dividers into the stack" (93). In an academic world, one must add stacks of books, open, or with various bookmarks or marginalia, to these archival stacks on messy desks.

Books on paper are still an important source of information for academics, but they are vulnerable to physical abuse. Use too bulky a bookmark or an unconventional weight to hold a book open and you



Barbara Hammond, the library's collection care manager, teaches volunteer Jim Rivers how to rebind books. Rivers works for AT&T when he isn't learning how to make repairs on old dictionaries.

have a volume needing down-time for repair. Adjacent office supplies and inappropriate objects can hurt books. Was a lumpy object the only thing available when you needed a placeholder? Were pages wrinkled or folded over? Was the book you used filled with ink-marked pages? Post-it notes are marvelous for marking places in books and for holding our thoughts, but damp ink can transfer to adjacent pages, and if the paper is old and fragile, the removable sticky notes can actually lift print off of pages, not to mention the adhesive residue they leave behind.

The Lifespan of Books

An old rule of thumb used for calculating the life of a library book, according to UT Arlington Library's Barbara Hammond, is "100 years or 100 check-outs." The life of a book is also determined by the viability of its content, but what we speak of here is the physical survival of a durable text under normal library conditions. Hammond is the collections care manager in the Library Information Resources department, where she spends her days mending, encasing, binding, and rebinding books that need repair, or in reinforcing some new books before they go into circulation. In our interview, Ms. Hammond put first things first: the

In a world where we save everything electronically and where computer technology was at one time predicted to reduce the amount of paper we use, we actually consume more paper than ever before.

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FROM THE DEAN



Gerald Saxon

The Library's physical collection is one of the largest investments the University has, and its loss would be catastrophic to the educational enterprise on campus. Don't for a moment believe that everything a university library has on its shelves can be found on the Internet—that is only a pipe dream.

Henry Ward Beecher once wrote, "A library is not a luxury but one of the necessities of life." This is certainly the case for university libraries dedicated to fostering and supporting the teaching, learning, and research that occurs on campus.

We all know that libraries in general, and academic libraries in particular, are about gathering, preserving, and making accessible to users the information and ideas of the ages. This has never been an easy task, but it is even more challenging today—in the digital age—as information has become more ubiquitous, transient, and unreliable with everyone being his or her own publisher on the Internet. Libraries stand on a precipice of sorts with one foot in the past, as represented by our collecting of books and other print materials, and one in the future, perhaps best shown by our providing access to an increasing array of electronic information. We can't give up one to concentrate on the other—at least not at this point in time. Both print and digital resources are important to the success of our students and faculty. In this column, however, I want to focus only on the print collection and its preservation.

We have been building a print collection for decades now, and the physical volumes in the collection number more than one million. We currently spend more than \$2 million (just under half of our acquisitions budget) a year purchasing new books and subscribing to print journals, not to mention the money we spend on acquiring and maintaining the space necessary to accommodate a growing collection (remember the Library Collections Depository discussed in the last issue of *Library Notes*?), and repairing, binding, and treating damaged materials. In her article "The Social Life of Paper—Library Style," Maggie Dwyer discusses a number of preservation issues that libraries—and individuals—face in trying to prolong the lives of the print material in their collections.

Dwyer reminds us that there are forces at work undermining the physical stability of the paper and binding of books—forces such as the quality of paper used in the printing process (most books are still printed

on acidic paper that deteriorates over time), environmental conditions in library facilities that can be less than conducive to long-term preservation of paper (such as fluctuations in temperature and relative humidity in buildings), and rough handling and heavy use of library volumes. A book is a technological marvel—some say the most important invention of the past 500 years because it lets us easily pass information from one generation to another—but it is also an organic product (made of paper, ink, glue, and boards) with a limited lifespan.

The UT Arlington Library invests heavily in acquiring its book and paper-based collections and, as Dwyer points out, also in preserving and conserving them. Staff members like Barbara Hammond and Gary Spurr, and private conservators like Gayle Young, hired by the Library, work to extend the lives of the materials on our shelves by repairing, reformatting, and even restricting use of badly damaged or extremely valuable items in some cases. The University helps in this process by maintaining a stable temperature and humidity in our facilities and a safe and clean environment in which faculty, students and staff can work. The Library's physical collection is one of the largest investments the University has, and its loss would be catastrophic to the educational enterprise on campus. Don't for a moment believe that everything a university library has on its shelves can be found on the Internet—that is only a pipe dream.

The same inherent weaknesses that affect library print materials, of course, also affect the books collected (or amassed) by our users and stored in offices, homes, and other places. Dwyer even gives you, our readers, a number of "preservation tips" to apply to your own collection. So the next time you visit any one of the University's libraries, please take a look at the books and journals sitting quietly on the shelves and know that each one requires special care, handling, and just the right environmental conditions to prolong its life for as long as possible. For as Gilbert Highet said, "These are not books, lumps of lifeless paper, but minds alive on the shelves."

Gerald D. Saxon
Dean of the UT Arlington Library

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proper way to take a book from a shelf of books is to "push the two books on either side forward far enough so you can grasp the one in the middle." Generally, people don't do that, they tip it back or grip the spine, so the most common repair she performs is rebacking, or putting a new spine on damaged books. Other common repairs range from the cosmetic—erasing underlines and writing on pages—to the surgical, such as complete rebinding, and the tipping in of photocopied replacement pages for those that were cut or pulled out of the book by some previous user too inconsiderate to make a photocopy of the pages. The photocopying of chapters and essays in order to have personal versions to mark up and annotate is more desirable, but not the perfect answer either—photocopying can place great stress on the spines of books and bound journals. In our disposable world, one might think that expedience would call for the simple purchase and replacement of damaged books, but in an academic

environment, that isn't always the best answer. Sometimes the old, battered book is of more use than a crisp new volume. The challenge is to keep the old one in circulation.

In the dynamic environment of an academic library, Barbara Hammond makes her repairs then returns materials to the circulating collection. Libraries buy books all of the time and readers may wonder why we bother to repair rather than replace old books. One answer is to simply look at the charm of the books themselves—how many English majors, for example, have checked out first editions of classic American novels, just for the joy of holding that first edition? Those books aren't commercially valuable because they are much-used and they don't have the dust jackets coveted by collectors, but they are important. For example, consider the accretion of various Faulkner editions. First *The Sound and the Fury*

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appeared, then a corrected version, then scholarly discussions, then reissues with introductions, and more reissues with new introductions. . . they are all important in relation to each other and important to the collection as a whole.

Not many area libraries have full-time staff for mending books, mostly because of the lack of training. Hammond's work in book repair is largely self taught: "I just learned to do it and liked to do it, so I pursued it," she says, noting that she now teaches volunteers how to bind books. Two primary materials she uses for repairs are Japanese tissue paper, a special handmade paper, and wheat paste. "A foundation of preservation is that most repairs should be reversible," she said, adding "there is no use of tape, staples, or paperclips in book repair."

Even with these preservation measures, loss happens, and librarians do buy replacements for books that are badly damaged or missing. They also discard books, according to Faedra Wills, a collection development and acquisitions specialist. "Librarians regularly conduct collection reviews" to remove or replace volumes that are truly obsolete, she said. This is an art, based on an information access plan and subject guides for each area. Librarians work with faculty in this, because different versions of books can be important for comparison purposes, and sometimes a book that is "out-of-date" because of newer science, for example, may still be important because it represents a paradigm shift in the field. The intrinsic value of the volumes in the circulating collection is based upon the information they contain that scholars may discover and use or rework in their studies.

Special Collections

The value of the materials housed in Special Collections goes beyond the intrinsic—these objects are the physical embodiment of personal and historical and cultural work that fit the parameters of UT Arlington's Special Collections. Specializing in historical materials relating to Texas, the U.S. War with Mexico, Mexico from 1810-1920, and the cartographic history of Texas and the Gulf of Mexico, the contents are a mix of old and new materials, none of which leaves the department. Volumes contained here may be historic books and journals and record books, they may be the end result of scholarship in the floors below, what Gladwell refers to as "artifacts of the knowledge economy" (theses and dissertations, for example). And many other items may have once been the stacked-on-a-desk-archived desk clutter of important individuals or members of organizations, resulting in collections important to Texas history.

Archivists and librarians catalog and store these items in a way that allows scholars and other interested individuals to find and use materials. Each document is unique and its history is often apparent in the damage sustained over the years, decades, perhaps even centuries. The specialized steps necessary to keep these items useable go beyond binding and simple repairs. When Special Collections items need work, a conservation specialist is called in. One such person in the North



Texas area is Gayle Young, of Weatherford, who has worked on many letters, maps, books, and other items here at UT Arlington Special Collections over the years. She started learning the methods of paper conservation while employed at the Dallas Public Library from 1982 to 1987, after completing undergraduate work in chemistry. Her work as a paper conservator evolved from her unique understanding of the chemical nature of the various types of papers and inks as they age. As an independent conservator, Young consults with the owner on each potential assignment, giving a bid for the work and suggesting the variety of processes possible. "Size is important," she said, as well as knowing how an item will be used or displayed.

Gayle Young is careful to articulate the type of work that she does—conservation—in contrast to work that is sometimes done to completely erase signs of damage—that of restoration. "A restorer wants to restore pages to their original look," she points out, while "the conservator thinks the repair should be noticeable—we want them to know it was damaged and has been repaired." This can mean that portions of the document are toned down, not quite matching the original colors. "We want to make everything look better, but the condition is part of [the document's] history," where in restoration, the repair isn't visible and the restorer is "not quite so conscious of the future effects of what they are doing to the document."

Reversibility is an important factor in conservation: things done permanently can't be undone if future research reveals better ways to preserve documents. Some techniques are necessary to keep the damage from increasing over time, such as attending to the acid content of the paper. Young uses a technique called "alkalization" instead of "deacidification," because "an alkaline paper will last 300-400 years. Acid paper, like that made after 1880, will last a lot less time, depending on the amount of light." Though it may seem counter-intuitive, old paper sometimes needs to be washed to give it the proper balance. This involves taking the book apart and slipping each individual "signature" or "gathering" of pages (look at the spine of an older hard

Book repair is a slow-moving art, and the tools of the trade have been around for a long time. The process usually involves special paper, cardboard, cloth, adhesives, thread, and sissors and exacto knives. "Measure twice, cut once" is a good rule to follow here. The workbench above also contains a number of presses for holding books while the adhesive dries.



The Library of Congress style box is a simple self-closing wrapper, such as can be used to hold together books needing repair.

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UT Arlington Library Locations

Central Library

702 Planetarium Place
Reference: 817-272-3394
General Information: 817-272-3000

Special Collections

6th Floor, Central Library
817-272-3393

Architecture & Fine Arts Library

Room 104, Architecture Building
817-272-2387

Science & Engineering Library

Room B-03, Nedderman Hall
817-272-5050 & 817-272-5051

Electronic Business Library

Room 136, Business Bldg
817-272-5327

Social Work Electronic Library (SWEL)

Room 111
Building A, Social Work Complex
211 S. Cooper St, Arlington TX
817-272-7518

UT Arlington Fort Worth Campus

Room 302
7300 Jack Newell Blvd South
Fort Worth, TX 76118
817-272-5998

UT Arlington Fort Worth Center*

1401 Jones Street
Fort Worth, TX 76102
*Opening Spring 2007

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cover book and you'll see these stitched clusters of pages) into a polyester container, then treating it in an ammonia solution. This will remove stains and discoloration and rehydrate the paper.

In her work she is careful about the materials she uses, choosing a PH neutral handmade Japanese paper with long fibers, and wheat starch paste as adhesive. The Japanese paper expands all directions when moist, a desirable quality in conservation, but this commodity is becoming scarce, according to Young. "There is beginning to be a supply problem. Youngsters in Japan are not coming up to [hand make the paper]." For an example of Gayle Young's work, see the sidebar and photos regarding her preservation of some family bible pages owned by UT Arlington retired English professor Dallas Lacy.

Paper Facts and Preservation Tips

Young offers the following information to anyone wanting to understand how to protect their valuable paper artifacts, and how conservationists work with them:

- Modern paper (made after 1880) is made of wood cellulose. Chemically, paper is a polysaccharide, a complex sugar. As it ages, the fibers become shorter, more brittle, and yellow. The molecules in this paper are "huge," according to Young.
- Older paper was still all cellulose, but the origin was different. Up until about 1830 all paper was made from rag (cloth), but with the industrial revolution the rag trade couldn't keep up with the demand. According to Young, the turning point came with the early 1800s development by the Fourdrinier brothers of a machine that made continuous rolls of paper for use on printing presses.
- In the 1850s experimentation began on new fibers and in the 1880s when typesetting machines were perfected and high volume printing took off in the marketplace, wood cellulose became the industry standard for machine made paper.
- Rag paper was handmade, wood paper isn't.
- Wood paper fibers contain lignin, an essential part of a growing tree, but harmful to paper. When exposed to light the lignin becomes acidic (peroxide) and "that's what begins to break down, like when you leave your newspaper in the sun too long and it yellows."
- Humidity needs to be kept even to protect paper. "Cellulose is kind of a sponge—it's hydrophilic and will expand when wet and when it air dries it contracts. If there is dirt between pages or in the paper itself, it acts like a little saw and breaks down the paper fiber with the humidity changes."

For those of us who have old and important books that we want to use for years to come, or who have a few delicate historic items but haven't made the decision

to take the professional conservation plunge, there is hope. Barbara Hammond has some suggestions. In addition to picking up books from the shelf carefully, she suggests

- Dust your books. Move the duster in the direction from the spine to the front edge to avoid pushing dust into the pages.
- Books should not lie on their sides, but should stand together upright on shelves, snug but not too tight. This gentle compression is good for books.
- Books needing repair are best sent to someone who can repair them. Until that happens, use an emergency measure such as fastening the book with an "H" rubber band (found in office supply and mailing centers) or a ziplock plastic bag to contain and hold the pages and boards stable. "Neither one is preservationally sound, they're a quick fix." Cotton "Grip Tite" ribbons with rubber gaskets are Hammond's lace of choice, but are specialty items that have to be ordered.
- Consider a low cost option of making LC-style boxes (Library of Congress) "for brittle books until they can decide what is the next step." There are various types and a book in the circulating collection illustrates their design and construction. *Boxes for the Protection of Rare Books: Their Design and Construction* is in the Government Documents section of the second floor in Central, **LC 1.2:B69**. These range from durable and attractive clam shell boxes to functional self-closing wrappers that consist of "two boards and double sticky tape," Hammond says.

I began this article by referring to Malcolm Gladwell's essay. His first illustration of the "social life of paper" concerned the work of air traffic controllers. As planes progress across airspace and are seen on the computer screen as blips, notes for each are kept on narrow slips of paper called flight strips. He observed "It's a method that dates back to the days before radar, and it drives critics of the air-traffic-control system crazy. Why, in this day and age, are planes being handled like breakfast orders in a roadside diner?" (92) Here in the library we understand this perfectly, and I hark back to that discussion to bring up one last illustration of my own: that of archivist Gary Spurr wearing white gloves to protect a black and white photo of an air traffic controller and his flight strips from the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization (PATCO) collection housed in the UT Arlington Special Collections. Was this photo once filed in a stack of paper on someone's desk?

Quite possibly.

For more information about book preservation, many fine sites can be located in a simple Internet search on "book preservation." One such location is <http://aic.stanford.edu/library/online/brochures/books.html>. This page includes further contact information for book preservation.

For examples of before and after conservation work, visit <http://www.nedcc.org>.

Dallas Lacy's Hoodenpyl Bible

A goal of this issue of *Library Notes* is not just to examine the conservation of books and of historic materials in the UT Arlington Library, but also to suggest that individuals with interesting family collections may want to take steps to preserve their family history by safeguarding those items. The following is a fine example of how this can take place:

In 2005 I heard from Dallas Lacy, one of my former English professors, who emailed to ask about the restoration of old books. I suggested he speak to Special Collections archivist Kit Goodwin, who in turn recommended conservationist Gayle Young. The book fragment Dr. Lacy wished to preserve was from a family bible, that of his ancestor Philip Hoodenpyl, born in Holland in 1757 and immigrated to the United States in the early 1780s. Three sheets of paper, just six pages of the book that were probably torn from the old bible, were all that he had. They were discovered in an envelope in a drawer in his mother's home after her death. The pages were in poor condition, but rich with potential—they contained many family marriage and birth records. Gayle Young treated the pages, leaving them acid-free, and then using almost transparent Japanese paper with its long strong fibres and wheat starch paste as the adhesive, she was able to stabilize the sheets by reinforcing the torn edges. Finally, she encapsulated each one in a Mylar envelope so they can be handled. Though the staff at UT Arlington Library doesn't do repairs for individuals, they will offer referrals when they are able. Dr. Lacy said of this experience that "I was impressed to be able to have that sort of advice available."

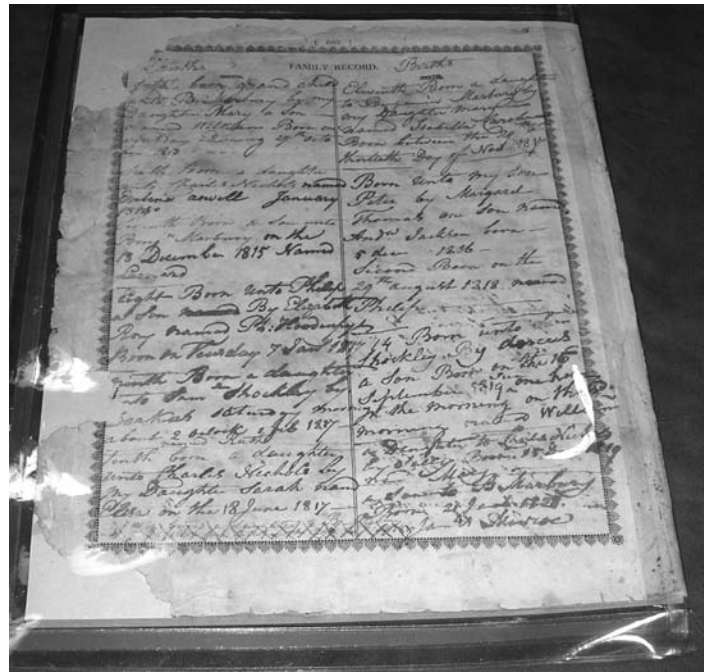
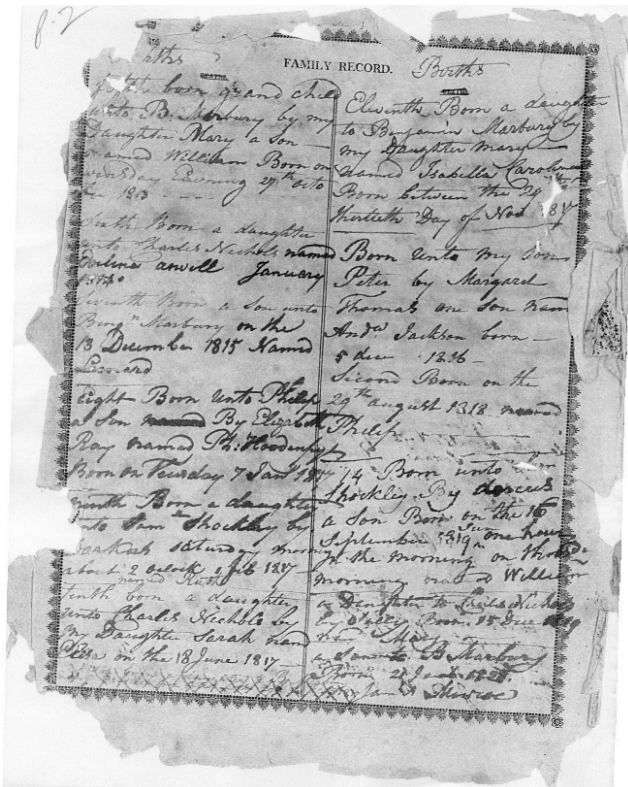
The remarkable thing about these Hoodenpyl pages is not only that they told Dallas more about his family than he previously knew, but in 2005 they helped many more Hoodenpyl family descendants settle several genealogical questions, including things as basic as the correct spelling of the family name! The following appreciation was posted in the Hoodenpyl web pages (<http://members.aol.com/LeteRogers/HoodenpylBible.html>) thanking Dallas for contributing to their research:

Thanks to an email from Dallas Lacy, a descendant, we now have tangible proof of name spellings, dates and other pertinent information in regard to our Hoodenpyl lineage. I add these pages to my sites, Dallas, with much appreciation. Our family owes you an eternal debt of gratitude.

Excerpt from your letter as to your descendency:

"I am descended through Philip and Jane Hoodenpyl's last-born child, Jane. Jane Hoodenpyl became the second wife to John Billingsley (they were my great-grandparents). Then my grandmother, Evalista Jane Billingsley, was the last-born child of John and Jane Hoodenpyl Billingsley. Evalista Jane married John Swafford (also of Pikeville, Bledsoe Ct. TN) and my mother Billie Swafford (married Beri Lynn Lacy) was the last-born, tenth child of Evalista Jane and John Swafford. So I come down from the last-born child of grandparents, great-grandparents, and great great-grandparents."

How cool is that?



Before their conservation the Bible pages were scanned and the images posted to a Hoodenpyl family web site (left). Each stabilized page (right) is encapsulated in Mylar for protection.

Donors

The UT Arlington Library receives many donations throughout the year, in the forms of books and journals and other materials, membership dues to the Friends of the UT Arlington Library, and through the Adopt-A-Journal program. These individuals help the Library serve all users. This list represents donations and Friends membership dues made to the Library from March 2006 through October 2006.

Penny & Gary Acrey
Thomas Adam
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McNair Scholars Endowment

The Friends' goal is to raise \$20,000 towards the McNair Scholars endowment. At this level, it will allow Friends to award two students annually in perpetuity once this amount is achieved. Currently, we have raised approximately \$5,000 or about 25% of the goal amount. The Friends' McNair Award will normally be for two students, however, the awards committee found three exceptional students in 2005 and voted as a group to make three awards. Currently, the 2006 Awards Committee has been formed and they will judge student projects at an event this summer. For more information about supporting the libraries, visit

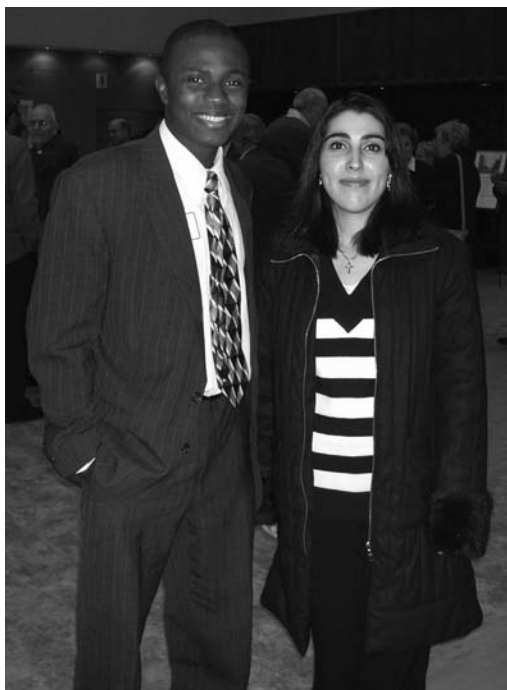
<http://library.uta.edu/support/>

Friends of the Library

The first speaker of the season to address the UT Arlington Friends of the Library was the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* Watchdog columnist **Dave Lieber**, who on September 15 addressed a packed house with stories that are included in his most recent book *The Dog of My Nightmares* (2003). In a talk called "Moving to Texas: Is the Bark Worse than the Bite?" he discussed the pitfalls—and pratfalls—of moving to Texas from the east coast and learning how to connect with Texans. He signed copies of his book (which is also out as a CD audio book) after the meeting.

Sam Houston State University historian **Ty Cashion** was the speaker for the October 20 Friends meeting. He is the author of several books, including the popular history of Texas high school football coaches, *Pigskin Pulpit*. He spoke about his newest book, *The New Frontier: A Contemporary History of Fort Worth and Tarrant County*. The talk was titled "Coffee Talk: A Casual, But Serious History of Fort Worth & Tarrant County," and it lived up to its name, with many fascinating bits of Fort Worth history coming forward in both the talk and in audience questions.

Also at the October meeting, the **Friends McNair Scholarship Award** was presented to this year's winners, **Monet Yousef** and **Samuel Odamah**. The McNair Scholars Program works with qualified undergraduate students who aspire to attend graduate school, acquire a Ph.D., and teach at the university level. Dr. Joan Reinhardt directs the program at UT Arlington.

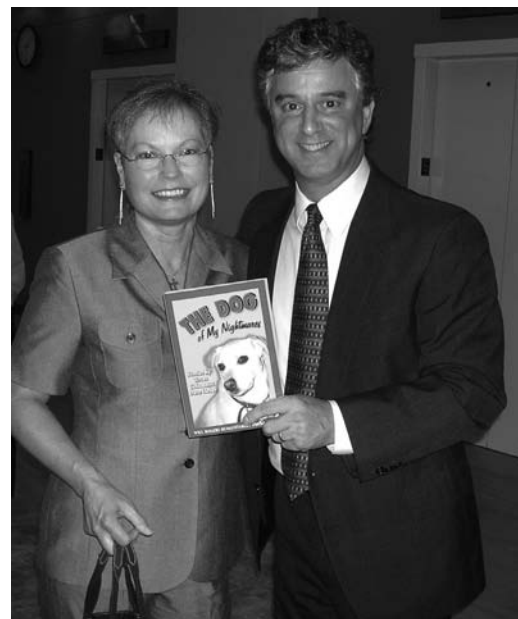


This year's winners of the Friends McNair Scholarship Award are Samuel Odamah and Monet Yousef.

For more information about the Friends, visit <http://library.uta.edu/Main/friends.uta> or call 817-272-7421.



Ty Cashion signed a copy of his book for Gretchen Martin Creswell during the reception following his talk to the Friends. The popular historian discussed his newest book, *The New Frontier: A Contemporary History of Fort Worth & Tarrant County*.



Dave Lieber, author of *The Dog of My Nightmares* and the Watchdog columnist for the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, signed a copy of his book for Janis Saxon.

The December holiday meeting of the Friends will feature the UT Arlington **University Singers**, directed by **Dr. Gordon K. Page**. The University Singers is an ensemble of 12 women who perform a wide variety of music, ranging from classical to popular. The program to be presented to the Friends on December 8, 2006, at 7:30pm in the Central Library sixth floor atrium is called "Songs for the Joy of It."

Garrett Lectures

The Fifth Biennial Virginia Garrett Lectures on the History of Cartography were held on October 6, 2006. The subject this year was "Mapping the Sacred: Belief and Religion in the History of Cartography" and speakers attended from literally around the world. This meeting is coupled with the Texas Map Society meeting, and both events provide opportunity for networking and sharing for area map collectors



Ben Huseman and David Finrock hold up a book that "got away" from Huseman—he didn't find it until after he'd finished setting up the Mapping the Sacred exhibit, or he would have included it in the collection.



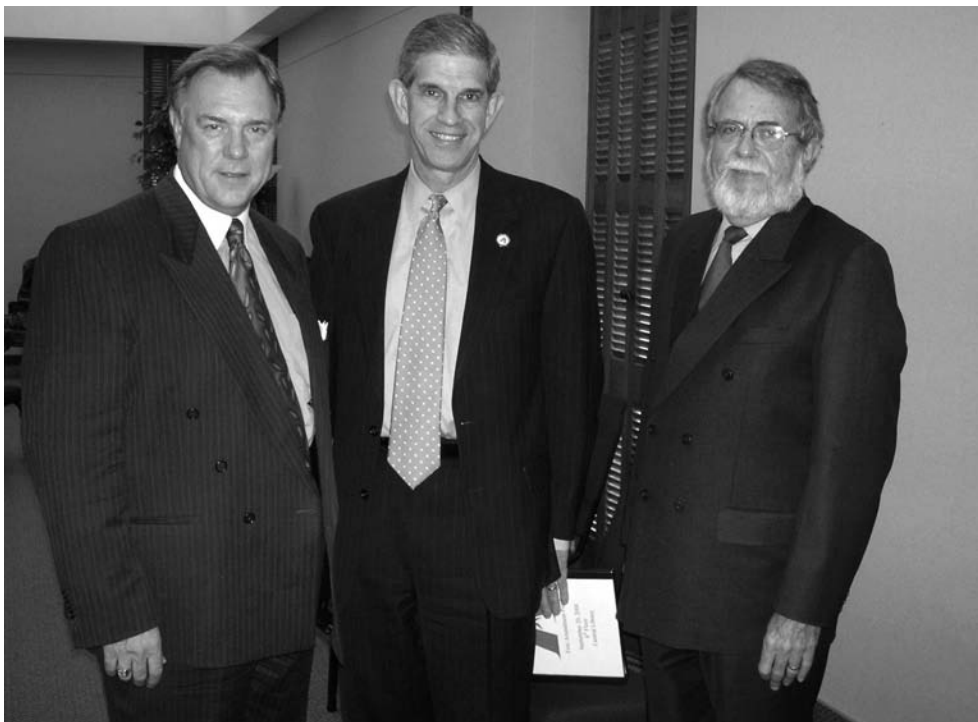
The six presidents of the Texas Map Society are, from left to right, George Tobolowsky, John Crain, Gervais Bell, Jenkins Garrett, Dennis Reinhartz, and Jeff Dunn.

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- Joe Foster
- Richard & Ellen Francaviglia
- Fred Freeman
- Robert Gamble
- Jenkins & Virginia Garrett
- William Geer
- Jeanne Gerlach

Power of the Press

UT Arlington hosted a distinguished panel of media experts to talk about free speech and the media on Sept. 20. The event, Power of the Press, included Paul Harral, vice president/editorial director for the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*; Mike Snyder, anchor and reporter at KXAS NBC 5 for 25 years; and Terese Arena, news director at Talk Radio 570 KLIF since 2003. The panel was moderated by UT Arlington President James Spaniolo, himself an attorney with experience in first amendment issues. This program took place during Banned Books Week and is a part of UT Arlington's Conversations '06, with the theme "Power," which will be ongoing throughout the year.



Mike Snyder, James D. Spaniolo, and Paul Harral.

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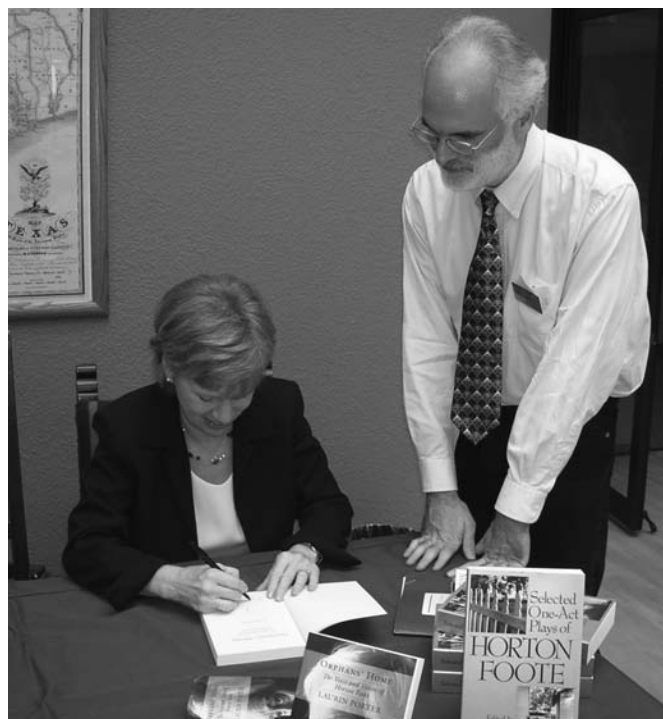
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Focus on Faculty, Fall 2006

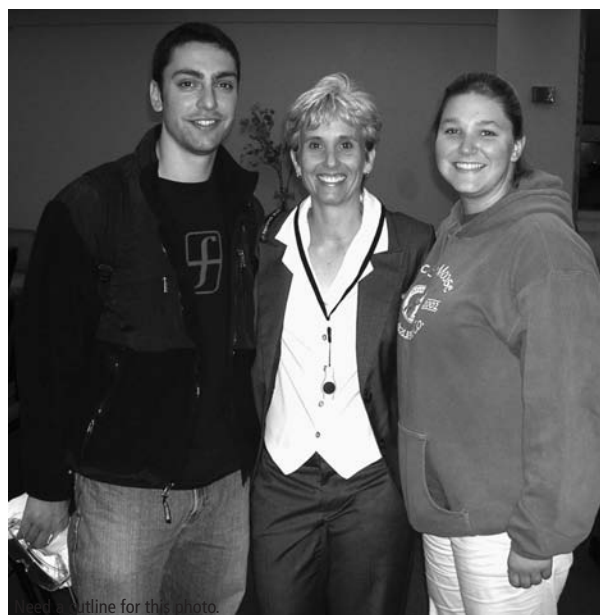
The Focus on Faculty lectures started on September 27 with a faculty member who wears many hats—including that of President of UT Arlington. **James D. Spaniolo** has a background in higher education, law, philanthropy, politics and journalism, and drew on those experiences to discuss “The Power of Ideas.” Focusing on our rapidly changing society, he stressed the importance of teaching higher-order thinking, and practicing open-minded tolerance and the power that’s inherent in understanding ideas that are different from, and perhaps contrary to, our own. Higher education serves as the great equalizer and helps us see beyond our own personal values and experiences.

The second event of the year was tied to a number of lecture and film screenings examining the work of the Pulitzer-winning playwright **Horton Foote**. On October 11 the nine day series began with the Focus on Faculty lecture by UT Arlington English **Professor Laurin Porter**. The Library and the Departments of Art and Art History, English, and Theater Arts sponsored these events, that culminated in the keynote speech delivered by Horton Foote himself. Porter, a nationally recognized Foote scholar, and author of *Orphan’s Home: The Voice and Vision of Horton Foote*, discussed his contributions to both film and stage, and by using clips from some of his best known works, including *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *The Trip to Bountiful*, she introduced listeners to the world of Horton Foote, a celebrated Texas writer.

Dr. Porter has received many awards, including UT Arlington’s Outstanding Research Achievement Award, 2006, Arlington *Star-Telegram* Service Learning Award, 2006, and the Fulbright Award.



Dr. Laurin Porter signed her book for Dr. Tim Morris. Both are professors in the English Department.



Trowbridge (center) was joined after the talk by two of her students, Michael Turk, left, who is completing his B.S. in Athletic Training this December, and Daina Davis, who will complete her B.S. in Athletic Training in May 2007.

Concluding the fall semester Focus on Faculty programs on November 15 was **Dr. Cynthia Trowbridge**, a dynamo from the Kinesiology Department who has worked with the USA Women’s Olympic Bobsled team. Dr. Trowbridge is an Assistant Professor and Clinical Education Coordinator for the Athletic Training Education Program in the Department of Kinesiology at UT Arlington. She discussed the role of certified athletic trainers in the success of the women’s bobsled team. Her talk took listeners to Park City, Utah, for the 2001 World Cup where the Women’s team swept the medals stand, and traversed the Alps, visiting Igls, Austria and Cortina and Sestriere, Italy where the USA Women competed for team placement and world ranking for the 2006 Winter Olympics in Torino, Italy. Certified athletic trainers are responsible for the prevention, recognition, treatment, and rehabilitation of athletic injuries.

Celebrating a Texas Writer: Horton Foote

On October 11 UT Arlington English Professor Laurin Porter kicked off a week-long series of lectures and film screenings to celebrate the life's work of Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright and Academy Award-winning screenwriter Horton Foote. The Library and the Departments of Art and Art History, English, and Theater Arts sponsored these events, that culminated in the keynote speech delivered by Horton Foote himself. Porter is the author of the recent book *Orphan's Home: The Voice and Vision of Horton Foote* and offered several introductions of panels and speakers during the week.

Horton Foote himself was on campus on October 19, following the week of lectures and screenings. He conducted a master class during the afternoon with invited students in the sponsoring departments, then he presented the keynote address entitled "Fifty Years of Bountiful and Other Journeys Along the Way."



On October 18 a panel of actors and scholars convened in the Library parlor. Participants included Ken Harrison, writer, editor, producer, and director of *On Valentine's Day* and *1918*; Dr. Marion Castleberry, Associate Professor, Theater Arts, Baylor University is the author of *Genesis of an American Playwright* (Baylor U Pr, 2004); Hallie Foote, actress and daughter of Horton Foote; and Dr. Stan Denman, Acting Chairman, Theater Arts, Baylor University.



From left to right, Professor Laurie Porter, playwright Horton Foote, and actress Hallie Foote.

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Tech Fair

The sixth annual Technology Fair was set up in the Bluebonnet Ballroom on November 8. The fair is a showcase for instructional, research, and workplace technology, delivered by and for students, faculty, and staff. Major sponsors for this year's Tech Fair are Dell, Canon, Wells Fargo, and Microsoft. The keynote speaker was Jeffrey Chester, nationally-known author, scholar, and commentator on the theme of "Net Neutrality" and its impact on the future of the Internet. Chester is from the Center for Digital Democracy.



Emmanuel Stingu is a graduate student who works at UT Arlington's Automation and Robotics Research Institute (ARRI) facility in Fort Worth. He displayed his autonomous helicopter.



UT Arlington librarian Tommie Wingfield and Jeffrey Chester, keynote speaker.



A Canon Digital Rebel XT camera was the grand prize for students who competed in the Tech Fair photo contest. Here with Professor Andrew Ortiz (left) with one of the student winners who received over \$200 in gift certificates from Southern Flair Photography.

Retirement: Reflection on the Permanent vs. the Ephemeral

By Bobbie Stevens Johnson

Retirement is one of those life-changing events, and as such, many thoughts come to mind. The recurring thought that I have is the contrast of the enduring nature of institutions and the relatively ephemeral nature of the individuals fortunate enough to participate in the growth and development of those institutions. This contrast, in a more general sense, was first brought home to me in an eleventh grade English class in a very small East Texas high school many years ago. That small high school had a superb English teacher, and it was she who worked with us as we read Ralph Waldo Emerson's "Nature" and thus became aware of the continual renewing of Nature as contrasted with the ephemeral nature of man.

In college, a fine sociology professor helped me extrapolate this concept and apply it to institutions. A university, as does nature, continually renews itself with new students each year. During my twenty-six years at the University of Texas at Arlington, that has been my primary guiding light; each fall has brought a sense of renewal. I shall miss that particular renewal as I look for others in the next stage of my life.

Indeed, it is from librarianship that I am retiring, and that in itself gives pause for thought – especially since when I began my career, librarianship was not even in the stars – not for me anyway. Yet, I can truthfully say that I know of no other field that would have provided me with the opportunities to expand my knowledge as has librarianship. As a holder of the M. A. in English, I would have continued to dig deeply into literature; such is my nature – my very being that I owe to my mother and grandfather for having given me my love of the written word by reading to me during my early years. Although history is a closely-related field, and we know that it is impossible to look at the literature of an era without looking at the history of the same era, I am not sure that I would have become the amateur scholar of the U. S. Presidency and leadership in general that I am without the broad range of librarianship to spur me on. Philosophy is another closely-related field, but I know I would not have delved as deeply as I have into the discipline without librarianship having provided the broad base for such exploration. Business is a totally unrelated field, but along the way, I learned that the leadership qualities that fascinate me as I look at world leaders are some of the same qualities that CEO's have. I could go on, but my point is that the field that I stumbled upon has made my life so much richer. It has been a bit of serendipity that I did not expect in the beginning. Thus, I am all the more grateful.



When librarian Bobbie Stevens Johnson retired on August 31, she was surprised at her reception by the announcement of the purchase of a collection of books in her name. They come from the from the Amelia Bloomer Project, that promotes feminist ideals in children's literature. Stevens worked at the UT Arlington library for 26 years, where her specialties were women's studies, children's literature, and education. In addition to the book collection, \$1000 was contributed in her honor by library staff to the UT Arlington Roundhouse Society Scholarship Fund. For more information about the Bloomer Project, visit <http://libr.org/ftf/bloomer.html>.

One does not walk away after a mutual investment of twenty-six years in anything – be it a marriage, raising a child, or a career without very ambivalent feelings. So it is with me as I prepare to walk away as it were.

Since 1990, I have had a Geoffrey Chaucer poster on the wall next to my computer. It is a poster that was sent to me by a publisher, but I have cherished it as if it were a framed portrait from the British Museum or some other esteemed archive. Having the Chaucer reproduction so near reminds me on a daily basis of his brilliance in capturing what is perhaps the finest portrait of the various and complex elements of society in his *Canterbury Tales*. He gave us an eternal mirror, as it were. Across the room on my door I have another publisher-issued photograph – this one of twentieth-century genius, William Faulkner. In this photograph, on a catalog cover from my alma mater, the University of Mississippi, Faulkner is wearing pants with holes and a jacket with a tattered pocket. He is standing in a stable, pipe in one hand, a horse's rein in the other, but what I see, even in this reproduction, is the piercing eyes that saw society and thus enabled the genius to record same. Faulkner, like Chaucer, 500 years earlier, has given us an eternal mirror. These two gentlemen will go with me when I leave.

As I pack up my office, I know their likenesses will be the last things to be packed. They serve to remind me of the recurring theme of permanence versus ephemera. In the life of an institution, twenty-six years is a small slice of time. For me, however, it represents the better part of a career, and I am so very grateful for the opportunity to have been a part of the University of Texas at Arlington Community in general and the University of Texas at Arlington Library in particular. This, after all, is what it is all about – using our time with an institution to make whatever contributions we are able to make, and then stepping aside, knowing that the institution will endure, and that the contributions of those who are, or will be, a part of its present and future will continually nurture it in such a way as to give it an ongoing sense of renewal.

It is indeed with that comforting knowledge that I leave this University, this Library, my dear colleagues from across the spectrum of the entire University community, and this office in which the likenesses of Geoffrey Chaucer and William Faulkner have reminded me that the societies they captured live on, but their portraits were but a snapshot in time – albeit an eternal snapshot.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF SPRING EVENTS

Time Frames

These photos have run as weekly slices of Arlington and Tarrant County history in the Arlington Edition of the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* for three years now, and are gleaned from various collections within the Special Collections photo archives. The text information about the photos is provided by library archivists and the whole is edited by Kevin Lyons at the *Star-Telegram*. An exhibit of the Time Frames photos will be in place in Special Collections sometime in the Spring 2007 semester. The dates were not firm as this newsletter goes to press.



Jack White Photograph Collection, published December 3, 2006, *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*.
An electric trolley travels north on Jennings Avenue at Texas Street in Fort Worth. St. Patrick Cathedral and St. Ignatius Academy are in the background. The photograph is undated, but is believed to have been taken in the early 1900s.

Friends of the Library

Jim Willett

Author of *Warden*

Friday, February 2, 2007

7:30 pm • Central Library Parlor

Gene Wright

Novelist

Why I Write—How I Write

Friday, March 23, 2007

7:30 pm • Central Library Parlor

Tim Madigan

Author of

I'm Proud of You: My Friendship with Fred Rogers

Friday, April 22, 2007

7:30 pm • Central Library Parlor

Focus on Faculty

Dr. Robert Gatchel

The Management of Chronic Pain

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

12:00-1:30 • Central Library Parlor

Dr. Bob Woods

The Power of Teamwork (Formula SAE Race Car)

Wednesday, February 28, 2007

12:00-1:30 • Nedderman Hall, Rm. 100

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