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Collections & Connections

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Collections & Connections

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[Headliners](#)

[Behind the Scenes](#)

[Out & About](#)

[Worthy of Note](#)

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Dean of Libraries

Headliners

Aviation Heroes Who Dared to Dream

NASA Astronaut Terry Wilcutt (Colonel USMC) headlined the opening of the photographic exhibit "The Wright Approach: Wilbur and Orville and Their Flying Machine," Saturday, Sept. 13, at the Kentucky Library and Museum.

During his presentation Wilcutt paid tribute to aviation pioneers Wilbur and Orville Wright, and others who preceded them, who dreamed that men could fly and had the creative drive and ingenuity to make it happen.

For the Wright brothers, their dream became reality on Dec. 17, 1903, at Kitty Hawk, N.C. It was a rainy, blustery morning—not exactly the conditions the Wright brothers sought for an experimental flight. Mid-morning, the rain stopped, but the wind continued to blow at about 25 miles per hour. They decided to attempt the flight anyway. Orville got aboard Flyer I, the ground crew released restraints, the double-winged aircraft moved down the launching rails, then went aloft. Flyer I pitched up and down for about 12 seconds, then landed about 120 feet out. This first successful heavier-than-air flight of a powered flying machine with a man on board was followed by three more attempts, each longer than the previous. Inventive bicycle shop mechanics made history. The Aviation Age had begun!

Fast forward from the Wrights to Wilcutt, who, like Wilbur and Orville, dreamed about flying. Wilcutt said he remembered standing in the field, playing baseball and hearing the sonic booms. He said, "I would look up and see what looked to be a silvery jet high overhead leaving a contrail and would think to myself that flying that jet just must be the most exciting job in the world."

"Of course," he continued, "I had absolutely no idea how to become a jet pilot or that I would actually fly even higher and faster."

To see his dream come true, Wilcutt said education was and is the key that unlocks the door when opportunity presents itself. After graduating from WKU in 1974, he



NASA Astronaut Terry Wilcutt

Michael Binder

[Previous Publication](#)



taught high school math for a couple of years. In 1976, he entered the Marine Corp and earned his wings two years later. Over time, he attended the Naval Fighter Weapons Schools (Topgun) and the United States Naval Test Pilot School, where he earned the title "Distinguished Graduate." Wilcutt was then assigned as a test pilot/project officer for Strike Aircraft Test Directorate at the Naval Aircraft Test Center. While assigned there, he flew the F/A-18 Hornet, the A-7 Corsair II, the F-4 Phantom and a wide variety of other aircraft, logging over 4,400 flight hours in more than 30 different aircraft.

Wilcutt was selected by NASA in 1990, and became an astronaut in July 1991. In addition to many technical and administrative assignments, he was pilot on STS-68 in 1994 and STS-79 in '96, and mission commander on STS-89 in '98 and STS-106 in '00. During these four missions, Wilcutt logged over 1,000 hours in space, and he is not done yet. He will serve as Crew Commander on STS-116, which is scheduled for launch next year.



The Wright brothers

In conclusion, Wilcutt said, "All of us not only feel, but know, that we stand on the shoulders of those that came before us. That begins with the Wright Brothers, includes the early test pilots, early astronauts, and encompasses the engineers, rocket scientists, and workforce that design, assemble, and prepare our planes and spacecraft."

Dr. David D. Lee, Dean of Potter College is the exhibit's curator. The Wright Brothers exhibit will be on view at The Kentucky Museum for one year. Funding was provided by the Office of the University Provost Action Agenda Funds, the Kentucky Museum Associates and private donors, with in-kind support from Qualex Inc. at the Bowling Green Target Store.

Photographs selected for the exhibit are used with permission from Wright State University.

For more information about the Wright Brothers exhibit, contact Earlene Chelf (270) 745-5263 or

earlene.chelf@wku.edu.



Behind the Scenes

Rose Davis, a Lady Who's Involved

by Katy Roe



Rose Davis, Coordinator of Bibliographic Access and Training in the Department of Library Technical Services, is a lady on the go and involved in many things. Rose, who received both her undergraduate and graduate degrees from WKU, has been an employee of WKU for thirty-one years. She teaches the online LME 506 Cataloging and Classification course, advises four students, and is an advisor for the Beta Sigma Chapter of Gamma Sigma Sigma National Service Sorority. She also participates in the 4-H

Shadowing Project and is the chair-elect for the KYVL User Group for 2003/04 (she will serve as chair for 2004/05). If you don't think this is enough, hold on, because there's more.

Rose has been actively involved with the Order of the Eastern Star for almost twenty years. Rose's husband, Ernie, is a member of the Masons. The Order of the Eastern Star is an organization for women who are related to men who are Masons. Since becoming a member in 1984, she has done extensive work within the Eastern Star Organization, and held various offices within the local and state level. She has been the Ambassador of Goodwill to the Eastern Star Home for District 10, the District 10 Deputy Grand Matron, and has been appointed for the 2003/2004 year to serve on the youth committee of the Masonic Youth Organization. Her daughters, Amanda and Carrie, were Rainbow Girls, one of the Eastern Star Youth Organizations for girls, and for ten years, she served as the Mother Advisor to the local chapter of Rainbow Girls.

Not only is Rose very involved with the Order of the Eastern Star, she also works with the Girl Scouts. For twenty-seven years, Rose has been a registered Girl Scout, from her earliest involvement as a Scout to troop leader, and then to serving on the local council and committees. She is actively involved on the state level as well; she serves on at least two committees and is responsible for the fiduciaries and policies within the Girl Scout organization. Although Rose is not currently leading any troop, she still does the local training of new leaders. She loves working with the Girl Scout organization because she loves working with the girls.

Rose is definitely a lady on the go. Even though she is so involved with everything, from her duties in the Technical Services Department, teaching, advising, Eastern Star, Girl Scout activities, she still makes time for family as well. Rose has been married to Ernie for thirty years, and has three children, Amanda, Jeremy, and Carrie. She has one granddaughter Abby, and a brand new daughter-in-law, Pier.

To Rose Davis, a very interesting and devoted lady, one who wears a coat of many colors: thanks for all you do!

Sue Lynn Stone

by Jonathan Jeffrey

You'll usually find Sue Lynn Stone, WKU's University Archivist and Records Officer, wearing red and a smile as she assists researchers and works with university personnel on records management issues. "The thing I like most about my work," Stone says, "is getting to learn more about Western—its history and its alumni." For her dedicated and conscientious service, Stone was awarded the Margie Helm Staff Award for Outstanding Performance in December 2002, but outside of work you will find Sue Lynn literally outside in her garden.



Sue Lynn Stone amid the splendor in the Kentucky Building courtyard.

This gardener beams as she ruminates about her avocation. Memories of plants and their propagation stretch back to her childhood days. She recalls watching her grandmother maintain the family's backyard garden. "I remember attending an evening lecture on Victorian gardening at the Kentucky Museum, and finding that my grandmother was planting the urns at our home just like her mother might have done in the nineteenth-century." This early introduction to gardening led to a lifelong appreciation of plants and how they can enhance a person's life. "Everywhere I've had ground," Stone admits, "I've worked it...and the hardest thing about gardening is leaving behind the plants when you move. I've left behind 76 rosebushes." Her hobby not only creates a beautiful outdoor palette, but it requires labor that allows her to deal with stress or distressing news. "Before dealing with a problem, I pull weeds," Stone admitted.

Stone enjoys sharing her plants with others. She calls her planted area a "friendship garden," because she likes to share her favorite plants and "can't stand to pitch plants when I'm thinning out beds." She also incorporates plants she receives from friends into her garden. Stone shares her bountiful flower harvest with shut-ins, people celebrating birthdays or special events, and she likes to give them as unexpected surprises. "It is such a personal gift," said Stone, "when you can give something that your grew." Her interest in flowers has created another hobby, that of collecting unusual vases in which to showcase her arrangements. "I bought three in Italy last summer and one in Belgium when I was there," Stone notes.

To enhance her understanding of the plant world, Stone has taken two Master Gardener courses. She first learned of these while attending the Nashville Lawn and Garden Show in 1999. Learning that the course was not offered in Bowling Green, she enrolled in the Nashville class. The following year she participated in the first Master Gardener class offered locally by the Warren County Extension Office.

Stone has used her expertise in helping friends with their own lawns and gardens.

This fall she will assist a church team with a ministry project that involves pruning and cleaning up lawns for those incapable of doing so due to physical or financial limitations. She has also created a dialogue with WKU's landscaper, Greg Fear, to offer assistance with the floral surroundings at the Kentucky Building. "I want to do anything for our program that improves the public perception of the Kentucky Building." Stone believes that people should cultivate a wide variety of interests. "It broadens you," Stone interjects, "when you participate in things unrelated to your work."

Michael Franklin

by Katherine Pennavaria



Michael in the library

Remember Long-Playing records? Did you know that the WKU Libraries own a collection, and that you can listen to them right in the library? The person who can assist you is Michael Franklin; among his other duties in the circulation area, he is in charge of the Listening Lab, and takes care of the LP collection.

Outside of the library, Michael's world revolves around music. He currently plays in various bands, mostly between Louisville and Glasgow, and writes his own music. He has recorded, with Greg Stapleton, two CDs (Wicked and Law of the Echo), which are available through Michael at michael.franklin@wku.edu. "The music is a cross between Willie Nelson and Depeche Mode," he says.

Michael got started in his music career the same way many adult musicians did: by taking piano lessons as a child. "My mom made me take private lessons starting when I was five years old." He admits that he hated it at first, but later grew more interested. He still plays keyboards in a variety of settings, both with bands and as a studio musician. He also plays harmonica, but tries to avoid singing.

Not surprisingly, Michael majored in music (along with political science) as an undergraduate and has a Western degree. He also completed almost all of a Master's degree in Theory and Composition, but ultimately decided that the world of music in an academic context was not for him. Instead, he says, "I got a job and entered the real world."

In addition to playing in bands and studios, Michael also pitches his songs to Nashville publishers, so far without any luck. In order to pitch a song, he says, he first does the recording of a song he wrote at a studio, with hired musicians. Then, he burns about 20 CD copies of the song and submits them to publishers and singers. He doesn't really expect to break in to the Nashville music industry, however. "Nashville is kind of a closed market." On the subject of the Nashville music industry, Michael's usually

calm demeanor heats up a bit. "Nashville is evil – they have successfully killed what's left of country music. Whether they were trying to do that or not, that's what they've done."

In fact, he no longer even listens to country music, even though that was once a favorite genre. "I used to like country music, but the stuff they play on the radio now—it's like music to wallpaper your house to." So if you like a lively debate about the current state of country music, Michael is the one to see. And check out that LP collection while you're in the library.

New Faces and Changes

by Katy Roe

Connie Foster, formerly the Serials Coordinator, has assumed the position of department head for the newly renamed Department of Library Technical Services. Rose Davis is now Coordinator of Bibliographic Access and Training in the Department of Library Technical Services. Katy Roe is the new Social Sciences Catalog Librarian. Katy, who replaced Nada Durham, assumed her duties on May 5, 2003. She has an undergraduate degree in Library Science from Morehead State University, Morehead, KY, and her Master of Science in Library and Information Sciences from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, Hawaii.



Katy (center left) and Deana (center right)

Deana Groves isn't a new face within the library, but her position is; Deana is the new Education Catalog Librarian. Deana assumed her duties on August 18, 2003, after completing her Master of Science in Library and Information Sciences through the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, Hawaii.

Gayle Novick is a part-time library assistant in the Educational Resources Center. Paul Coomer will be starting soon as a late night Periodical Assistant. And Jayne Pelaski is the new Assistant to the Dean for Community Outreach.

Congratulations and welcome to all!

Out & About

Western's "Research Guides" Shared in Scotland

by Michael Binder

This past June I had the pleasure of traveling to Glasgow, Scotland, to attend and present a paper at eLit2003, an international conference on electronic literacy held at Glasgow Caledonian University. I had first learned about the existence of this conference and its "call for papers" at one of the monthly meetings of SAALCK (the State-Assisted Academic Library Council of Kentucky), which consists of my fellow library deans from Kentucky's higher education institutions. There, Hannelore Rader, University Librarian at the University of Louisville, had talked about this conference where she herself had delivered a paper a year earlier.

Western Kentucky University Libraries has been a pioneer in eLiteracy; it has developed library research guides covering all the subject areas taught in the departments at the university, and has made them available in several formats, including print-on-paper, on the web via the WKU Libraries' Topper InfoPortal (TIP), and even through a prototype PDA version. Hence, it appeared logical that we should submit a proposal to deliver a paper at this conference. It would provide an ideal venue for increasing awareness about our research guides project, and particularly how those guides served to empower and enhance the research capabilities of our library users.

I engaged Haiwang Yuan, Web Site & Virtual Library Coordinator, and Bryan Carson, Reference & Instructional Services Coordinator, both of whom have been involved in the development of the research guides. Together we formulated a proposal for a PowerPoint program to be delivered at the conference and submitted it for review. Lo and behold, it was accepted! Entitled "Research Guides at Western Kentucky University: Empowering our Users through eLiteracy," the final program would explain the rationale behind the development of the guides, reveal their content, and detail the collaboration between the teaching faculty and the library faculty to produce them. We also planned to discuss the incorporation of the guides in two primary electronic access tools: our library portal (TIP) for desktops and a reduced version customized for personal digital assistants (PDAs). In our conclusion, we would emphasize our belief that our "research guides/information portal" concept could serve as a model for information professionals to empower their users through eLiteracy.

On the morning of my presentation, I opened my hotel door and retrieved the local newspaper, *The Scotsman*. To my amazement, I found on the front page of the sports section a large color picture of Kenny Perry and his brother-in-law, Bobby Bush, who were shown at their Country Creek Golf Course in Franklin, Kentucky. *The Scotsman* also had a feature article about the PGA legend's "country retreat." I felt both floored and then suddenly more at home in this faraway place. Later that morning, when I made my conference presentation, I started out by showing the newspaper article to my fellow attendees, and remarking that it seemed destined I be with them that day.

The presentation itself had a huge turnout, one of the largest at the conference, with almost every seat taken, and was very well received. It was quite an experience to talk about our innovations at Western before an international audience and have them viewed so favorably.

Conference Report: 2003 Fiesole Retreat, Oxford, U.K.

By Jack G. Montgomery

As some of you know, this past July I received a full sponsorship to attend the fifth annual Fiesole Collection Development Retreat held at Somerville College in Oxford, UK. Entitled "Authors to Readers: Who are We Serving? How? And How Well?" Fiesole brought together leaders in the fields of librarianship, international publishing, and even international investment banking from the U.K., U.S., Europe, and Australia to discuss current and new trends in the information industry in which libraries play a key role. Limited to only 80 attendees per year, Fiesole is considered the premier conference of its type in the world.



Among other topics discussed was how much time faculty members had to spend accessing online resources. According to a recent research report, only 35% of faculty members in research institutions indicate they rely on online resources for the major portion of their research. In general, time to spend online was indicated as a major barrier to usage of online resources, but other reasons included frustration with finding tools and credibility of sources. Faculty also expressed frustration in the inability of their libraries to integrate and repackage content.

Data about user expectations and needs was also presented, and the point was made that users, by now, have largely realized that scholarly information has a cost, especially the information published in serials. To be responsible, libraries must be able to justify an investment in digital content, as the funds are most often taken from other needed investments. We must base our investment in digital content on intelligent consumerism and demonstrated need for content.

In further development on the idea of digital content, one speaker asked his audience to remember that while most of the developed world is tech-savvy, the rest of the world is way behind. For the tech-savvy users, a phenomena exists called "the satisfied inept." This person mistakes a public-access web search using Google for something approaching real research. We need to remind students that most of the scholarly information created before 1990 is not on the web.

Other presentations covered such topics as science journal literature, research productivity and methods, electronic journals, managing digital content, and scholarly

publishing. I don't have room here to tell you everything I learned, but I would be happy to discuss the details of this wonderful conference with anyone who's interested. You can contact me at jack.montgomery@wku.edu.

Worthy of Note

WKU Libraries Benefactors Honored

by Earlene Chelf

Throughout Western Kentucky University's five-year fundraising campaign that ended June 30th, 2003, significant donations have been received from University Libraries benefactors. Several of these gifts were for naming of spaces in the Main Library and the Kentucky Building; others are endowments, project and program underwriting and cash donations.

During a special recognition program on September 28, 2003 at the Kentucky Building, President Gary Ransdell unveiled plaques renaming the Kentucky Library Reading Room as the Harrison & Baird Reading Room, in honor of Penny and Lowell Harrison and Nancy and Tom Baird. The Kentucky Museum's Gallery F (Bicentennial Corner) became the Redford Gallery, in honor of Audrey and Tom Redford; and the Helm-Cravens Listening Library was named the Greene Listening Library, for Lila Greene.

Others recognized were: Henry Hardin, Ferris Van Meter, John and Barbara Grider, Dorothy Grider, Beulah Campbell, Beulah Winchel, Gerald and Peggy Loafman, Linda and Duval Bushong, Dianne Stuart (for the Stuart Family Foundation), Jane and Walter Baker (for the Helm Fund), Integra Bank, US Bank, and Omni Custom Meats.



Commemorative plaques will hang in each room.



Pictured left to right are: Mary Margaret Bell, SHRAB member; Penny Harrison; Dr. Lowell H. Harrison; and Sue Lynn Stone, SHRAB member

SOKY Book Fest Wins 2003 Traverse Award

by Jayne Pelaski

The Southern Kentucky Festival of Books (now Southern Kentucky Book Fest) was awarded First Place for the 2003 Kentucky Tourism Industry's Traverse Awards. The Traverse Awards showcase and honor Kentucky's outstanding tourism professionals for their talent, creativity and effectiveness in marketing. The Book Fest was honored for our "Marketing Campaign." The award was given at the Kentucky Tourism Industry Annual Conference on October 14 in Louisville. Last year, the Book Fest received Honorable Mention for this same category.



WILLS—Virtual Reference Library Software

by Bryan Carson

As more Kentuckians enter college and advance through the system, extended campuses and distance education are becoming more popular. Since campus libraries play an increasingly important role in the educational process, Western Kentucky University Libraries plans to serve their users with a virtual reference chat service called WILLS, which stands for Western Interactive Live Library Services. WILLS allows the delivery of library services through electronic information technology. People will be able to access library materials and assistance from home, work, or wherever they are located, using any computer with Internet access. The service will be live and interactive, allowing reference specialists to answer questions in real time. Operating hours will be from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

Since information literacy skills account for approximately 50% of the grade in a course that requires a term paper, access to adequate library services and resources is essential for the attainment of superior academic skills, regardless of location. Students who are familiar with library research are more likely to be successful in their classes and to return to complete their degree.

WILLS allows librarians to help users online by answering questions, guiding students through Web sites, electronic databases, and other online resources. As the librarian provides assistance, the user can see on his or her own computer exactly what the librarian is doing. Bryan M. Carson, the Coordinator of Reference and instructional Services, will manage the project using existing library personnel. This virtual reference services will help students to be successful in their classes, and to return to complete their degree, and will also help alumni users as well.

Although methods change, library standards of quality endure. WILLS will more than likely become a major resource to students and graduates of WKU. This resource is directly related to the University's goals of increasing student learning, developing the student body, assuring a high-quality faculty and staff, enhancing responsiveness to our constituents, and increasing student retention. This virtual reference service will help students be successful in their classes and encourage them to complete their

degrees; alumni users will also benefit from the service.

Email [Roxanne Spencer](#) or [Katherine Pennavaria](#). Phone (270) 745-4552 or (270) 659-6910. Fax (270) 745-4553.

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