Monday evening, November 5, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. in the Plantation Suites of the Student Union, the Library will present an educational program about the Indian subcontinent. After a brief film about India, NSU faculty members Sumita Bhattacharyya, Ramaraj Boopathy, Rajkumar Nathaniel, Hemant Patil, and Balaji Ramachandran from India, along with M. Khurrum Shahzad Bhutta from Pakistan and Anit Aryal from Nepal, are invited to discuss the traditions, religions, foods, dress, and music of their countries of origin.

Each participant will highlight his or her journey from the Indian subcontinent to Nicholls State University. This event is part of Diversity Week and is sponsored in part by the Friends of Ellender Memorial Library. It is open to the public, and everyone is invited. Come join us as we celebrate our diversity and learn more about each other, and our world.

Books At Bargain Prices!

The Friends of Ellender Memorial Library are holding a used book sale November 9th and 10th at the Library. The sale, which is a fundraiser, will begin with a “Friends” only preview sale, which will be held between 4:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 8th. The sale for the general public will be Friday, November 9th, from 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m. The book sale will continue for a second day on Saturday, the 10th, and will be held from 10:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.

The Friends Group is collecting gently used books for the sale. Items should be brought to the Multimedia Department, 1st floor, Ellender Library. For more information call: 448-4643.

Library Book Club to Meet

Thanks to the “Friends,” we now have a forum for discussing great works of fiction, and first on our list is Yann Martel’s The Life of Pi, the 2002 Booker Prize winner. The discussion of Martel’s novel is open to everyone, and will be held on Nov. 14 at 6:30 pm in the Archives (see poster image, page 2 of this issue). To encourage people to read and attend the first meeting, the Friends have supplied eight additional copies of the novel—all available for checkout. Librarians Van Viator and Tony Fonseca will be leading the discussion.

The story is about a sixteen-year-old from India, Pi Patel. The son of a zookeeper, Pi travels to Canada with his family and a menagerie of animals. But after an accident, Pi is stranded on a 26 foot lifeboat, with a zebra, hyena, orangutan, and Bengal Tiger. Before you know it, the only two remaining occupants on the boat, Pi and the tiger, must face a harrowing 227-day journey at sea.

Future possibilities for book club choices will be works of fiction with substance: The Time Traveler’s Wife, I Know This Much is True, and The Memory of Running. These have all received notable critical attention or have won major literary awards. The Book Club also invites everyone to submit recommendations for future club discussions. If you have book recommendations for future club discussions, please submit them to Van Viator by calling 448-4661.
Books, Briefly

Dorfman, Ariel. *In case of fire in a foreign land: new and collected poems from two languages.* Ariel Dorfman; with translations by Edith Grossman with the author. 861 D732L 2002

We’ve all heard about torture in the news lately—the “how to” angle, whether it is legal, or discussions of whether placing a human being upside down and pouring water on his head qualifies. Ariel Dorfman’s poems are poignant, well-crafted verses, beautifully translated from the Spanish, that will give you a human insight into this inhuman practice. The poems bring out the voices of exiles, activists, everyday people, tortured individuals—and torturers alike.

Thurman, Robert A. F. *Anger.* 179.8 T425a

Ever thought Anger could make an entertaining and insightful topic for a book? Part of a series of lectures co-sponsored by the N.Y. Public Library and Oxford University press on the Seven Deadly Sins, Thurman gives in clear terms his philosophical take on Anger. It is a chatty, lively little book without notes and heavy scholarly apparatus, but it examines Western and Eastern attitudes on this “sin.” Of course, you can take your pick with *Pride, Envy, Sloth, Greed, Gluttony,* even *Lust,* for the library has acquired the complete series of these elegant and well-written volumes. Don’t ask the librarian why there are only seven; it is, after all, tough to come up with anything new in the world of Sins.

Middleton, David. *The habitual peacefulness of Gruchy: poems after pictures by Jean-François Millet.* 811 M584h

Gruchy is not a misspelling of grouchy. Nor is it the place where Groucho lives. The word, rather, refers to our very own Poet-in-Residence and Department of Languages and Literature Chair’s most recent published collection. An interesting conjunction between French painter François Millet and landscapes of the Bayou country, these poems will nag at you until you have read every one. Besides, reading these vignettes may well help you to know more about just how your Professor of English thinks, what makes him tick, and what constitutes his poetic consciousness.

Nenes, Michael F. *American regional cuisine.* 641.5973 N349a 2007

Interested in the cultural/culinary make up of the country? Culinarily curious about how the rest of the country eats? *American Regional Cuisine* is a professional book that gives cultural background to the main cuisines of our country. Without traveling—and armed with just select ingredients and a bit of work—you treat yourself to an exploration of US cuisine in all its dimensions. Better yet, Louisiana’s Cajun and Creole Cuisines have a whole section of their own, so you can feel right at home.

Spotlight: Resources You Can Fall Back On

Outside, the leaves are just beginning to change colors. Houses are exhibiting their new autumnal decorations—scarecrows, gourds, pumpkins, to name just a few. And the weather is finally getting a bit cooler.

Those *Charlie Brown* specials should be on the television soon. New school clothes still look new. If these images delight you, or even lead to a sense of nostalgia, keep in mind that they can become even more real, more vivid in the imagination, if you step out of the light autumn breeze, and step into the library.

Ever wonder what it is that makes leaves change color? If so, you can explore South Louisiana’s fall foliage by consulting our dictionaries and encyclopedias. Or perhaps you would like to know if our weather has ever been more gorgeous than it is this year. If so, we have almanacs and other books that record such information. If vivid colors are your pleasure, we have librarians who are expert at surfing the Internet.

Some of you may be more interested in contemplating the dynamic world of plant life from a scientific point of view, while others may be more interested in artistic or literary perspectives. In Ellender Library, you will find books about plant ecology, as well as collections of poetry by Emily Dickinson, including poems about gardening this time of the year.

Some may wish to channel their inner children with our children’s books about seasons, or may want to learn to play “Linus and Lucy” (better known as the Charlie Brown Theme Song) by checking out the sheet music in the Library’s Multimedia Department. As for your librarians, many of us can be found revisiting the Peanuts gang—through various books featuring comic strips by and biographical information about Charles Schultz.

Finally, don’t forget that if fall fashions are your passion, we have a cornucopia of magazines in Serials.
Librarians Percuss and Dance To Win Award

The awnings went up and the sombreros came out. Tattoos of little “N’s” and the word “Colonels” adorned the shoulders, cheeks, and ankles of a few librarians, while another frolicked about with cat whiskers painted on her face. These images were just a few that emerged from the library table during the 2007 Welcome Back Day celebration. The library table offered cookies, freezer pops, and drinks (including authentic Mexican horchata), as well as games, including a complex dance involving skipping over two poles. A few feet away hung a piñata filled with candies and prizes. The goodies and events were planned by members of the Publicity and Public Relations Committee (PaPR) with the help and participation of many library staff and faculty.

Throughout the hot summer day, students were invited over to the table to enjoy refreshments, to dance over the poles, to play musical (percussion) instruments while the mariachi band played 15 feet away, and to dance around a sombrero with librarians and other staff and/or students. Some participants even grabbed the homemade percussion instruments which were made to look like library books.

At times during the day, students could be seen standing by the library table, playing the guiro or maracas, while library staffers Lady Pierson, Danny Gorr, Deannie Eusea, Daisy Guidroz, Jolene Knight, Debbie Adams, and Tony Fonseca clanged zills, played wooden blocks, and danced. Nearby Carol Mathias and Sandi Chauvin could be seen taking pictures and encouraging students to come by for cookies.

One of the highlights of the celebration occurred when circulation desk staff member Cheryl Adams arrived in a red Flamenco-inspired dress. She, Assistant Professor/Reference Librarian Melissa Goldsmith, and Library Accountant Cynthia Marchbanks danced several times around a sombrero, catching the eye of a Daily Comet photographer, who later interviewed them. The article appeared a day later in the newspaper.

A while later, after the Dyslexia Center won the award for most spirited organization, Ellender Library was honored to learn that it had won one of three awards given that day: a ribbon for Best Opportunity for Student Participation.

New Documents Specialist Also a Local Artist

William Charron, our newest Library Specialist in Government Documents, is a life-long Thibodaux resident. He graduated in 2000 from Thibodaux High, and is an alumnus of Nicholls. Despite being local, he and his siblings, including his twin sister, are well-traveled—having seen much of the USA camper-style.

After completing his BA with a major in art, he liked the idea of working where his employment and artistic talents were compatible. Since he enjoyed his time at Nicholls and enjoys helping others with computer research, he feels he can continue to enjoy the opportunity to pursue research supporting his creative talent in his current position in Documents.

In fact, as library employees and patrons enjoy the Faculty/Staff Art Display on the first floor, they may notice that it includes examples of his work in resin, with mixed media. His unique, experimental style shows that he has been studying not only art, but, as he puts it, “possibilities for new life and how living things adapt and change.”

He reads quite a bit, mostly for inspiration for his art. This includes his habit of researching in both science and fantasy, to create “visions” and build those art facts he has visualized. He also gains inspiration by spending some of his spare time with another artist/friend, who also attended Nicholls. They support each other, discussing their mutual interests and bouncing ideas. Participating in shows like Art After Dark is still another of his interests. He is currently working with another artist who has skills in electronics. Charron plans to remain in Thibodaux for quite a while, where he will continue to pursue his interest in the way things are designed, and in his words, “why things work the way they do.” He wants to share the possibilities he sees with others through his art.
Library News

Sandi Chauvin (Serials), Angela Graham (Documents), Cynthia Marchbanks (Accounting), Lynette Tamplin (Documents), and Anke Tonn (Interlibrary Loan) will be attending The LOUIS Users’ Conference (LUC) in Baton Rouge.

Cynthia DuBois (Documents) received her Master Advisor certification.

Tony Fonseca (Serials) recently served on a panel dealing with SACS accreditation and information literacy requirements for the Louisiana Community and Technical Colleges System Leadership Conference. He will be presenting at LUC as member of the Louisiana Academic Library Information Network Consortium (LALINC) Information Literacy Committee. He has recently published an extended review of John Bodnar’s Blue Collar Hollywood for Screening the Past (LaTrobe University, Australia).

Melissa Goldsmith (Reference) will be presenting at LUC as member of the LALINC Information Literacy Committee. She will also be presenting on Jim Morrison and The Los Angeles Free Press at the National Annual Meeting of the American Musicological Society in Quebec. She has recently published a book review essay in The Journal of the Society for American Music.

Danny Gorr (Serials) received his Master Advisor certification. He is also teaching a Spanish class this semester.

Neil Guilbeau and Clifton Theriot (Archives) will be attending The Louisiana Archives and Manuscripts Association Annual Meeting in Baton Rouge.

Jeremy Landry (Automation) will be presenting at LUC. He will be a member of a panel discussion on Reserves.

Carol Mathias (Director), along with Fonseca and Goldsmith, will be attending the ACRL (Association of College and Research Libraries) workshop on assessment.

Van Viator (Reference) will be presenting at LUC as a member of the LALINC Digital Reference Committee.

Back from Berkeley

Two Ellender librarians, Tony Fonseca and Melissa Goldsmith, recently attended the Critical Thinking Conference hosted by CriticalThinking.org at The University of California-Berkeley. Joined by CAFÉ Director Ray Giguet, they learned about various definitions and approaches to critical thinking, including problem solving using a technique that requires a problem statement/definition, elaboration, and illustration/application. The conference also featured sessions about using critical thinking strategies for teaching in all disciplines, creating fundamental and pivotal points of learning for courses and classes, shared critical thinking, and thinking analytically.

The most valuable aspect of the conference was learning to structure classes based on lifelong learning objectives.

Bridging the Gap: Library to Co-Host Symposium

On November 14th, the Library will be co–hosting The CAFÉ’s (Nicholls Center for the Advancement of Faculty Engagement) First Symposium. The theme of this year’s conference is Teaching Engaged Learning: Understanding Our Students’ World. The day-long event will focus on how faculty, by learning about the cultural and societal expectations of today’s students, can better develop strategies for inspiring and motivating them to learn.

The premise is simple: By considering our students’ world, we can more effectively help mold them into becoming well–rounded lifelong learners, so when they leave the university, they are more informed, more engaged, and are all–around better people than when they arrived. At least six universities statewide will be represented at the Symposium, which will involve participation from Nicholls administrators, faculty, staff, and students. Presentations include, among others, technology–based learning, teaching experiences and techniques, making research exciting, learning and teaching styles, and perspectives on today’s students.

These topics will be addressed across all disciplines and fields. We hope to encourage discussion of diverse pedagogical questions: Why do some forms of communication work while others fail? How do we engage in the classroom and in other campus activities?

Some of the cultural issues discussed include music, dance techniques (moves), art, and relating to countercultures (such as neo-hippies and Goths). There will be panel discussions on the assimilation issues faced by international students, as well as on bridging the age gap when working with students in the library. Presentation topics will include (but will not be limited to) the use of YouTube in the classroom, wireless student response systems, designing interesting and relevant writing assignments, teaching French to today’s students, making information literacy exciting, dealing with gender issues, understanding different “mindsets,” engaging freshmen, and advising sophomores. Many sessions will also include student respondents, and student–based panels will open and close the Symposium.

Director of the CAFÉ, Ray Giguet (Computer Science and Mathematics), along with Tony Fonseca (Serials Librarian), and Melissa Goldsmith (Reference Librarian) lead the organizing committee, and will be working with SGA President Olinda Ricard. Presentation schedules will be available in November. Faculty, staff, and students interested in attending can register early by emailing Melissa Goldsmith (melissa.goldsmith@nicholls.edu). Registration will also be available on site. There is no fee.

Student organizations and individual students are also welcome to submit ideas for poster sessions. A poster session is a place for presenting information that works in a visual or interactive format. Information is displayed on either a poster board in the form of charts, graphs, pictures, and limited text or in combination with a computer display such as a Power Point slide show. If you or your organization is interested, email your poster description to Tony Fonseca (tony.fonseca@nicholls.edu) by Wednesday, Oct. 17.