Patoski 2009 Texas Book Award Winner

Joe Nick Patoski is the author and co-author of biographies of Stevie Ray Vaughan and Selena and several coffee table books—Texas Mountains, Texas Coast, and Big Bend National Parks. For 18 years he was a staff writer for Texas Monthly, and he has contributed to many other magazines, in Texas and nationally. He is a radio personality and known for his interest in and management of music professionals. Mr. Patoski was present to receive his award and made brief remarks about his book.

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Architect Firm Chosen for TCU Library

TCU Library is pleased to announce that Cannon Design has been chosen to assist in developing a library building plan and associated cost estimates. Meetings are scheduled this spring with undergraduates, graduates, faculty, and other campus partners to determine what can be incorporated into the library design. Mary Couts Burnett Library is the academic campus hub and continues to see 86% of the students, faculty, and staff each semester. Patrons visited the library 277,433 times during the 2008 fall semester.

While visits are reaching all...
President’s Message

As many years as I’ve been a member of the Friends of the TCU Library, I never fail to be impressed by the large numbers of students or the intense level of activity at the TCU Library. If you can find a parking space in the lots adjacent to the library, I challenge anyone to go and visit the TCU Library.

On your visit, it is immediately apparent that the 62 tables with computers are filled to capacity as early in the day as 10:00 a.m. Outside of the large computer commons is the Bistro Burnett Café. Here also is a vibrant social and academic exchange over coffee or a sandwich. The excitement that this generates is all very positive and directed.

I ask the library staff if they could quantify my observations with some figures. They, of course, have such information based on two things: the number of turnstile visits and the number of TCU ID cards given to everyone. They said the number of turnstile visits for a year are approximately 537,506.

All this information has led me to one special conclusion. Because of the TCU Library's central campus location, its numerous services, and particularly the major role as the technology and information provider, the facility has become the heart of campus life for most students.

I truly feel that the role of the library today has vastly expanded from the library of the past, particularly at the university level where access to knowledge has exploded with new global technology. Now more than ever we have need of better and bigger libraries with greater capacities toward the vast expanse of modern learning.

Cynthia Reaves  
TCU Friends of the Library President

Dean’s Message


The Friends of the TCU Library and The TCU Press award the Texas Book Award every other year to honor the author for the best book written about Texas. Mr. Bob Newkirk, past President of the Friends of the TCU Library, is the generous contributor who funds these awards. We appreciate his support of the Texas Book Award, which brings favorable recognition to TCU.

You may remember that the last time I wrote to you in this column, I announced that the Library was initiating 24 hours service, five days a week. Early in September, we changed Library’s hours such that we opened midday Sundays and stayed open continuously until Friday nights. We then opened all day on Saturdays and closed Saturday nights. We open again mid-day Sunday and another week begins! We have kept to this schedule (and added even a few more hours during exam weeks) for fall semester and this semester. For someone whose bedtime is long before midnight, I was pleased but actually surprised that the usage statistics are so high. Around 1 a.m., we average about

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Strategic Planning

The Library is in the middle of a year-long project to develop its next Strategic Plan. There are significant changes ongoing within the world of libraries. Many new opportunities are available to us: some opportunities are provided by technology, some by changing TCU curriculum, and some are occurring within the field of librarianship itself.

How do we best determine our future? What are the short term needs of our faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students? We have had a series of focus groups and interviews with campus partners, administrators, MCB library staff, along with TCU faculty and students, both graduate and undergraduate.

To help develop the new Library Strategic Plan, we are using the services of a Library Consultant, Dr. Florence Mason of F. Mason & Associates.

Library staff prepared a series of environmental scans to identify major issues that will be part of our world in the next few years. Preliminary strategies that will evolve into the new Strategic Plan are:

- Provide a transparent library where resources and services are readily known and easily accessed.
- Collaborate with the TCU community in adopting innovative academic trends.
- Cultivate an environment where the TCU community has the necessary skills to access library resources from anywhere and anytime.
- Design the best physical and virtual academic learning environment.
- Encourage continuous conversation with the TCU community to refine and assess the community’s needs.

We took about 30 of the library staff over to the new Brown Lupton University Union and intensively explored these issues for a day-long retreat a few weeks ago. We are nearing completion of the project and will be sharing information about the new Library Strategic Plan later this year.

Patoski 2009 Texas Book Award Winner (Continued)

(Continued from page 1)

Previous winners of the TCU Texas Book Award are Stephen Harrigan for Gates of the Alamo; Scott Zesch, for The Captured; Jeff Zesch, for Our Land Before We Die; and Timothy Egan, for The Worst Hard Time.

Books are judged by a panel of three independent scholars and authors chosen by TCU Press. Willie Nelson: An Epic Life was a unanimous choice of all the judges.

About the TCU Press: Texas Christian University Press focuses on the history and literature of Texas and the American West and shares the overall mission of all university presses, as expressed by the Association of American University Presses: to contribute to the existing body of scholarly knowledge and to bring academic prestige to its parent university.
Architect Firm Chosen (Continued)

Time highs the library recognizes that improvements can be made and a richer learning experience provided. To achieve these goals the library will

- need to expand the Archives and Special Collections facilities to better accommodate the gifts that are received and the researchers who come to use them
- provide additional graduate student research areas
- double the seating capacity to accommodate 20% of the TCU student body
- expand printed book storage capacity to accommodate future growth and to bring back materials housed offsite
- redesign the front entrance and create a more welcoming facility through universal design that will make the library more accessible to those with mobility restrictions

**CANNON DESIGN** with local firm partner, Hahnfeld Hoffer Stanford, brings rich TCU experience to the library’s project. The combined team has worked on campus projects such as Brown Lupton University Union, Friedman Varsity Tennis Center, Frog Fountain, Justin Athletic Center, Reed Hall Renovation, Rickel Recreational Center, Scharbauer Hall, Smith Entrepreneurs Hall, and the Tucker Technology Building.

During March the project will begin collecting data on current conditions at the Library. This will include a forensics team that will gather information about the library stacks, taking measurements, and understanding the infrastructure elements such as mechanical (air conditioning and heating), electrical, and plumbing. Additionally, library staff will meet with the **CANNON DESIGN** team to provide input into the new directions the library will take.

Dean’s Message (Continued)

(Continued from page 2)

100 people in the building; by 5 a.m. we are down to about 25 or so and then the numbers begin to climb again as the early risers come to the Library. The building is being used throughout the night. Our plans are to continue these hours for both of the long semesters each academic year.

The most exciting news about the Library this spring is the kick-off planning being done with Cannon Design, the architectural firm selected by TCU to provide a cost estimate for a library addition/renovation. This estimate will give us a realistic understanding of the costs involved to update this library for the next 20 years. If the next 20 years see the same amount of change that we’ve seen in the last 20 years, we are in for an interesting time! An incredible statistic about building usage, is that we continue to see more than 85% of the entire student body in the Library at least once each semester. We will plan for a significantly increased seating capacity in the new Library.

We welcome visitors! Please come by the Library and let us know you are here.

Sincerely,
Dr. June Koelker
Dean of the Mary Couts Burnett Library
Carol Jim Renshaw Award

The Carol Jim Renshaw Award, named after the first President of the Friends of the TCU Library, recognizes distinguished service to the Friends of the TCU Library. This year the Friends are honoring a very special person whose contributions have spanned many years. The Carol Jim Renshaw Award recipient this year is Dr. Judy Alter. As the Director of the TCU Press, she oversees our Texas Book Award selection. The annual Christmas-time Author Extravaganza, cosponsored by the Friends and the TCU Press at the Fort Worth Botoanic Gardens, is also in Judy's capable hands. She has recommended speakers for many literary evenings sponsored by the Friends. Dr. Alter is an award-winning author herself, receiving the prestigious Owen Wister Award for Lifetime Achievement from the Western Writers of America.

Dr. Judy Alter receiving the Carol Jim Renshaw Award from Cynthia Reaves Friends of the TCU Library

Friend of the Year Award

The Friend of the Year Award provides an appropriate avenue for the Friends organization to express appreciation and gratitude for contributions made to the Friends. This year the Friends are honoring Ben and Johnnie Gunn for their many contributions to our organization. Ben is the fourth President of the Friends of the TCU Library. Ben and Johnnie have been most generous to the Friends, both with financial gifts and with gifts of rare editions, now housed in the Library’s Special Collections Department. The Library is the recipient of a copy of Geoffrey Chaucer’s Monk’s Prologue and Tale, and Chaucer’s The Nun’s Priest’s Prologue and Tale. These two rare editions comprise folios 83 to 91 from Thynne’s third edition of the Works of Geoffrey Chaucer printed in London about 1545. Through the years, Ben and Johnnie’s gifts also include a copy of Gray’s Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard illustrated by Edward Raven published around 1836, and a manuscript copy of sections of Horace Walpole’s Anecdotes of Painting published around 1776. All of these rare editions were gifts given to the Library by the Gunns.

Ben and Johnnie Gunn receiving the Friends of the TCU Library 2009 Friend of the Year Award

TCU Library 1950’s addition front to University Ave.
Library Employees

**New**

Alysha Sapp has joined us as Librarian I – Nursing & Health Sciences Librarian. Alysha’s library experience includes working as a Librarian at Children’s Medical Center of Dallas and as a Library Associate at Baylor Health Sciences Library. Alysha has her MLS from UNT and a BA in Literary Studies from UT-Dallas.

**Retirement**

Mary Howell retired on February 6th. She is a TCU alum who came to work in the Library after over a decade as a public school teacher. During nearly 30 years here, Mary single-handedly put labels and property stamps on around a half-million books and survived our transitions to DRA and ALEPH. She braved rain, sleet and snow while walking several blocks from home to the library each work day. Mary said the highlights of her job were "the books and the people." We can expect to see her often as she is an avid user of our collection, especially the Popular Reading Section. We’ll truly miss Mary’s humor and friendliness, and we wish her all the best.

John Araujo Receives Library Staff Award

The Dean presented John Araujo the 2009 Mary Couts Burnett Library Staff Award from the Friends of the TCU Library at the annual Library In-Service luncheon on January 6. Both library staff and others from the TCU community submitted nominations for the Staff Award. The Dean read some of the recommendations submitted about John Araujo to the group. One person wrote “Just about every department in the library has called on him for assistance and he has always been there to help. He is ready with a hammer, a wrench, or a screwdriver whenever and wherever he is needed.” Another person wrote, “All of his varied duties are carried out by John with good humor. He even serves the library as the area restaurant trailblazer and critic, emailing his reviews for staff.” One nominee suggested that “Naming John this year’s recipient of the Library Staff Recognition Award would be appropriate means of expressing our appreciation for his dedication to the many jobs he tackles and tames”.

Robert A. "Bob" Olsen Jr. 1924 - 2009

Robert "Bob" A. Olsen Jr., 84, died Sunday, March 1, 2009. Memorial: In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Brite Divinity School, TCU or a charity of choice. Bob was born April 16, 1924, in Detroit Mich. He was a retired TCU faculty librarian for Brite Divinity School from 1965 to 1998. Survivors: Wife of 36 years, Anne Dixon Olsen; daughters, Beth Hickman and husband, Mickey, of Bentonville, Arkansas, and Catherine Elkins and husband, Steve, of Fort Worth; sons, Paul Olsen and wife, Teresa, of Grandview, Missouri., and Jonathan Olsen and wife, Molly, of Racine, Wisconsin.; seven grandchildren; and niece, Judy O'Donnell and husband, Pat, of Detroit, Michigan.
Spring 2009: A Terrible Beauty?

*Women, Media, and the Irish Struggle for Independence*

Women, writing for the most influential body of nationalist journalism during the Irish Revival, the advanced nationalist press. This work studies women’s writings in the Irish nationalist tradition, focusing in particular on leading female voices in the cultural and political movements that helped launch the Easter Rising of 1916: Augusta Gregory, Alice Milligan, Maud Gonne, Constance Markievicz, Delia Larkin, Hanna Sheehy Skeffington, and Louise Bennett. Karen Steele argues that by examining the innovative work of these writers from the perspective of women’s artistry and women’s political investments, we can best appreciate the expansive range of their cultural productions and the influence these had on other nationalists, who went on to shape Irish politics and culture in the decades to come.

*from Amazon.com*

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**FacultySpeak**

Dr. Karen Steele, Associate Professor and Director of Women’s Studies TCU

April 17, 2009
7 p.m.
Library Conference Room

"Women, Press, and Politics" explores the literary and historical significance of

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**The Faris Oak**

Many of you reading this issue of Windows will remember Mary Charlotte Faris, long-time reference librarian and the library’s first Government Documents Librarian. She was also an alumna of TCU, class of ‘43 (the same as Chancellor James Moudy).

Mary Charlotte retired in 1986 after thirty-six years. To many, she had come to symbolize the library and its fine tradition of service to the TCU community. At the time of her retirement, it was suggested that to honor Mary Charlotte a tree be planted on campus near the library and contributions were sought from colleagues and friends toward its purchase. Many of you donated money to this cause. Due largely to the efforts of Nancy Bruce, then a senior library assistant in Special Collections, this plan was carried out and a tree duly planted.

Nancy hoped at the time to have a plaque or marker placed near the tree explaining that it was a tribute to Mary Charlotte. Sadly it has taken twenty-two years to accomplish this task. A handsome plaque has now been placed by the tree.

A very brief ceremony is planned for 18 April to “unveil” the plaque and to honor Mary Charlotte’s memory. Please join us. Call 817.257.7106 for details.
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