

# Mane Lines

A PUBLICATION OF SIMS LIBRARY, SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA UNIVERSITY

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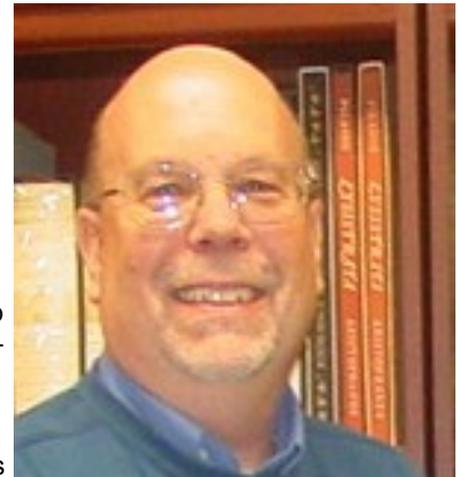
December 2011



## From the Director

by Eric Johnson

As I write this, Thanksgiving is upon us, and once again I review the list of things I can be thankful for. I'm employed in a job I enjoy at a University I like; I work with a wonderful group of folks; and I'm very happy living in the South, having braved New England winters for much of my life. Similarly, on behalf of Sims Library, I'm extremely grateful to a number of unsung heroes in the community who have graciously and generously donated time, money, enthusiasm, energy, ideas and materials to help us in so many ways.



Several examples of generosity stand out. The Friends of Sims Library, whose executive board is headed by Lacy Landrum, is comprised of a hard-working group of community and University members who meet regularly and devise ways of supporting Library programs and collections. Over the past three years, the group has raised over ten thousand dollars through a very popular annual wine tasting and support for the Library's book sales; created a book club that meets at members' houses to discuss current fiction and non-fiction; co-sponsored an art lecture series with the Hammond Regional Arts Center and the University's Department of Fine and Performing Arts; and is purchasing the continuation of our very popular bestsellers. Additionally, four individuals in the community have each made lifetime donations to the Friends.

The Round Table Club, an august group founded in 1909, provides the Library with an annual donation used for books. Ms. Marjorie Morrison, doyenne of the arts in Hammond, has been unstinting in her support for Sims Library. Jerry Hymel, local artist in glass, created and donated a stained glass memorial to Richard Collin, whose bequest of his personal library amplified our collections in history, art, literature, music, and popular culture. Michael Ledet, a Friends board member, had arranged for this bequest. Ms. Marjorie Miller, a former librarian at Southeastern, remembered us very generously in her will. Donald George, opera performer and last year's Southeastern Alumnus of the Year, contributed funds to create a new collection of American vocal music. Tony Dodge, a local businessman, regularly donates the latest mysteries and thrillers for our bestseller collection. Countless others have donated books for our collection and book sales. Local businesses have supported our wine tastings with wine, food, and silent auction items. The list goes on and on.

In the uncertain economic times in which we find ourselves, people and groups such as these, and so many more not mentioned, have given me and the Library faculty and staff many reasons to be thankful. Believe me when I say that all of this amazing generosity is very much appreciated, not just at Thanksgiving time but throughout the year.

## Editor's Welcome

by Lori Smith

As the chair of the 2011-2012 Publications Committee, I am pleased to bring you this newest issue of Mane Lines. Thanks to all who provided content.

We hope you enjoy learning about the latest news and events at Sims Library!

### SIMS LIBRARY PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE, 2011-2012

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*Chad Pearson*

*Lynette Ralph*

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## Friends of Sims Library Wine Tasting

by Eric Johnson



Merriment, camaraderie, food and drink were the order of the evening as FOSL, the Friends of Sims Library, held their third annual wine tasting, "Wine with Friends," at the Library on Friday, October 21. Seventy people gathered to taste six wines paired with small plates of food selected to enhance each wine's flavor. Representatives from local wine distributors, a Covington supermarket, a Hammond restaurant/market and Pontchartrain Vineyards were on hand to lead the tasting, while FOSL President Lacy Landrum acted as emcee. In addition, a silent auction featured several wine gift baskets, artworks, wine implements, books and gift certificates. Music was provided by a guitar duo. All wines, foods, auction items and the music were donated by the distributors, supermarkets, restaurants, board members and others.

The annual wine tasting raises much-needed funds for Library collections, equipment and programs. This year, over \$3700 was raised by the event, either in tickets, auction sales or donations. "The event has become so successful," said Library Director Eric Johnson, "that we had a waiting list for tickets this year. Many of the attendees from the first year have come back for subsequent tastings, and make sure that they're included on our mailing list." The tasting is a labor of love for the Executive Committee of FOSL, comprised primarily of local library lovers. Other FOSL activities include a monthly book club and assisting with the Library's annual book sale in April.

The next Friends' event is an afternoon tea with an author, scheduled for sometime in March. Admission will be free for FOSL members and one guest. Anyone wishing to join the Friends of Sims Library may contact Janie Branham at Sims Library via email ([jbranham@selu.edu](mailto:jbranham@selu.edu)) or telephone (985-549-2186).



## Check Out Our E-Books!

by Jean Badeau and Beth Stahr

E-books through NetLibrary have been available online to library users since 2001. During the last ten years, the collection has grown to over 71,000 fiction and non-fiction books. In the summer of 2011 the NetLibrary collection was converted to the eBooks Collection from EBSCO.

Now most of these e-books can be downloaded to PCs and other compatible portable devices. The devices supported include iPad, Nook, Sony reader, iPhone, Android phones, PCs and Mac computers. Adobe® Digital Editions 1.7.1 or higher is required for offline viewing. This free software can be downloaded from the Adobe website.

To be able to download an e-book, users must create or log into their EBSCOhost account. Then the user clicks on the *Download (Offline)* link for the e-book they would like to download. They select a *Checkout period* of one to seven days from the drop-down menu and click the *Checkout & Download* button. After the e-book is downloaded, it opens with Adobe® Digital Editions. Printing from the eBooks Collection is limited to 60 pages, unless the publisher has a lower limit for that title.

Adobe® Digital Editions keeps track of all items borrowed in its library including the amount of time left in the checkout period. Books past the checkout period show as "expired" and cannot be opened. If the user authorizes their computer, Adobe Digital Editions does not "lock" the eBooks to that computer — they are assigned to the user through their Adobe ID. The user can then transfer library items to up to six computers and six mobile devices.

Downloadable e-books make it possible for library users to take an e-book with them and use the e-book on a variety of devices. Sims Library is pleased to bring this convenient service to Southeastern students and faculty. For assistance with downloads or searching the eBooks Collection, please contact the Library Reference Department at 985-549-2027 or [askref@selu.edu](mailto:askref@selu.edu).

## Introducing New Librarian Chad Pearson

by Chad Pearson and Lori Smith



Chad Pearson comes to Southeastern Louisiana University from the sprawling metropolis of Dallas, TX. Writer, thinker, professor, librarian – he is a man of many titles and credentials, although constantly evolving.

Chad has a long affiliation with scholastics and academia. While a student at Plano Senior High School, he dabbled in the theater arts, performing in several school plays. Utilizing his performing arts background, he attended the University of Texas at Austin, where he created TV and radio broadcasts, and made short films. Chad also worked as a student worker in the Audio-Visual Library in the UT Austin Libraries prior to graduating in December 1996. After a brief stint in journalism, he decided to pursue a writing career and hone his writing skills. While at Columbia College Chicago, he published several poems and short stories and completed a novel. He also tutored students in writing and developed a love of teaching. Graduating in 2002 with an MFA in Writing, Chad knew he wanted to use his writing in conjunction with a long term career track centered in the academic profession.

Chad then pursued a PhD in the Humanities (with a concentration in literature and philosophy) at the University of Texas at Dallas in fall 2002. While at UTD, he taught composition and literature classes. Graduating in December 2006, Chad ventured into the nebulous waters of the PhD job field, eventually landing a postdoctoral position at the Georgia Institute of Technology in August of 2007. At Georgia Tech, he won a Thank-a-Teacher Award for teaching excellence and innovation; engaged in a year-long seminar on electronic pedagogy techniques; and taught several sections of a uniquely-designed course discussing dystopian fiction and biotechnology.

Remembering his intense love of libraries, Chad next embarked on a Master's in Library Science program at the University of North Texas in fall 2008. While completing his MLS, Chad worked as the weekend supervisor (Library Assistant 3) for the Circulation Department at the University of Texas at Dallas. At the McDermott Library, Chad served on the publications committee, assisted with new initiatives such as increasing study room space, helped film and edit the Faculty Author Interviews series, supervised student workers, and gained experience in library public service, working both day and night shifts. On more than one occasion Chad contributed to library security by assisting with capturing troublesome patrons and even prevented the library from flooding!

After graduating with an MLS in August 2010, Chad knew he wanted to pursue a career as a reference librarian at an academic institution. He now joins our staff as a Reference/Instruction Librarian for nights/weekends. He is very excited about his upcoming opportunities at Sims Library.

### *literati* by Credo Reference

by Beth Stahr

*literati* by Credo Reference is a “one-stop shopping” library research tool for students, and it is especially helpful to students who are not comfortable with advanced search techniques in the more traditional library electronic databases. Credo Reference retrieves full text articles and images from reference materials (electronic encyclopedias, dictionaries, atlases, etc.) and full text articles from magazines, newspapers, trade journals, and journals. The searcher can conduct one search on a topic and retrieve information from all of these different types of sources. It also provides links to books, e-books, and government publications in the Sims Library Catalog.

Credo Reference has developed concept maps (interactive graphical displays) for search terms. Users can register with *literati* to save searches and search results for later use. A list of reference books in *literati* is found in the Credo Reference Title List [Link to <http://corp.credoreference.com/products/content/titles-by-subject.html>]

*literati* by Credo Reference was selected In October 2011 by LOUIS: The Louisiana Library Network and the State Library of Louisiana as a way to promote information literacy and research effectiveness. Students from K-12 schools, colleges and universities, and public library patrons across Louisiana will have access to this new research tool.

## EBSCO Discovery Service

by Jean Badeau and Beth Stahr

EBSCO Discovery Service (EDS) is a new federated search product which replaces WebFeat on the Library Databases web page. LOUIS: The Louisiana Library Network, has a year-long trial of EDS for Louisiana academic libraries. With EDS, the library user can search LOUIS databases and library catalogs simultaneously from a single search box. EDS uses a knowledge base of pre-indexed records and this allows the user to have a faster response time for searches. All the EBSCOhost databases plus library catalog records are stored in this knowledge base. Other non-EBSCO products are searched using EBSCOhost Integrated Search.

After searching for a topic, results sorted by relevance are listed in the center column. Non-EBSCO databases will appear under "Integrated Search" on the right column. The user may select additional databases and rerun the search.

The left column of the results screen contains a selection of items to refine the search results. The user may limit results to full text, scholarly journals, dates of publication, subject terms, geography, and other limiters.

EDS is particularly helpful for searching topics that cross disciplines. For example, when searching a topic like intercultural communication, it might be helpful to retrieve articles from business, psychology, communication, sociology, and education publications. EDS provides an easy way to search across many databases simultaneously.

EDS is limited to 76 LOUIS databases and does not include 40 databases purchased by Sims Library. It is still a helpful research tool to discover which databases contain relevant information for the topic searched.

Library users should try out EDS and let a librarian know if it is useful. Students can contact librarians with input on EDS through the Ask A Librarian email service, [askref@selu.edu](mailto:askref@selu.edu). Faculty may want to contact the librarian liaison that services their academic department, as found on the library website, <http://www.selu.edu/library/directory/liaisons/index.html>.



*With EDS, the library user can search LOUIS databases and library catalogs simultaneously from a single search box.*

## Library User Survey Results

by Lynette Ralph

Sims Library recently conducted a survey because we were anxious to learn how people were using the building and hear their views on the library's resources and services. To extract this information we used color-coded comment cards which were distributed on all four floors. Two hundred and ninety-one persons completed the survey. There were 121 responses from the first floor, 91 from the second floor, 32 from the third floor and 47 from the fourth floor. Of the 291 persons responding, 278 were undergraduates, 11 were graduate students, and two persons were staff members. All disciplines on the campus were represented.

When asked what they were doing in the library at that time, 86% said they were either studying or doing homework and 97% were using the computer, completing work before class, or working on a project. Two hundred and forty-seven (247) students answered a question about where they would go if forced to move from the library; 155 or 63% said they would move to another floor or another seat on the same floor. In other words, 63% of the students would not leave the library even if they were asked to do so. Students typically stayed over two hours in the library; 84% of students spent between 31 minutes and over two hours in the library, and 85% of students frequently use the library and had used it within a two-week period ranging from earlier that day to less than two weeks.

Students shared reasons why they liked the library. Overwhelmingly, students liked the quiet atmosphere that was conducive to study, they appreciated the helpful librarians and staff and, of course, they liked the coffee shop. Areas of concern for the students included long lines to use the computers, the sometimes noisy behavior demonstrated by some of their peers, their inability to use their "free" prints on photocopiers, the scary elevators, and the hours the library opened and closed. They enjoy being in the library so much that they want it opened earlier and closed later.

Thank you everyone for your feedback. Sims Library appreciates your positive comments, and plans to address your concerns and, wherever possible, implement your suggestions.

## Civil War Reading/Discussion Grant

by Beth Stahr

Sims Library will host a free five-part reading and discussion series called “Let’s Talk About It: Making Sense of the American Civil War.” The library is one of 65 libraries nationwide receiving grants to host the series developed by the American Library Association and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Local support for the series is provided by Southeastern’s Department of History and Political Science and the Tangipahoa Parish Library.

The five discussion programs will be held on the third floor of the Library on Tuesday evenings beginning in January. While the program is free, registration is encouraged. Those who register in advance will receive free copies of the three books selected for the program. Further information on the discussion dates and registration is available online at <http://selu.libguides.com/civilwar>.

Group discussion events will focus on the following works:

- *March* by Geraldine Brooks (Penguin, 2006)
- *Crossroads of Freedom: Antietam* by James McPherson (Oxford University Press, 2002)
- *America’s War: Talking About the Civil War and Emancipation on Their 150 Anniversaries*, an anthology of historical fiction, speeches, diaries, memoirs, biography and short stories edited by national project scholar Edward L. Ayers and co-published by NEH and ALA.

Dr. Harry Laver, Associate Professor of History and Political Science, will lead a discussion of the designated book at each session.

Several supplemental presentations will be held at the Tangipahoa Parish Library. There is no advanced reading or registration for these interesting programs:

*Writing in General and Civil War Fiction in Particular* – Dayne Sherman

*Biting the Bullet: The Still Painful Legacy of Civil War Medicine* – Ladonna Guillot

*The British Are NOT Coming: Prince Albert, Palmerston, and Civil War Diplomacy* – Dr. Bill Robison

*Lincoln in/and Louisiana: (Re)Considering Causation and the Creole State* – Charles Elliott

*The Night the War Was (Re)Lost: (Re)Considering A Campaign that Almost Was* – Charles Elliott

*Researching Your Civil War Ancestors* – Beth Stahr

Sims Library is delighted to have been chosen to host this unique series that will allow community and university patrons to discuss the legacy of the Civil War with the help of a well-qualified scholar. For further information, please contact the Program Director, Beth Stahr at [bstahr@selu.edu](mailto:bstahr@selu.edu).

### Library Hours for Finals Week (Dec. 3–Dec 9)

Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday 2:00 p.m. – 1:00 a.m.  
Monday – Wednesday 7:30 a.m. –  
1:00 a.m.  
Thursday 7:30 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.  
Friday 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.



Please donate to our Food Drive!

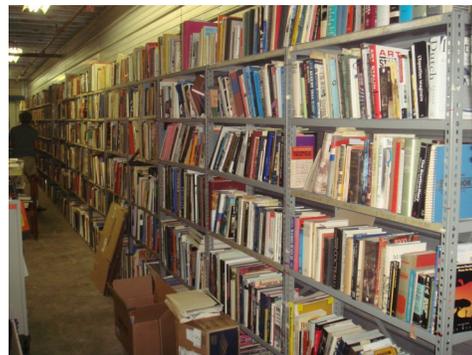
## Library Receives Collin Book Bequest

by Eric Johnson

Late last year, Library Director Eric Johnson drove a small moving van from Birmingham to Hammond, carrying a very precious cargo—some 4,000 books and 700 CDs that comprised part of the personal library of the late Dr. Richard Collin, who had earmarked the collection to come to Sims Library. Johnson had traveled to Birmingham twice previously to review the collection and determine which items would be appropriate for the Library's collection. The result was the addition of materials in history, art, literature, music and popular culture that will fill in some gaps in our collection and provide us with a sizeable group of opera and vocal compact discs.

Richard Collin was a professor of history at the University of New Orleans for some thirty-five years and an expert on Theodore Roosevelt and his era. Collin was also the first newspaper restaurant critic in New Orleans, and the author of restaurant guides and cookbooks in addition to scholarly books and articles. After the death of his wife, also an academic who had co-authored the cookbooks, he retired, traveled widely with his dear friend Phyllis Mayronne, and lived life to the fullest, both in New Orleans and then, after Hurricane Katrina, in Birmingham.

Throughout his life Collin collected books. He read in many areas besides history and cooking, and the collection reflects his wide-ranging interests. In Birmingham, his books were scattered throughout his condominium and had overflowed into a 60-foot storage unit, filling shelves on both sides of the unit. Included were a large number of coffee table books on artists and art movements, a collection of books and papers on Theodore Roosevelt along with Roosevelt memorabilia, cookbooks and books on food and drink, writings on culture and taste, classic literature, and many books on baseball, one of his passions. Collin was described by his longtime friend Michael Ledet as "an eccentric, sweet man, an intellectual in every sense of the word."



Richard Collin's storage unit.

It was through Ledet, a member of the Friends of Sims Library's executive board, and Mayronne that Sims Library became the new home of Collin's collection, valued at over \$100,000. When Collin became terminally ill, he and Ledet agreed that Southeastern would be an excellent home for much of his collection. On October 13, at a formal ceremony, the Library honored Richard Collin and his magnificent bequest with Ledet and Mayronne in attendance. The event also included the dedication of a stained glass art piece called "Chaos of a Collector," created by Hammond artist Jerry Hymel, and featured a display of Collin's life and career, with samples from his collection.

The books and CDs are being cataloged into the Library's collection, and a special bookplate will identify the books. Best of all, future generations of students and scholars will benefit from the generosity of Dr. Richard Collin.

## New Report on Household Income

by Lori Smith

In October 2011 the Congressional Budget Office of the U.S. Congress issued *Trends in the Distribution of Household Income Between 1979 and 2007*. This reports shows that between those years, "The share of income accruing to higher-income households increased, whereas the share accruing to other households declined. In fact, between 2005 and 2007, the after-tax income received by the 20 percent of the population with the highest income exceeded the after-tax income of the remaining 80 percent." The report provides a great deal of information about the 1% of the population with the highest income.

This publication can be viewed online at <http://purl.fdlp.gov/GPO/gpo14429>.