Allen Lanham Receives Illinois Academic Librarian of the Year Award

Dr. Allen Lanham, Dean of Library Services, has been selected as the 2008 Illinois Academic Librarian of the Year. The award is presented by the Illinois Association of College and Research Libraries (IACRL) Forum and the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries of Illinois (CARLI) in recognition of distinguished service to the Forum, to the Illinois Library Association, and for leadership and exemplary library service in an academic setting.

Lanham has been the Dean of Library Services since 1992 after serving sixteen years at the Inter American University of Puerto Rico. He is responsible for 62 faculty and staff and an annual budget of over $4.5 million. He oversaw a $22.5 million renovation and expansion of Booth Library between 1996 and 2002 which transformed this historic building into one of EIU’s most popular places. In addition to his many university responsibilities, Allen has taken an active role in professional organizations locally, nationally and internationally. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Charleston Carnegie Public Library, has served on the Lincoln Trail Libraries System Board of Directors since 2004, and was elected to the CARLI Board of Directors in 2008. Dean Lanham has also made significant contributions to the Illinois State Library (ISL), serving on a variety of committees and acting as a mentor for SYNERGY, the ISL’s leadership initiative.

Since coming to Illinois in 1991, Lanham has taken an active role in IACRL events. He has also served on numerous Illinois Library Association committees, presiding over the organization in 2004-2005. He is a frequent conference presenter and encourages his staff and academic colleagues to share their experiences in person and in professional publications.

As primary investigator for the “Art and Architecture in Illinois Libraries” Library Services and Technology Act grant, he and his staff developed an exhibit that traveled to 65 academic and public libraries, highlighting selected works. Related publications and an online resource were also developed and were recently presented at the International Federation of Library Associations Annual Conference in Quebec.

Dr. Lanham is also a supporter of international librarianship. Under his leadership, Booth Library has hosted numerous international visitors from the Mortenson Center for International Library Programs at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He has presented at conferences worldwide, including such countries as Costa Rica, El Salvador, Peru and South Korea. Booth Library has also presented numerous exhibits on foreign countries.

The award was presented at the Illinois Library Association Annual Conference awards ceremony, September 25th, at Navy Pier, Chicago. The ceremony was preceded by a reception for recipients, sponsors, and designated guests. Booth Library’s faculty and staff proudly congratulate Dean Lanham on this well-deserved award and look forward to many more years of his exemplary leadership.

Take Advantage of the Library’s Faculty Reading Room

The faculty reading room is a convenient but little-known resource tucked away in the library’s current periodicals area. This room is available for the use of all EIU faculty members any time the library is open. It is equipped with two networked computers at individual desks, a meeting table with network and power connections for your laptop and seating for five; a typewriter, a campus phone, and four soft armchairs. The reading room is a great place to sit down and browse a current journal issue, check your email, or just take a quick break with your faculty colleagues. For access, just identify yourself as a faculty member (ID may be requested) at the Periodicals/Reserves desk in the atrium and a staff member will be happy to show you to the room.
Library tours

General library tours are offered three times a week during the first six weeks of each semester. Registration is not required; simply meet the tour guide in the Marvin Foyer (3000 north) at the designated time. Dates and times are posted in the lobby at both library entrances and are also listed on the library’s website.

Faculty consultations

Teaching faculty and students doing in-depth (generally graduate level) research may request a one-on-one research consultation with a library faculty member. The list of library subject specialists is printed in the box to the right. This information is also available on the library’s website.

Library instruction sessions

Booth Library faculty members offer specialized instruction sessions for EIU courses. Teaching faculty may request a session for their class by contacting the reference department at 581-6072 or by completing the online instruction request form on the library’s website under the “requests” link.

Find Information Fast

In these registration-required instruction sessions, Booth Library Reference Librarians provide instruction on how to search the online catalog and databases. Participants will learn how to locate reliable and scholarly information for course assignments and research projects. Information on how to request materials from other libraries is also included.

Using the Internet for Research

Booth Library Reference Librarians provide instruction on how to take your internet searching to the next level. Learn techniques to improve your search results, learn how to determine when to use the web for course assignments, and learn how to incorporate your findings into your research. These sessions require registration in advance.

Online Resources

Booth Library’s website is designed to provide subject-based access to the wide array of available online databases. Users can click on Resources by Subject to access lists of databases, journals, research guides and web resources grouped by broad subject category. In addition to subject guides, the Research Guides link provides access to general research and searching tutorials. Booth’s web resources are available online 24/7.
Passport Events Reach Nearly 200 Students

On August 26-27, nearly 200 students participated in the self-guided library tour event Passport to the World @ Booth Library. Participants were introduced to key locations in the library and learned about available services. Everyone received a travel brochure and a passport which was stamped at five service desks. Each service desk represented a country that corresponded to the countries visited by Dr. Paul Farmer in the 2008 Eastern Reads book selection, Mountains Beyond Mountains. Each participant received valuable information about the library’s resources and services as well as a souvenir cup. Those who obtained a fully stamped passport by visiting and learning about all five service desks were eligible to enter the prize drawing. Prizes included four twenty-five dollar gift certificates from the MLK Union Bookstore and a Kodak Easy Share digital camera.

Digitizing Project Will Provide Access to Local Historical Playbills

Booth Library is undertaking a digitization project that will provide online access to valuable information about the history of professional theater in downstate Illinois. Through an arrangement with Sullivan Illinois’ Little Theatre on the Square, 50-plus years of playbills are being digitized. Opened by Guy S. Little Jr. in 1957, the Little Theatre remains the only Actor’s Equity theater between Chicago and St. Louis. Over the years, hundreds of shows have been produced and the Little Theatre has become an integral part of central Illinois’ cultural heritage.

The majority of the playbills were scanned during the summer. When they have been processed, the files will be uploaded to the CARLI Digital Collections site, which hosts content from a wide variety of Illinois academic institutions. Questions about this project can be directed to David Bell at 581-7547.
Try-It Illinois Provides Statewide Database Evaluation
The ninth annual statewide database trial, Try-It! Illinois, is now underway. Sponsored by the Illinois State Library, Try-It! Illinois offers library users of the more than 5,000 ILLINET member libraries the opportunity to survey and evaluate a wide variety of electronic resources.

To access the trial databases, go to the library homepage at www.library.eiu.edu and click on Try-It! Illinois under “InfoBooth: Library News.” Click on the red text link to get the login and password by entering your library ID number, found on your Panther Card. Then use the login and password, along with your ZIP code, to access the database trials. The trial ends on November 30, 2008.

Internet Printing Now Available
It is now possible for Booth Library users to send print jobs to our print stations from anywhere. Simply create a document using your own computer and convert it to PDF format. Then, submit the print job over the internet and come in within 24 hours to print your document. Complete instructions are available on the library website at www.library.eiu.edu/print/.

Remember to bring your Panther Card to the library when you come in to print your document. Printing costs are applied to your EIU account by swiping your Panther Card at the print station. Alternately, one-dollar print cards are also available for purchase. Cost of printing is $.08/page for black and white and $.16/page for color printouts.

If you have questions about internet printing, please contact Library Technology Services at 581-6091 or visit their service desk on the 4000 level of Booth Library.

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Wrapped in Pride: Ghanaian Kente and African American Identity explores the most popular and best known of all African textiles. The strip of woven cloth called kente, made by the Asante (ah-SAHN-tee) and Ewe (Ay-vay) people of Ghana and Togo, originated in the former Gold Coast of West Africa as the festive dress of royalty, traditionally worn by men as a kind of toga and by women as an upper and lower wrapper. Kente cloth is the best known of all African textiles and began as festive dress for special occasions and appears in other important forms of regalia, including drums, shields, and fans. Over the past forty years, the cloth has been transformed into other accessories worn and used on both sides of the Atlantic.

Wrapped in Pride is divided into two broad sections: first it traces the roots of kente, and its widespread use in Africa as garment and ceremonial cloth. Second, it explores kente as a meaningful document of dress, art, and identity in American cultures, especially among African American communities in the United States. The exhibition explores both the art and symbolism of kente cloth in Ghana and its expression of identity in African American communities, evoking and celebrating a shared cultural heritage.

This exhibition has been made possible through NEH on the Road, a special initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities. It is brought to you by Booth Library and by the Mid-America Arts Alliance. This version of Wrapped in Pride: Ghanaian Kente and African American Identity was developed by the UCLA Fowler Museum of Cultural History, Los Angeles, California, and based on an earlier exhibition co-organized with the Newark Museum, Newark, New Jersey.

EIU faculty members, students and other community members are invited to participate in the exhibition events. There are many ways to participate, including (but not limited to):

- Book discussion moderator
- Demonstration
- Ancillary exhibit
- Film moderator
- Lecture
- Panel discussion
- Performance
- Reading of prose or poetry
- Student presentations

If you are interested in participating, please contact Peggy Manley, Administrative Assistant, Booth Library by calling 581-6061 or e-mail her (pamanley@eiu.edu) by November 21, 2008.