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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

LIBRARY CELEBRATES THE ARTS

Taking center stage on October 16, 2007, at the AT&T Gee’s Bend Quilters’ Spoken-Word Tour event were five women of Gee’s Bend. From singing old Negro spirituals to speaking words of encouragement and humor, China Pettway, Mary Ann Pettway, Revil Mosley, Mary Lee Bendolph, and Florine Smith entertained more than two hundred audience members on the importance of keeping quilting and all other African American cultures alive and kicking. “Quilting is like medicine,” said Mary Ann Pettway, “When you are quilting, it will make you forget about the pain you have, because you get to focus your mind on something else.”

Dr. Thomas-Smith, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, said, “PVAMU and the John B. Coleman Library are celebrating the Arts in a first class manner,” to the crowd gathered at the Opal Johnson-Smith Auditorium to hear Gee’s Bend Quilters’ Spoken-Word Tour.

Ms. Lauren Kelley, Library Art Curator and Chair of the Library Fine Arts Appreciation Committee, arranged with AT&T for the tour’s visit to PVAMU. Lauren stated she was very pleased with the turnout. She said that “from the Gee’s Bend women, I was reminded that traditions, like quilting, are so important and the elders of our community are our most precious resource because they are the keepers of tradition”.

The Quilters, MC Willa Bringham and moderator Matt Arnett all thanked Director of Library Services Dr. Rosie L. Albritton and her library staff for their support in bringing the program to PVAMU.

By Kimberly Gay
Reference and Instruction Librarian
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Library selected for Mellon Foundation Preservation Grant

The John B. Coleman Library at Prairie View A&M University is one of eleven Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCUs) selected to participate in the “HBCU Library Alliance Photographic Preservation Grant Project” funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The $1.2 million grant was awarded to the Art Conservation Department at the University of Delaware and the Atlanta based Southeastern Library Network (SOLINET), in partnership with the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Library Alliance, also headquartered in Atlanta, and the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts (CCAHA) in Philadelphia, to fund a 30-month, “four-phase” initiative to improve the preservation of significant photographic collections held within HBCU Libraries.

In the letter to President Wright, announcing the selection of PVAMU, Mrs. Loretta Par-
does not own? These are just some of the functions of the Circulation Department.

Using the Electronic Reserve (ERes) system, students may access electronically reserved materials anywhere, anytime online. The Interlibrary Loan online request form may be filled in and submitted right after your online search.

TexSHARE & HAR-LIC cardholders can check out materials from public and academic libraries using their Prairie View A&M University ID card. More and more students and faculty members are taking advantage of TexSHARE services and loving it. These cards are available at the Circulation Desk.

The Circulation Department opens, closes, and monitors the security of the building. To ensure the building opens on time, the staff arrives at the library half an hour before the building opens.

We schedule the meeting and private study rooms, and also manage the stacks: ensuring our over 300,000 books are in their right places. While serving the faculty in their teaching and research, student learning is always the first priority of the Circulation Department. If you have any questions about our services or suggestions, you may call us at: (936) 261-1542; or, come and talk to us, so we may improve our services and better serve you.

By J. Walker (Acting Head), R. Combs, M. Daniels, L. Jones and O. Mayberry
As President, I am committed to making sure that students receive much more than a degree. I want students to leave Prairie View with an education, one that includes many experiences that extend beyond the classroom,” said Prairie View A&M University President, Dr. George C. Wright when speaking about his recommended reading list.

Dr. Wright spoke about the “Recommended Reading List” on April 17, 2007, National Library Worker’s Day. In recognition of the President’s “Recommended Reading List,” the Library hosted a display of some of the books on his list in our foyer. The display began in April 2007, and ended September 12, 2007.

The “Recommended Reading List” is comprised of books from a variety of genres, and topics and includes books like *Soul of Black Folk* by W.E.B. Du Bois and *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee.

The collection is currently being housed in the Special Collections/Archives Department on the fifth floor of the library. This location was chosen so that every member of the student body, faculty, staff, and community can enjoy the collection. Dr. King plans to make further donations to the John B. Coleman Library.

By Phyllis Earles
University Archivist
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and Ms. Jessie Farr
Student Assistant (Class of 2009)

Dr. King, the Audre and Bernard Rapport Regents Chair in Jewish Studies and Distinguished Teaching Professor from the University of Texas at Austin, came to Prairie View A&M University on February 28, 2007 to present his lecture entitled “Predicting the Future, Friendship and Giving.”

From Dr. Robert D. King’s generous donation of books to the John B. Coleman Library, the library displayed a collection of his books in the foyer. The exhibit, which ran from February-September 2007 is in appreciation of Dr. King’s donation of over one thousand volumes from his personal collection. The books were displayed according to the following categories: English, German, Language, Linguistics, and Phonemics.

The collection is still available to students on the first floor of John B. Coleman Library, at the Circulation Desk.

By Phyllis Earles
University Archivist
plearles@pvamu.edu
and Ms. Jessie Farr
Student Assistant (Class of 2009)
The Reference department houses more than just dictionaries; we unlock the door to research. If you need help finding journal articles, books or any other form of information, from basic to advanced, stop by the reference desk.

Did you know that reference librarians are research specialists in certain areas? Law, business, chemistry, sociology, philosophy, literature, social work, criminal justice, mathematics are just a few areas we specialize in.

Feel free to stop by and talk with any of us. Faculty, did you know that we can come to your classes and walk your students through the research process? Or we can even come to your office and help you one-on-one.

We can help you explore the many databases we have.

Call us at (936) 261-1535 or email: askalibrarian@pvamu.edu

By Dr. Steve Shaw
Head of Reference and Information Services
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Reference and Information Services Staff
From left: Yubao Li, Kimberly Gay, Bob Grundy and Steve Shaw

Results from the survey demonstrated that many students choose to work and study between 10 pm until past 2 am in the morning. Although the library is open until midnight on most nights, our site functions as an extension of the library by providing 24/7 access to electronically available information.

The library provides service to approximately 8,000 students; many of whom are Distance Services students. Through the survey the staff discovered that many students and faculty often prefer to study and work from their dorm room, office or home.

The Reference and Information Services Librarians are in the process of making more material available online, which may include tip sheets, instructional sessions, how-to guides and much more. “In the next six months or so library users can expect to see an increase of resources on the Library’s web site,” said Steve Shaw, Head of Reference and Information Services.

“We are taking stock of the resources we have and plan to convert the appropriate materials into electronic format and post these resources on the library web site,” said Henson.

The John B. Coleman Library web site is your first stop for finding information or requesting assistance. You may reach the Reference Desk by calling 936 261-1535, or you may also email the Reference and Information librarians at: askalibrarian@pvamu.edu

Please visit us at: http://www.tamu.edu/pvamu/library

By Karl Henson
Electronic Services Librarian/Library Webmaster
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Celebrating the 2007 Women’s History Month theme “Generations of Women Moving History Forward,” the John B. Coleman Library hosted guest speaker Dr. Rhea Brown Lawson, Director of the Houston Public Library System. Dr. Lawson spoke on the importance of leadership, reading and giving back. “When you get…give,” Dr. Lawson said, as she quoted Maya Angelou’s “When You Learn, Teach.” Dr. Lawson is the first African-American to serve as the Director of the Houston Public Library System, which includes the Downtown Central Library and more than 30 branches located city-wide.

Dr. Lawson talked about her personal mentors, the evolution of women’s history and the sacrifices that women make. “I would not be here today if brave women had not kicked down the doors for me,” said Dr. Lawson.

By Kimberly Gay
Reference and Instruction Librarian
kmgay@pvamu.edu
Jean Brumfield is the Distance Services Librarian. Jean is also the Liaison to the College of Arts and Sciences. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Communication and Legal Studies, and Masters in Library and Information Science from the University of Pittsburgh where she is also completing a Ph.D. with research interest in Distance Education, Information Seeking Behavior, Cultural Diversity and Workforce Development.

Prior to her appointment as Distance Services Librarian for the John B. Coleman Library, Jean was Manager of the Job and Career Education Center at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh and Adjunct Professor at the University of Pittsburgh.

Jean has more than 30 years of library related experience including teaching instructional workshops on grant writing, financial aid, and career counseling.

Jean is Chair of the Committee on Library Education for the Ethnic and Multicultural Exchange Roundtable of the American Library Association.

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Kimberly Michelle Gay is a Reference and Instruction Librarian at the John B. Coleman Library. She also is the Library Liaison for the College of Business, and the Department of Languages and Communication.

Kimberly graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mass Communications in 2003 from Texas Woman’s University in Denton, Texas.

Kimberly went on to receive a master's degree in Library Science and Information Studies in 2006, Summa Cum Laude from TWU.

She is a Lifetime inductee in the Beta Lambda Chapter of Beta Phi Mu (International Library and Information Studies Honor Society); an American Library Association and Texas Library Association 2003 Spectrum Scholar; and she is listed in the Cambridge Who’s Who Among Executives and Professionals.

Prior to her appointment at the John B. Coleman Library, Kimberly was a Library Assistant II at Texas A&M University-Commerce.

Kimberly has more than seven years of academic library experience and she is an active member of both the Texas Library Association and the American Library Association.

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Karl Henson is the Electronic Services Librarian and Library Webmaster. He received his Masters of Information Library Science from McGill University in Montreal, Canada, and his Bachelor of Arts in History from Antioch College, in Ohio.

Karl started his career in 1983 at Houston Public Library where he was the Reference Librarian at Collier Regional Branch (Highway 290 and Antoine). Karl was also the Automation Librarian at San Antonio Public Library before becoming the Head of Systems at the University of Texas at El Paso. Karl and his family are happy to be back in Texas.

Karl previously was the Library Systems Administrator Librarian at Colorado College in Colorado Springs, Colorado and has more than 20 years experience working with library systems, managing computers, web sites, and electronic resources.

Karl is the library's new webmaster and oversees the management of library electronic resources.

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Yubao Li is a Reference and Instruction Librarian. He received his Masters of Library Science from the University of Kentucky, and his Masters of Arts in Education from Southwest Normal University, Republic of China. His undergraduate degree was in English.

Yubao has an extensive teaching background. While he was still in China, prior to starting Library School in the United States, he taught a wide range of subjects including English, Mathematics, History, Chinese, Physics and Chemistry.

Yubao previously was the Instructional Librarian at Madisonville Community College in Kentucky. Yubao has four years experience as reference and instructional librarian.

Yubao will be providing reference and information literacy instruction for students as well serving as the Mathematics Liaison to the Mathematics Department.

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Continued on page 7
Our librarians continue to be active members of the scholarly community. Dr. Rosie L. Albritton, Director of University Library Services, was recently chosen by the School of Library & Information Sciences of the University of North Texas to serve a three-year term on the School’s Advisory Board.

Robert “Bob” Grundy, Reference and Instruction Librarian attended the “American Association of Law Libraries Annual Meeting” and Steve Shaw, Head of Reference and Information Services attended the “American Library Association’s Annual Meeting”.

Juanita Walker and Kimberly Gay were invited presenters at the National Conference of African American Librarians this fall in Fort Worth, TX. They presented a workshop on genealogical research entitled “Keeping the Culture through Engagement, Enlightenment and Empowerment.”

Steve Shaw and Kimberly Gay both published articles concerning librarianship. Elizabeth Jean Brumfield, Distance Services Librarian, was appointed Visiting Lecturer at the University of Pittsburgh School of Library and Information Sciences to teach Diversity Resources and Services.

During the month of October, Juanita Walker, Assistant Director for Public Services, Kimberly Gay, and Yubao Li, Reference and Instruction Librarians, presented workshops at the Texas Library Association’s District 8 conference. Kimberly Gay led a workshop entitled “From School Libraries to Academic Libraries: Your High School Senior is my College Freshman” The presentation focused on how school librarians can help their students make a successful transition from school libraries to college and university libraries. Juanita Walker and Yubao Li hosted a workshop on “Evaluating Internet Information Resources”.

Rosetta Combs, Library Assistant has joined the library staff. Ms. Combs studied at Prairie View A&M University. She has more than 10 years experience in both public and technical services. She has been an employee of Prairie View A&M University for three years, and served as a security attendant in the John B. Coleman Library, prior to her appointment to her current position, as a Library Assistant 1, in the Circulation department.

Her library experience includes Baker Hughes INTEQ, and Houston Public Library; both the Kendall Branch and Clayton Genealogical Research Center libraries.

Email: recombs@pvamu.edu

Rosetta Combs, Library Assistant, Circulation Department

Librarians in the News

The Newsletter Committee

Kimberly Gay, Chair
Marion Williams, Vice Chair
Phyllis Earles
Delorse Hawkins
Karl Henson
Lauren Kelley
Steve Shaw

Dr. Rosie L. Albritton
Director, Library Services

Information Literacy

Make Time for Research @ the Library

Individuals or Groups Welcome
Every Thursday at 11:00 a.m.
John B. Coleman Library - Room 108
No Appointments Needed

Questions?
Call 936 261-1535
Ms. Phyllis Earles, University Archivist and Head of Special Collections/Archives, and Mrs. Helen Yeh, Associate Director for Technical Services, recently participated in the “first-phase” of the project by attending the “HBCU Library Alliance Photographic Preservation Summit” at the University of Delaware and the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts, September 30 through October 3, 2007. The Grant Project will enter “phase-two” on November 12, 2007, when an “on-site assessment” of the historical photographic collections held in the Special Collections/Archives Department at the John B. Coleman Library, will be conducted by a Consultant from the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts (CCAHA). Other “phases” of this important project will include “funding for local preservation projects” and “environmental monitoring” for all eleven participating HBCU Libraries.

The John B. Coleman Library, along with the other 10 participants (Atlanta University Center, Fisk, Delaware State, Fayetteville State, North Carolina, Hampton, Kentucky State, Lincoln University of Missouri, Tennessee State, Tuskegee, and Virginia State), will be eligible for up to $60,000 each, of the Mellon Grant funds to further preserve “selected collections” from their respective photographic holdings; which now number close to 15,000 historical photographic images at PVAMU. As Kate Nevins, Executive Director of SOLINET stated: “These collections document the visual and institutional history, and legacy of HBCUs; and form a core of primary research materials for the study of African American history.”

By Rosie L. Albritton, Ph.D.
Director of Library Services
Professor of Educational Media & Technology
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Mellon Grant Project

Liaison Librarians 2006-2007

Army ROTC
Robert Grundy

Dept. of Chemistry
Juanita Walker

College of Agriculture and Human Sciences
Juanita Walker

Dept. of Mathematics
Yubao Li

College of Arts & Sciences
Elizabeth Brumfield

Dept. of Music and Drama
Christine Moore

College of Business
Kimberly Gay

Languages and Communication
Kimberly Gay

College of Education
Jason Russo

Medical Academy
Ola Riley

Jimmizine Taylor

Off Campus (Distance Services)
Elizabeth Brumfield

College of Engineering
Helen Yeh

School of Architecture
Helen Yeh

College of Juvenile Justice & Psychology
Robert Grundy

Social & Behavioral Science
Stephen Shaw

College of Nursing
Jason Russo

University College
Stephen Shaw

Gayle Lindsay

School of Architecture
Helen Yeh

Dept. of Biology
Karl Henson

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