On Wednesday, April 9, the Ellender Memorial Library celebrated the Twelfth Annual Cajun/Zydeco Music and Dance Exhibit. This year the theme was Louisiana Women Musicians of Cajun and Zydeco Music. Part of the Jubilee: A Celebration of the Arts and Humanities, and co-sponsored by the Houma Regional Arts Council, the Chef John Folse Culinary Institute, BTNEP, and Coca-Cola, the event began with a reception held in Ellender Memorial Library. In front of a library display which gave information on the program, event poster, and event theme, Library Director Carol Mathias and Program Director Anke Tonn welcomed participants. Refreshments were served, and everyone enjoyed live music.

Tonn points out that in this case, success can be attributed to hard work and determination: “After twelve years of sponsoring this program, members of the local and surrounding communities anticipate and look forward to the festivities. This year we had another successful program. The Library’s first floor from the entrance, through the hallways, the area in front of the display cases, and the open Ellender Room of the Archives were filled with guests and participants. Many guests arrived early, to make sure they had time to see the exhibit, to visit with friends, and to meet new people.” This year’s event featured Bonsoir, Catin, and Rosie Ledet on stage, with event essayist / interviewer Ben Sandmel.

On the Fly Classes

We offer On the Fly Classes in Research Methods, Literature, Musicology, and Culinary Arts Resources, among others! Contact Melissa Goldsmith at 448-4626 if you have a group of three or more students who would like a session we do not currently offer.

Library Tip 1

If you’re a professor and would like to know how better to coordinate your students’ research with the library, you should know that librarians welcome copies of assignments and syllabi sent in advance. This allows us to create the most effective and efficient method of addressing student needs for each assignment. While we fully endorse challenging research assignments, we are most grateful when we’re given a “heads up” by professors and instructors, so that we can prepare the best possible strategy.

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Van Viator, the art department liaison for the library, purchases books and videos in the discipline while juggling the problems of availability, need, and budget. Like most librarians, his being a liaison has meant expanding his education. He has taken a number of art history courses at LSU and Nicholls so that he can make informed decisions. He also has the help of his departmental contact, Dr. Deborah Cibelli, professor of art and art history.

Once items are agreed upon and purchased, Viator sends a monthly list of new acquisitions to Cibelli, department head Jean Donegan, and departmental secretary Connie Doran. The three make certain the list is distributed to other art faculty. Viator has been liaison to the Art Department for years now, ordering books and multimedia items on a variety of subjects—ranging from the Italian Renaissance painting to ceramics and pottery. “What I like about our art department is its diversity,” he states. “They teach a variety of subjects such as art history, printmaking, painting, graphic design, sculpture, and photography. This enables me to purchase books and videos on many subjects, and it never gets boring.” He also praises instructors like Cibelli, who proactively requests a large number of items.

Art instructors submit requests either directly to Viator, or visit the library webpage to order books using the “Recommend a Book” link, which leads to a form that can be submitted electronically. Cibelli notes that faculty in the department “…have always been encouraged to recommend titles that enhance instruction and facilitate student learning, and the librarians see that the best titles are added to the collection.” She expresses pride in the collection, adding that “new titles recently acquired from major university presses and book publishers include books that examine media and studio techniques, as well as monographs and books on aesthetics and the history of art. We are fortunate to have librarians at Nicholls who are so responsive to program needs and who value all faculty recommendations.”

Viator, an art aficionado himself, realizes that collecting for an academic library has its challenges, such as money: “Many of the large art books with glossy photographs can be expensive.” He explains that tools like the Netlibrary collection of electronic books become invaluable in such cases. The library has access to over 40,000 electronic books (e-books). While appreciating the reality that staring at a book on a computer monitor is not the most ideal situation for readers, he notes that since the Netlibrary service specializes in recent publications, it’s a great source for current research. In addition, e-books offer helpful search features such as an electronic dictionary and thesaurus, as well as a keyword search that allows for locating a specific word no matter where it occurs in a text.

To Viator, the library’s art collection includes more than just books. He specifically mentions one of Ellender’s online journal databases, Art Abstracts, as being a godsend. According to Viator, the database indexes 378 international art journals, and some of the articles will be full text, so they can be conveniently printed from any computer. He also points out that the Library recently purchased ARTstor, a digital library of approximately 700,000 images in the areas of art, architecture, the humanities, and social sciences.

Overall, as Viator explains, the Library has a pretty impressive art book collection. In addition, Archives has beautiful books on the Sistine Chapel, as well as a large collection of Audubon prints, and throughout the library, paintings from retired professor Ben Forbes’ private collection is visible. “There is much here that the art student or aficionado will appreciate,” Viator states.

Submitted for Your Approval: Book Review


PostScripts 10 is a special hard-bound issue of a quarterly published by PS Publishing. Just a cursory glance at the table of contents page reveals that Crowther has managed a veritable who’s who of greats in the horror genre. First, there is a special section devoted entirely to Michael Marshall Smith, a master of the subtle dark fantasy tale. Crowther includes six excellent Smith tales, as well as an excerpt from the novel The Intruders. “REMTemps” and “Night Falls, Again” read like well-crafted Charlie Kaufman scripts. In the former, Smith’s narrator takes a job dreaming other people’s frustration dreams and nightmares, with frightening results, while in the latter the narrator is destined to relive a negligent homicide, over and over. The excerpt from The Intruders is delightfully eerie.

The regular fiction section includes writers such as Nancy Kilpatrick, Rick Hautala, T. M. Wright, Thomas Tessier, Christopher Fowler, P. D. Cacek, Tim Lebbon, Graham Joyce, Ramsey Campbell, and Stephen King. Tales by Shepard, Volk, and Cacek stand out. Shephard’s over-the-top vampire tale posits a universe where vampires control (and have always controlled) the actions of human beings, and by extension, governments and nations. Volk’s and Cacek’s tales are both more psychological in nature, relying on the authors’ abilities to create a sense of disruption in the way readers view life. Volk’s “Who Dies Best,” the best story in the volume, relates the vision of a near future where the terminally ill, the suicidal, and the condemned can literally sell their deaths to Hollywood. Told from the point of view of a man who is obsessed with watching his mother’s death scene (in a remake of a film about the Darrow gang), the tale is heartbreaking and thoughtful, in the vein of the best Rod Serling stories. Cacek’s “Call Waiting” (dedicated to the recently deceased Charles Grant, a brilliant author in the genre) is about a recent widower who continually calls his wife’s land line from his cell to leave messages about his day, simply to hear her voice once again. Of course, there are stories that rank as near misses—but they do little to detract from what is a wonderful read.
Cajun/Zydeco (continued from page 1)

The library-hosted portion of the program also included an educational component, supplying guests with information about the historical developments of Cajun and Creole music. This year’s scholar was Ben Sandmel, a musician, and the author of *Louisiana Cultural History*, and essay “The Women of Cajun Music and Zydeco,” a publication which was made available to everyone.

The second part of the program was held in the Cotillion Ballroom, where Sandmel interviewed five women musicians: Rosie Ledet, Anya Schoenege Burgess, Kristi Guillory, Yvette Landry, and Christine Balfa Powell. **Dr. David Boudreaux**, Vice President of Institutional Advancement, recognized the musicians with a certificate of appreciation. Performances by Ledet (the Zydeco Sweetheart) and The Zydeco Playboys, Bonsoir, Catin followed. Guests danced, socialized with friends and new acquaintances, and enjoyed both the food from the concession stand and the refreshments from the cash bar.

Another event, a dinner dance with Geno Delafose and French Rock’n Boogie, was

The set-up for dinner was exquisite, and delectable cuisine was served. Guests at the event had a wonderful time, as the smiles on the faces of the dancers attested. One could not help but think that this cultural experience would affect everyone present, especially the younger students who joined in the festivities. Thanks to the Student Government Association, groups of Nicholls students filled two tables (seating 8 students each) at the event. Plans have begun for the Thirteenth Annual Cajun/Zydeco event, to be held on Friday, March 13, 2009. The event theme will be The Different Aspects of the Cajun Music Tradition. Les Freres Michot and The Lost Bayou Ramblers will be the headline performers, and the Nicholls community is welcome. ■

Positively Note-able: Music Resources at Ellender

Want to find out information about a recent popular recording artist? Need scholarly books for that music history paper? Wonder what other recordings or literature exists to follow up on an English assignment? Hope to find lyrics or guitar tabs to perform a song?

Ellender Library houses over 5000 books that have something to do with music—from new scholarly books about Beethoven and German Lieder, to recent insider knowledge about John Lennon’s “lost weekend.”

Over 1200 scores, 1000 CD titles, and 4000 LP titles are housed in the Multimedia Department on the first floor of the library. Listening to the needs of students and faculty in the Music Department, the library now allows for students and faculty to borrow scores for up to three weeks (unless placed on reserve for courses). The scores themselves represent the diversity of this collection. Not only is there a hodgepodge of popular sheet music, instrument instruction booklets, songbooks, and scores and parts. There is also a core set of scores for scholarly musical study, from performing to critical editions.

While the CDs give listeners access to new music and reissues, the LPs offer opportunities for comparative listening. One of the recent goals of collection development in this area is to acquire scores to go with recordings already owned, and vice versa. Having the score in hand while listening to the music gives students in courses focusing on music the greatest advantage to succeed.

Books about music, databases like *Oxford Music Online* (including *The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians*), and reference books are housed on the second floor. There are books about music history, musicology, music theory, and music education, among others. To meet the growing demands of and interests in music education, the library just acquired many MENC titles (the National Association for Music Education), including *Spotlight* books on various kinds of topics in teaching music (for example, band management and choral conducting).

Over 1000 books are devoted to some aspect of music history (from medieval to present), focusing on composer biography, scholarly approaches to understanding and interpreting music, musicology, and the history of certain instruments. They offer depth to most information found on the Internet, as well as fresh perspectives on most classical and vernacular subjects (for example, film composer interviews). A new reference book, *Jazzology*, teaches how to read, play, and interpret jazz music in the same way as professional jazz musicians and scholars. ■
Library News

Sandi Chauvin (Serials) earned her Master Advisor certificate. She also received a letter from the Vice President for Student Affairs congratulating her on being named as a staff member who had made significant contributions to individual student development for a graduating senior.


Melissa Goldsmith (Reference) has just finished writing two book reviews for Fontes Artis Musicae: The Journal of the International Association of Music Libraries, Archives, and Documentation Centres. She recently had two presentations: “Beats and Bongs: Making the Library the Cultural Center of Academe” (with Fonseca), at the Louisiana Library Association in Shreveport, and “Jim Morrison vs. The Miami Herald” at the American Musicological Society-Southern Society for Ethnomusicology Joint Regional Conference.

Hunter Knight, the grandson of Jolene Knight (Multimedia), won third place in a statewide 4th grade poetry writing competition. His poem, “The Cold Darkness,” will be published in both Les Jeunes Ecrivains and Reading: Exploration and Discovery, both sponsored and published by the Louisiana Reading Association.

Anke Tonn (Interlibrary Loan), Clifton Theriot (Archives), and Library Director Carol Mathias attended the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities (LEH) annual awards presentation at Houmas House Plantation. Ellis Marsalis was awarded Humanist of the Year and Nicholls history professor, J. Paul Leslie was honored.

Van Viator (Reference), along with co-authors Fonseca and Goldsmith, published an article on Ellender Library’s outreach programs in the Spring 2008 issue of Louisiana Libraries. The article is titled “Beats and Bongs: Making the Library the Cultural Center of Academe,” and it examines outreach programs in academic libraries, citing Ellender’s as example.

Library Tip 3

Wonder where the old File menu, with commands for opening files, saving, and printing disappeared to? In Microsoft Office 2007, these commands can be found in the circular, multicolored icon that appears at the top left of the document.

Library Tip 4

To simultaneously search EBSCO databases, look for the box below the search interface that says “in:”. The name of the database you chose to search will be in this box, and you will notice that this box has a pull-down menu attached to it. Simply open that menu, and (1) scroll until you see the name of any other database you want to search, then (2) put a check in the box that is next to that database, and (3) click “Submit”.

You will know you have done this correctly when you see the phrase Specific Databases in the box that has “in:” next to it, and below this you see listed the names of all the databases you wish to search. You will then see that you are searching multiple databases at one time. Simply type in your search terms and you’ll quickly be looking under every possible haystack for that needle.

Cleaning out your office, or shelves at home?

Remember that the Friends of Ellender Memorial Library are collecting books for a fund-raiser in October. If you are interested in helping with the book sale by giving us your unwanted novels, short story collections, books of poetry, biographies, histories, and other works of non-fiction, just bring your donation to the Multimedia Room, on the first floor of the library.