Beats and Bongos
Making the Library the Cultural Center of Academe

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Why Beats and Bongos?

25 April 2007 (Wednesday)
@ 4:30
All swinging hipsters invited
byoast
(please bring your own pillows, shakers, tambourines, and bongos)

Beat poetry reading
and
performance happening

The archives at Ellender Memorial Library,
Nicholls State University

Be there, or be²

Organized by the cool Dr. T and the fun cops Dr. M.U.D., Assistant Professors of Dewey, Ellender Memorial Library, NSU.

Interested readers and musicians should contact Dr. Mathas Umbrt, Down Goldsmith at 448-4626
mlumbrum@nicholls.edu. Students and those interested in just joining the fun should contact Dr. Tony Fonzo at 448-4678 or tfonzo@nicholls.edu if they have questions.
Transforming the academic library into a cultural space is a feat that goes beyond simply making capital outlay changes. It involves creating an environment that offers faculty, students, staff and community members exposure to literature, art, music, and intellectual pursuits. Because they enable exchanges of knowledge available nowhere else, academic libraries should be at the heart, not the periphery, of university culture. This presentation focuses on diverse activities and events organized and hosted by Ellender Library on the Nicholls campus, such as the Beat Poetry and Performance Happening, the Tiki Party (to raise university faculty/staff awareness about collection development, the voter registration drive, the Cajun/Zydeco Festival, presentations on research, book talks, a student engagement symposium, and other phenomena, including the formation of our Publicity and Public Relations Committee.
The library has a history of offering space for artistic expression and for protecting intellectual freedom. It goes far beyond cafés, museums, free speech alleys, student unions, and other public places, since it simultaneously offers opportunities for further reading (additional information) and new avenues for creativity, research, and other applications.

The library can contribute to the institution’s community through events, displays, and exhibits generally in more ways than departments, colleges, and other on-campus venues because it offers access to print and electronic materials. Its space receives exposure to interdisciplinary traffic (people studying many fields) and can thus encourage dialogues.
Why the Library?

To make the library a personal place (D. Masters and J. Arneson, 1994);

To change perceptions of its image (as well as those of librarians) to one as partners of the academic community rather than as servants to it;

To create more positive relationships;

To attract members of the community who would normally shy away from going to the library;

To position the library at the center of the academic research community instead of at the periphery.
Today, there are very few venues to preserve the tradition of diverse performance practices. Creating events that support these art forms is also good publicity for the university.

Local, state, and national publicity for both the library and the institution can be a positive outcome of these events.

The library needs to invigorate its role as a stimulus for intellectual curiosity as well as for scholarship.

These events remind users and the outside community about the needs of the library. They can attract potential donors.
The September Project (2004)

- Grassroots effort to foster civic and campus events in all communities on September 11.
- To advance the cause of learning that celebrates and investigates democracy, citizenship, and patriotism—in all their manifestations.
- Large display case exhibiting information on presidential candidates and on voting in general.
- Voter information (tied to ALA voter drive), coordinated by Librarian Tony Fonseca.
- New voter registration at Reference.
- Display by local VFW.
- Registered over 100 voters, mostly students.
Display done by local VFW in conjunction with The September Project.
This year, the Voter Registration Drive included a link to the website “Rock the Vote” and a table with information about the political parties, the candidates, absentee voting, political satire cartoons, fact checking, and myths about voting.

Our main web page, “Register to Vote @ Ellender Memorial” directed users to Factcheck.org to get the lowdown on every scandal, lie, exaggeration, and misrepresentation of Campaign 2008, the Bush Era voting record of a candidate, the entire “Roll Call Vote Record to see how every senator voted,” the National Political Index page, the Electoral Vote map predictor, CNN’s Election Center, and JibJab.com, among others.
Welcome Back Day (2006)

- Jamaican theme.
- Library Limbo contest (limbo while holding two fake library books).
- Flamingo Ring Toss.
- The Jamaica Trivia competition (The official language of Jamaica? The famous Knick and the former Bush cabinet member who are both from Jamaica?)
- A colorful display featuring maps, flags, traditional drinks, and informational posters about Jamaica.
- Ongoing limbo music on one of our multimedia boom boxes.
- Event held as part of university-wide initiative, in quad.
- Contests drew over 50 participants.
Welcome Back Day (2007)

- Mexican theme.
- Mexican jump rope.
- Mexican hat dance.
- Percussion instruments.
- Libraria (based on Lotteria, the Mexican version of Bingo); played in Spanish and English.
- Piñata, horchata, fruit punch, and Mexican pastries.
- The Meowiachis.
- Contests and games drew over 75 students.
- Library won award for student participation.
The Computer Technician

The Genealogist

The Bongo Girl

The Paper Deadline

The Bookworm

The Polite Librarians

The Library Rats

The Water Bottle

The Reference Question

The Noisy Patrons

The Reference Librarian

The Oracle

The Virtual Patron
Ellender Memorial Library Makes Front Page of Local Newspaper for Welcome Back Day

August 24, 2007 12:26PM

“Nicholls students celebrate start of fall semester”

RAYMOND LEGENDRE
Staff Writer

Cheryl Adams (from left), Melissa Goldsmith and Cynthia Marchbanks dance in the quadrangle on the Nicholls State University campus Thursday morning during Welcome Back Day. This year’s theme was fiesta.
Welcome Back Day (2008)

• Celebrates Nicholls’ 60th Anniversary
• The theme was Nicholls: 60 Years on the Bayou;
• Members of the PaPR Committee and the Library dressed according to a decade or in Cajun garb;
• The PaPR Committee made a pirogue out of cardboard and attached book jackets to the side of the boat;
• To offer members of PaPR an opportunity to lead an activity, this year’s planning was given to a PaPR subcommittee that created an alligator toss game, signs, and a “find the froggie game.”
The Annual Cajun/Zydeco Festival

- Annual festival organized by librarian Anke Tonn.
- Partially hosted by Ellender Memorial Library every March.
- Reception and awards ceremony held at library, accompanied by live music in the Foyer.
- Event essayist usually gives speech.
- Local bands perform in Student Union; dance open to all members of Nicholls community.
- Ongoing relationship with Geno Delafose, nationally recognized musician.
- First event drew 35 participants; 11th annual drew over 300.
In 2008 the Annual Cajun/Zydeco Festival at Nicholls will feature dinner with Grammy Award-Nominated Creole and Zydeco accordionist Geno Delafose.
Piloted in 2007.
Forum for discussing great works of fiction.
Committee created to select books / times; chaired by Librarian Van Viator.
First meeting: Yann Martel’s *The Life of Pi*, winner of the 2002 Booker Prize winner.
Held in Ellender Library.
Friends group supplied eight copies of the novel—all available for checkout.
Drew 6 participants.
Let’s Read!
Join the Library Book Club
Nicholls State University
Fall semester selection:

Life of Pi
by Yann Martel

Read the book...
Come to the discussion session, November 14, 2007
6:30 p.m., 1st floor, Archives
Ellender Memorial Library

Meet new friends! Challenge your mind!
Open to everyone—students, faculty, staff, community

Multiple copies of Life of Pi made available for checkout by the
Friends of Ellender Memorial Library.
Friends Group

- Created in 2007 as initiative of Library Director Carol Mathias.
- Annual membership meeting and luncheon held in one of the Student Union Suites.
- Ninety minute luncheon followed by a brief membership meeting and a short informational program about a library department.
- 2007 Totals: Ninety-nine students, faculty and community members joined the Friends.
- Other Friends initiatives include Book Club, finals week pizza and snack night (over 100 student participants), book sale which raised $3000 in 2007—held in lobby of Ellender Library and in Archives Department.
- Connected to the University’s Family Day.
Organized by Librarian Jean-Mark Sens as part of a poetry exchange program with universities in the state.
Hosted by Ellender Library.
First event in 2006; annually held in April (poetry month).
Held for two nights over the course of one week.
Alternates visiting poets with international poetry read by students, faculty and staff.
Springboard for Beats and Bongos event.
All members of the larger Nicholls community are encouraged to attend.
Poetry readings draw between 15-20 participants.
Celebrate Poetry Month

ARCHIVES ALLEN J. ELLENDER READING ROOM
ELLENDER LIBRARY FIRST FLOOR

Wednesday, 18 April 2007, at 7p.m.

**Angela Ball** is a prize-winning poet and author of *Kneeling Between Parked Cars, Possession, Quartet*, and *The Museum of the Revolution*. Her poetry has appeared in numerous journals, including *The New Yorker, Partisan Review, New Republic, Field, Denver Quarterly, Colorado Review, Chelsea, Ploughshares, Boulevard, Poetry*, and *Grand Street*. Her work was included in *Best American Poetry 2001*, and she has represented U.S. at the Poetry International Festival, Rotterdam, and the Colombian International Poetry Festival, Bogotá. Ball has received grants from the Mississippi Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts. She recently received the national Association of Writers & Writing Programs’ (AWP) Donald Hall Prize in Poetry for 2006 for her newest collection of poems, *Night Clerk at the Hotel of Both Worlds*, to appear from the University of Pittsburgh Press in 2008. Ball earned a B.A. from Ohio University, an M.F.A. from the University of Iowa, and a Ph.D. from the University of Denver. She is a Professor of English at the Center for Writers at the University of Southern Mississippi.

**JUBILEE: A Festival of the Arts and Humanities**
Lyricism at the Library

Thursday, March 13, 6:00 p.m.
Ellender Archives

Reference librarian Jean-Mark Sens will host a poetry reading featuring four poets: Martha Serpas, who is originally from Galliano and has recently published The Dirty Side of the Storm (Norton); Richard Collins, LSU Alexandria poet-in-residence and recent past editor of Xavier Review; Dave Brinks, manager of New Orleans’ Gold Mine Saloon and author of The Caveat Onus (in the aftermath of Katrina); and Denise Rogers, University of Louisiana-Lafayette professor and author of The Scholar’s Daughter (Louisiana Literature Press). Students, staff, faculty, and all members of the larger Nicholls community are encouraged to attend this free reading.
Center for the Advancement of Faculty Engagement Symposium

- Co-organized by Librarians Melissa Goldsmith and Tony Fonseca.
- Ellender Library co-hosted, in 3 rooms.
- Day-long event; 18 sessions.
- Focuses on how faculty, by learning about the cultural and societal expectations of today’s students, can better develop strategies for engaged learning.
Center for the Advancement of Faculty Engagement Symposium (2007)

- Presenters included Nicholls faculty, and faculty from six other universities.
- Colloquium became a regional conference with statewide participation.
- Most sessions had a student respondent.
- Topics: learning music differently; interpreting generational concepts into dance; tasking faculty with moral imperatives (societal issues and education reform; using Youtube in the classroom; wireless student response systems; teaching French; adopting critical thinking concepts; among others.
- Drew 95 participants.
This year’s theme is Engaging Students through Popular Culture.
Co-organized by Librarians Melissa Goldsmith and Tony Fonseca.
Ellender Library to co-host, in 3 rooms.
Day-long event; 12 sessions, including papers, lectures, workshops, and forum discussions.
Focus remains on how faculty, by learning about the cultural and societal expectations of today’s students, can better develop strategies for engaged learning.
Expected (registered) attendees are from at least 6 universities across the state and include representative(s) from one high school.
Topics include information literacy and advertising, cartoon shows like The Boondocks and Space Ghost from Coast to Coast, using YouTube to enhance music courses, popular culture in information literacy, rock music criticism, and using sports and entertainment to teach statistics.
Implemented and chaired by Librarian Melissa Goldsmith.
Committee includes Librarians (faculty status) and Support Staff.

Events:
- Lecture/Research Series;
- Staff and student worker theme parties;
- Marketing blitzes to market outreach events;
- Organizing volunteer support for library events.
First event held in April, 2007; next event April 2008.
Organized by Librarian Melissa Goldsmith.
Hosted by Ellender Library in the Archives Department.
Celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of Allen Ginsberg’s *Howl*.
Readings of Kerouac, Ginsberg, Burroughs, Ferlinghetti, McClure, Lipton, Williams, di Prima, Waldman, McKuen, and Jim Morrison.
Participants encouraged to wear bohemian garb.
Librarians supplied coffee, juice, and food (stuffed mushrooms and brownies).
Also included original poems.
Percussion instruments, bongos, and electric bass.
Librarians requested permission to record poetry readings and performances for library publicity as well as for the poets and performers.
Drew 17 participants.
25 April 2007 (Wednesday) at 4:30 p.m.
Pre-Program at 4:20 p.m.

at the archives at ellender memorial library, nicholls state university

beat poetry reading and performance happening

Featuring Cheryl Adams, Lomie Charpentier, Cynthia DuBois, Tashon Durham, Tony Fonseca, Ray Jigquette, Melissa Ursula Dawn Goldsmith, Tori Louviere, Katy McCarthy, Chris Monier, Lady Pierson, Mr. Torch, and Some Other Cats

An event organized by assistant professor/serials librarian Tony Fonseca and assistant professor/reference librarian Melissa Ursula Dawn Goldsmith.
Come Jam with Us!

When: 25 June 2008 (today!), just after 4:20pm

Where: The B. E. Bistro (formerly The Coffee Table)

What to Bring: Yourselves; instruments (if you have them); poems and other texts (if you have them)

Who We Are: We are a laid-back get-together happening of musicians, poets, and artists interested in text-music relations. We are also known as the Beats and Bongos group, organized by Melissa Goldsmith and Tony Fonseca from Ellender Memorial Library, Nicholls State University. We come from various backgrounds: some are seasoned writers; some read music; some play by ear; some write poetry; some read previously written poetry; and others.

No literary, musical, or performance background necessary. All are invited.

B. E. BISTRO THERE, OR B. E.²
B and B Interlude ...
Some Poems Read at the Event

Allen Ginsburg, excerpts from *Howl*

Lawrence Lipton, “Bruno in Venice West”

Jim Morrison, *Celebration of the Lizard*

Poems from Rod McKuen’s *Listen to the Warm*

Poems by William Carlos Williams
- Research into marketing strategies, so we can better market these outreach events.
- Formalize the PaPR Committee into the library’s marketing vehicle.
- Market the library not by turning it into a Café, but by making professors understand that its **librarians** are *indispensable* to the research needs of the university.
- Produce a long-range plan to convince professors and instructors to assign research projects that don’t allow students to simply use the first sources they find through web-based searches. The library can coattail on the “Culture of Critical Thinking” and “Student Engagement” that our QEP emphasizes by stressing Critical Thinking in Research. To reiterate, we have to make our **librarians**, not only the library, *indispensable*.
- Librarians will become **ongoing** presenters at our Faculty Institutes.
Where do we go from here? (continued)

- Submit article about music librarianship, musicology, English literature, and Beats and Bongos to *Notes*, the Journal of the Music Library Association.
- Create new outreach opportunities that reach beyond Ellender’s and the Nicholls’ community through conference presentations and *live* podcasts.
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