Franklin Exhibition Includes Scholarly Presentations, Exhibits

The national traveling exhibition *Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World* is currently underway at Booth Library. Sponsored by the American Library Association and the National Endowment for the Humanities, the exhibition features six large panels that depict various aspects of Franklin’s life and achievements. In order to provide further insights on Franklin, Booth Library faculty and staff have produced over twenty supporting exhibits. These supplementary displays demonstrate Franklin’s wide-ranging interests. They cover a diverse array of topics including engineering, slavery, mathematics, botany, literature, and fashion. Several scholarly presentations have also been arranged to complement the exhibition. Upcoming presentations will address how Franklin and his ideas have influenced and continue to effect the arenas of music, women and literature, social media, journalism, and racial issues.

The events were kicked off on the evening of January 12, with a presentation by Benjamin Franklin himself—as portrayed by history professor Fred Krebs. Krebs, who teaches at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, Kansas, has portrayed Franklin over one hundred times at various events since 1985. Speaking as Benjamin Franklin, he described his views on self-improvement, virtues, politics, and religion, discussed his instrumental work in creating many of the civic institutions of Philadelphia and explained how he helped lead the colonies to independence, both at home and abroad. He also spoke about his experiments with electricity and his numerous practical inventions. Around 130 people attended this opening event.

For further information on the exhibition and to learn about upcoming presentations, please visit the library website at www.library.eiu.edu and click on *Exhibits* or pick up a program booklet at the library.

Periodical Review to Focus on Transition From Print to Online Access

The start of a new spring semester means it is time for Booth Library’s annual periodical review. Traditionally, this activity has been used as an opportunity to take a look at current periodical and standing order subscriptions in order to ensure that the selected titles continue to meet the research needs of students and faculty. In order to maximize our buying power in the current budget crisis, a further goal of this year’s review is to move as many periodical subscriptions as possible to online access. Substantial savings can be realized by eliminating the duplication of subscriptions currently received in both print and online formats. This savings will help offset inflationary increases in subscription costs without losing important content.

Departmental library coordinators will be hearing from their subject librarians in the coming weeks. All faculty members are encouraged to participate in this review. If you have questions about the process, please contact the Reference Department at (217) 581-6072.
Teachers Tame the Prairie Exhibition Follow Up

Booth Library’s major fall semester exhibition was entitled Teachers Tame the Prairie: Vignettes of Eastern Illinois University and Education in Illinois. The exhibition featured scholarly presentations, educational exhibits, film screenings, and an opening reception complete with schoolhouse refreshments served up by an authentic lunch lady.

The opening events included presentations by history professors Terry Barnhart and Charles Titus on the founding and original mission of Eastern Illinois State Normal School, which of course became EIU, and educational reform. This was followed throughout October and early November with scholarly presentations on a wide range of topics, including research on the history of the normal school, legal concepts for teachers, early English instruction at EIU, the history of Westfield College, artistic representations of individual educational histories, a costumed interpretation of a typical school day on the prairie in the year 1858, Critical Educational Ontology, and the legacy of the Chautauqua tradition and its educational process.

In addition to the guest presentations, related exhibits produced by library faculty, staff and others were on display throughout the library. Numerous large panels and display cases graced the library’s Marvin Foyer and all of the library’s fixed display cases were also filled. Exhibit subjects included pioneering Midwest teachers, a history of EIU, teacher certification, legislation and accreditation, EIU memorabilia, education in Charleston, typical items from a teacher’s desk in the 1930s, Illinois school books, teachers in the media, teaching tools, school discipline, student memorabilia, plates and other commemorative items from higher education in Illinois, and end of school year souvenirs.

Three feature films — Blackboard Jungle, Stand and Deliver and Freedom Writers — and two documentaries — The Hobart Shakespeareans and A Touch of Greatness — were also presented. The presentations, exhibits and film screenings all generated a great deal of thought-provoking discussion and no doubt fueled research interests and ideas for further exploration for many who attended the exhibition.

The faculty and staff of Booth Library wish to thank everyone who made Teachers Tame the Prairie a success. Booth Library will continue to host innovative and interesting exhibitions in the future. Please keep an eye on our website and future issues of NoteBooth for upcoming events and opportunities to participate!

Ned Brasel Southwest Book Collection Donated to Booth

An impressive collection of approximately 1200 books related to the southwest United States was recently donated to Booth Library. Collected over the lifetime of Western aficionado Ned Brasel, the books range in age from the late 19th century to the present decade. The collection is in excellent condition overall. It includes general histories, biographical monographs about gunfighters, cowboys, and cattle ranchers, art catalogs on famous Western artists such as Frederic Remington, and cowboy fiction by popular authors including Larry McMurtry (best known for the Pulitzer Prize winning novel Lonesome Dove and the screenplays for The Last Picture Show and Brokeback Mountain).

The collection was donated by the family of Mr. Brasel, several of whom have attended Eastern over the years. Particular thanks are due to Mr. Joel Stoner, nephew of Mr. Brasel, for thinking of Booth Library as a fitting place for the collection to reside. Booth Library’s holdings will be permanently enhanced by these unique and valuable materials. Questions regarding the collection can be directed to the Reference Department at 581-6072.
Edgar Reading Room Officially Dedicated

One of the loveliest rooms in Booth Library is now known as the Edgar Reading Room. At a ceremony in the library on November 29th, President Perry formally dedicated the oak-paneled seminar/reading room in the northeast part of the library in honor of former Illinois governor and Eastern alumnus, Jim Edgar. Attending the ceremony were Governor Edgar and his wife, family and friends of the governor, Eastern administrators and trustees, faculty members, and student representatives.

In his remarks at the naming ceremony, Governor Edgar recalled that as a student in Eastern’s Laboratory School in the late 1950s he used to come to Booth Library and spend time in the browsing room, relaxing with one of the books available there. He seemed truly elated that the beautiful room which he so much enjoyed visiting as a young person would now be named in his honor.

Known variously and informally over the years as the “browsing room,” the “Coleman room,” the “Read and Relax room,” and the “seminar room,” the Edgar Room now features a formal exhibit dedicated to its new namesake. Eastern’s board of trustees made the decision to honor Governor Edgar by naming a room for him. Arrangements for the November 29th event were carried out by Dean Allen Lanham, University Archivist Bob Hillman, and the Office of the Vice President for University Advancement.

New Faculty Members Join Library

Todd Bruns joined Booth Library last November as the Institutional Repository Librarian. Todd also serves as a reference librarian. Before coming to Booth, Todd was a Resource Discovery/Public Services Librarian at the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he managed UW-Madison Libraries web-pages and electronic resources, and performed reference and instruction duties. Todd holds a Master of Arts in Library and Information Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and is currently pursuing an MS degree in the School of Technology here at EIU.

Kirstin Duffin began working with Booth Library’s Reference Department in February. In addition to providing general reference and instruction services, Kirstin will be the subject librarian for biological sciences and chemistry. Kirstin comes to Booth from Madison, Wisconsin, where she obtained her MA in library and information studies from UW-Madison. In Madison, Kirstin worked for the NBII Wildlife Disease Information Node as their program assistant and as a cataloger for the US Forest Service, Forest Products Laboratory. She also holds a BA in biology from Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota.
Booth Library will be starting an institutional repository in the spring of 2011. An institutional repository is an electronic archive that collects, preserves, and disseminates an institution’s administrative, creative and scholarly output. Booth Library plans to create and manage a repository that will provide open access and increased global visibility to scholarly output, collect content into a single location, and store and preserve institutional documents that may otherwise become difficult to locate. Todd Bruns, Booth Library Institutional Repository Librarian, will conduct a series of workshops for faculty and staff to introduce the institutional repository once a repository platform has been selected and document deposits have begun. Stay tuned for further information!

Applications are now being accepted for the second year of Booth Library’s Awards for Excellence in Student Research and Creativity. This annual awards program is designed to promote and recognize excellence in student research at the same time promoting utilization of the wealth of information resources available at Booth Library. Faculty mentors are strongly encouraged to inform their student researchers about this opportunity. Any form of research or creative expression is eligible for consideration. Examples include, but are not limited to, written work; artistic work; exhibit; musical work; documentary; performance; and digital media. The application deadline is March 21, 2011. For an application form and additional information about the awards, please visit the library website at http://www.library.eiu.edu/awardsforexcellence/.

Recipients of last year’s awards were announced in April. A reception to honor the award winners was held on the 28th of that month. Winning entries are listed below. Each received a prize of $300.

- James Buckwalter, an undergraduate student in History with Teacher's Certification, for “Shipboard Insurrections, the British Government and Anglo-American Society in the Early 18th Century.”
- Madeline Landes, a graduate student in Educational Administration, for “Personnel Administration Clinical Experience Examination: Collaborative Leadership.”
- Holly Thomas, a graduate student in Political Science, for “Curse of Diamonds.”
- Maegan Walsh, an undergraduate student in Elementary Education, for “Christopher Columbus Revised: A Casebook and Unit Plan.”

The following entrants received Honorable Mention Certificates for their research projects.

- Brandon Hensley, a graduate student in Communications Studies, for “New Age, Old Discourse: National Geographic, Orientalism, and Coverage of Afghanistan in the 21st Century.”
- Anna Vieux, a graduate student in Art, for her exhibition, “Anna Vieux.”

Loan periods for bound periodicals have been extended for all library users from one day to one week. This change will make it easier for all users to utilize print journal content. Video materials (DVD, VHS, Film) continue to be loaned to faculty members for 2 weeks; all other users may now borrow video materials for three days instead of one.