Library Entrance Offers Beauty and Better Access

If you drive by Ellender Memorial Library at night, you’ll find yourself treated to a glittering light show: lights in the three new bubbling fountains which adorn the new Library entrance get filtered through the bubbling water and flicker, playing off the building’s exterior walls. If you walk by the Library during the day, when classes are in session, you’ll notice students, faculty, and staff sitting on the new benches, reading or relaxing while listening to the fountains. Sociology student Alice O’Keefe summed up the recent library construction well, stating “I thought it was so pretty when I saw the fountains. The lighting is a nice change. I really like it.”

The $250,765 construction project to renovate and update the main entrance of the Library began in May of 2010, and it was completed earlier this Fall, in September. Based on the conceptual plan of architect Richard Weimer, Randy Landry Construction of Thibodaux removed cypress trees and aging ramps, both making structural repairs and constructing an artistic, modernized entrance. The new look includes the aforementioned three bubbling lighted fountains, new sturdy comfortable benches adorned in Nicholls’ colors, and alternating squares of concrete, also in Nicholls’ colors. These accent the newly refurbished front sidewalk and newly constructed stairs. The completed project adds a sense of modernity to the façade, giving it curb-appeal and improving the safety of visitors and patrons entering the Library.

Reese Bernard, one of the Library’s custodians, noted not only the beauty of the new entrance, but its practicality as well: “It’s a wonder. It’s beautiful. And it makes a big difference. It takes less effort to take proper care of the front now. There is no more tree debris to clean up. I find the sound of the fountains relaxing while I work.”

Continued on Page 3
Putting the BOO Back in Book Stacks

How often do you get to hear the red and blue unicorns (from the viral YouTube phenomenon Charlie the Unicorn) sing “The Candy Mountain Song,” accompanied by a Nun-With-A-Gun? This once-in-a-lifetime experience was one of the highlights of the Ellender Memorial Library Halloween Party, held the afternoon of Oct. 28 in the Library Faculty Lounge.

Hosted by the Library’s Publicity and Public Relations Committee (PaPR), and organized by Sandi Chauvin of Serials, the annual party has been held for the past three years. Chauvin, along with PaPR Committee members Tony Fonseca, Melissa Goldsmith, Angela Graham, Lady Pierson, Anke Tonn, and Van Viator, supplied interested students with Boo Brownies, Count Chocolate Chip Cookies, Poison Apple Brickle Dip, and Wizard’s Blood Brew, a signature punch made by Chauvin every year. Goldsmith coordinated efforts of several Service Learning students to help decorate the library, so the lounge had wall-to-wall spider webs, lights, ghouls, and hand-painted pumpkins. Library staff made various monetary and goods donations.

Prizes were awarded for costumes: Scariest, Most Boo-Tiful, Sexiest, Funniest, Most Original, and “Dead Last.” A student dressed as Harry Potter’s Prisoner of Azkaban won the Scariest Costume Award, and other students dressed as Bat Girl (Sexiest), the Nun-With-A-Gun (Funniest), and a Graduate Student participated. Library faculty and staff came as Witches, The Karate Kid, The Red and Blue Unicorns (Most Original), and a Leaf-Peeper (Dead Last). A member of the Nicholls’ larger community who frequents the library came as a Princess (Most Boo-Tiful).

An award was also presented to the best decorated Library department. Departments such as Serials, Reference/Circulation, Documents, and Interlibrary Loan participated, but the “Trollphy” was awarded to the Main Office. Director Carol Mathias, along with Cynthia Marchbanks and Daisy Pope, created an over-the-top mini haunted house, complete with rattling bones, laughing skeletons, and giant spiders. Students were allowed to tour the Room of Horrors during the party.

Haunted Landscapes (Book Review)


Ghosts of Wyoming shows promise, but unfortunately for horror fans, it contains only a story or two dealing with actual ghosts; however, the rest of its tales describe the bleak landscapes, personas, and boldness of Wyoming’s locales.

Alison Hagy lives in Wyoming, so readers will sense her devotion to the landscape, which is one of the most underpopulated in the United States (obviously, she takes the reader far beyond Yellowstone National Park). Readers meet characters who are hardened by this landscape, by Wyoming’s bleak weather conditions, and by the starkness of the terrain. But these characters possess inner strength; they have heart and therefore capture our sympathy.

One of her characters remarks how some people in Wyoming become isolated and should death approach, they decide to dispose of themselves outdoors, allowing nature to consume their remains. Another character roams the state after killing his father, his one companion being an abused dog. Various characters in “Brief Lives of the Trainmen” make up a group of men laying train tracks: a pounder named Boda isn’t much for bathing, so another character remarks that Boda’s neck will get its first cleaning from the coroner. But Boda is revealed to have a soft side, with his love of music and his affections for the cook.

In another tale, a preacher with good intentions travels across the state and encounters the darker side of human nature when he witnesses the confrontation between local cattle rustlers and ranchers. Near Hoodoo Mountain, in another story, someone makes a rare archaeological discovery; locals and activists differ on how to protect the artifact. In “Lost Boys,” we meet a boy and his uncle, who explore the Wyoming landscape together, the uncle being described as a man who wishes to sing about how high his wings have taken him. In all these characters, we see good—and the dark side—of humanity.

One of the few actual ghost stories of this collection, “Superstitions of Indians,” is quite entertaining. It concerns a scholar and a local spirit who had a very colorful history. Hagy, using simple but discerning language, derives her own ghost story of people, both still living and long dead, all set within a majestic terrain.

All in all, we see the state for what it is—a collection of tough locals guarding what is their own from the outsiders who can never understand what the state of Wyoming is really about.
Library Entrance (continued from Page 1)

Nursing student Mary Babin also noticed both the beauty and practicality of the makeover: “I like the fountains, and the benches are nice. The new steps are easier to use because they’re wider and have stronger handrails that are safer and more useful.” Lani Detiveaux (Nursing) and Lewis Bonfanti (Human Resources) both noted that the new look makes the Library more warm and inviting, adding that the improvements are both artistic and practical: “The landscaping is appealing—and I feel safer at night because there’s more light,” said Detiveaux. Bonfanti added that with the improvements, the library is “more open and seems bigger,” noting that “the steps are an improvement; they’re much less steep.”

Other students likewise love the new, more engaging entrance. Shanta Shorty (Accounting) stated that she loved the beautiful scenery; as it “gives students a place to sit before entering.” She added that the new entrance could pay off in more ways than one, as the changes to the entrance might make students want to come to the library more. Victoria Wilson (Social Studies Education) concurred: “I love it. It is so much easier to enter with the safer steps. It makes the library more accessible and brings life to the library with the additions and pretty fountains.” Emily Bourg (Graphic Design) summed up the overall feeling of students, stating that she really loves the changes. “They make the campus look nicer.”

November 11th was Veteran’s Day, originally called Armistice Day, observed in honor of members of the armed services and in commemoration of the Armistice that ended WWI in 1918. Those of us who are children of soldiers, sailors, and pilots have a sense of pride in those who served. And for those of us who are parents of soldiers feel a great sense of honor. Sgt. Jody Stroud, son of Sandi Chauvin (Serials) is presently serving in Iraq with the Louisiana Army National Guard. Recently, he posted this quote on Facebook: “Veteran’s Day is Thursday...I don’t want anyone to post anything on my wall thanking me for my service. If you want to thank someone, go to a VFW, VA Hospital or a cemetery and thank THEM. Go the VFW and buy a man a beer...go to the VA Hospital and sit next to a bed, go to the cemetery and pray for the dead.” Sometimes the ones who give the most are the quietest. That’s called HONOR.

Library Wins Welcome Back Day Trophy

It was inevitable. Ellender Memorial Library faculty and staff, for the past four years, had worn tie-dyed shirts and dreadlock wigs, sombreros, straw hats, overalls, and washboards. They dressed up as Rastafarians, beach combers, senoritas, Cajun musicians, shrimp boats, clowns, geishas, Charlie Chaplin, and Baby Jane. They played washboards, zils, guiros, woodpeckers, and maracas, and they danced around a sombrero. And for the 2010 Welcome Back Day celebration, they hit their stride—dressing as pirates, forcing passers-by to walk the plank, brandishing swords and growling out “Arrrrr,” spontaneously breaking into a raucous and silly version of the Spongebob Squarepants theme song. At the end of the day, Library faculty and staff won the coveted Most Spirited Department trophy which had eluded them for years.

Although the Library had won Welcome Back day awards for Best Student Participation and Best Faculty/Staff Participation in the past, it had never been able to unseat the Department of Nursing or the Dyslexia Center, two departments which virtually owned the Most Spirited Award over the last five years. However, this time Library faculty and staff were on a mission, and thanks to the organization of the Publicity and Public Relations Committee (PaPR), the Library managed to pull off the upset.

Fonseca and Goldsmith came up with games that had pirate themes. The two, along with Chauvin, Graham, and Pierson, Danny Gorr, Cynthia Marchbanks, Carol Mathias, Lynette Tamplin, Anke Tonn, and Van Viator, dressed as pirates, keeping with the Chart Your Course event theme.

Angela Graham and William Charron of Documents created an expertly crafted table cover that looked like the bow of a pirate ship, complete with cannons and port holes. Sandi Chauvin, Tony Fonseca, Melissa Goldsmith, Jolene Knight, Lady Pierson, and Emilie Pitre stuffed small bags with chocolate coins, cookies, popcorn, and trinkets.
Library News

Sandi Chauvin (Serials), Tony Fonseca (Serials), Melissa Goldsmith (Reference/Instruction), Neil Guilbeau (Archives), Jeremy Landry (Automation), Carol Mathias (Library Director), and Anke Tonn (Interlibrary Loan) attended the The Louisiana Library Network LOUIS Users Conference (LUC).

Tony Fonseca (Serials) served as facilitator on a panel at LUC on open access journals, as well as electronic theses and dissertations. He was also one of three presenters on digital presentation; he presented information on the LOCKSS and CLOCKSS (based out of Stanford) systems of locally archiving digital content retrieved through databases. He recently served as an evaluator for The Southern Association of Colleges (SACS).

Melissa Goldsmith (Reference/Instruction) presented on a panel at LUC. Along with Jeremy Landry (Automation), she discussed the advantages of incorporating journals found in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) into a library Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC), and the advantages of The Networked Library of Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD). She has recently returned from the American Musicological Society’s annual conference.

Jean-Mark Sens (Reference/Collection Development) published an article entitled “Not I, Said the Pig: Who Defends Intellectual Freedom for Librarians?” The article appeared in the August 2010 issue of Library Philosophy and Practice. It can be found at this url: http://unllib.unl.edu/LPP/sens2.pdf

The Library’s primary collecting goal is to develop collections of materials which support the broad range of academic endeavors of the University community. The focus of all collection development is on materials which expand the capability of the Library to support scholarship.

The amount awarded to each discipline is based on a variety of factors, including the total funds allotted to the Library, the instructional needs of each department, the existing collections, and total number of students enrolled. A department may have a library committee or representative who will contact library faculty and be responsible for that department’s materials requests. Satisfactory use of the library book budget requires that requests be submitted to the acquisitions librarian early in the fiscal year, preferably before December 2. The final deadline for faculty book requests is March 15. Orders placed for requests made after this date may not arrive during the current fiscal year. Requests should be made on the electronic form available from the library’s web page at this url: nicholls.edu/library/acqform.php

Join the Ellender Library Friends Group!

Membership forms are available throughout the Library and through the Office of the Library Director, located on the second floor. Show your support for the Library by joining or renewing your membership today! Call 448-4646 to inquire.

Above: Hai-Ya! Harshbanks as The Karate Kid kicks some bony butt as Benita Hubert assists.

Below: Goldsmith presents the “Trapplpy” for Best Decorated Department to Harshbanks, Pope, and Mathias, as costumed students look on.

See page 2 of this issue for story on the 2010 Library Halloween Party.

Below, Left to Right: Fonseca, Goldsmith, Mathias, and Chauvin dance and play along with the Colonel band. Tamplain strikes a menacing pose while Zver interacts with an unsuspecting student. Zver brandishes his sword and strikes a pose. Mathias proudly displays the Library’s trophy, while Pierson smiles in the background. See Page 3 of this issue for story.

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