

March 16, 2012



Wichita State University Libraries

InfoShock

Spring Reading Series off to a Great Start

A crowd of over 50 from WSU and the Wichita community gathered on Thursday, February 9th in Ablah Library for the first event of the semester in this year's 8th Annual Poetry & Fiction Reading Series. The event featured Greg Glazner, the department of English's visiting faculty member & Distinguished Poet in Residence. Glazner, Walt Whitman Award Winner for *From the Iron Chair* (1992), read from works in progress and engaged the audience with humorous anecdotes about his work.

handling criticism in workshops and from agents and editors.

The next reading will be Thursday, April 5th at 3:00 pm on the Lower Level and will feature poet Sam Taylor, the newest faculty member in the Department of English. For more information about the featured authors for the remainder of this year's series, see <http://bit.ly/wsureadingseries> or contact Melissa Mallon.

On Thursday, March 8th, 30 people attended a reading by fiction writer Marlin "Bart" Barton. Barton received his MFA from Wichita State and had many good things to say about how the Creative Writing program shaped his fiction. He read from his newest book, *The Cross Garden* (2011), and answered questions about his writing and work as an English instructor at Mt. Meigs juvenile correctional facility in Alabama. After the reading, Barton gave an informal lecture to seven attendees entitled "Criticism and Rejection: Ah, the Writing Life." The talk was geared toward MFA students and centered on



Marlin "Bart" Barton



Greg Glazner

In the Community

On Saturday, February 18, WSU Libraries was honored to host Virgil Dean, editor of *Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains*. He visited Special Collections and curator Lorraine Madway made a presentation for him on Special Collections' Federal Writers' Project Records for Kansas, the largest collection in the state of Kansas dealing with these materials. During his visit he had the opportunity to examine these records that are the focus of an upcoming article by Madway scheduled for publication in the summer 2012 issue of *Kansas History*.

Nick Wyant and Dr. Lorraine Madway served as judges at this year's History Day competition hosted by Friends University on February 24. Nick judged the paper's section and Lorraine judged the exhibits section.

Lorraine Madway gave a Kansas sesquicentennial presentation on "Struggle and Resilience: Kansas in the Great Depression" in Gridley (Coffey County) on March 8 with more than 50 people in attendance. During the question and answer time, one of the women in the audience mentioned that a relative of hers was shown in a Farm Security Administration photo which Madway included on a DVD she created. This made a great impression on everyone since it made history come alive. Janet Birk, the librarian who organized the program, made a poster for the program which she graciously presented to Madway.

Struggle and Resilience
Kansas During the Great Depression
By: Lorraine Madway

Lorraine Madway is the Curator of Special Collections and University Archivist at Wichita State University Libraries.

Thurs. March 8
7:00 PM
Gridley Branch Library

The Great Depression was a turning point for America. In addition to monetary misery, drought and dust storms plagued many Plains states during the 1930s. This presentation will focus on the responses of Kansans to the Great Depression. It will examine the WPA Writers' Project in Kansas and other cultural projects and their efforts to capture the day-to-day lives of ordinary people, intent on renewing the land and reclaiming their lives.

Door Prizes provided by the R.E. French Family Educational Foundation.
Refreshments will be provided by the Gridley Friends of the Library.

KANSAS HUMANITIES COUNCIL

News from Access Services

New Equipment in Reserve!

Systems and Access Services have been working together to increase the number of scanners available for our Ablah Library patrons. There are now 5 flatbed scanners available for students, faculty, staff, and community users in the Course Reserve area. “[The scanners] have just been busy all the time, nonstop. The patrons have been very pleased about the availability. I’d like to thank Systems for making it possible,” says Kathi Adams, Reserve Department.



Kathi Adams

The Reserve Department is also where patrons can check out headphones, and starting March 2012 a new style of headset is available. This new style can be used with iPods, smart phones, PCs, and laptops includes a collapsible microphone, which

patrons can use for hands-free phone calls, online communications like Skype or gaming, and even producing audio files such as Podcasts. Headsets are intended for library-use only and must be returned by closing time.



Doug Weber

Also new to University Libraries is an Aquafina vending machine in the 24-Hour Study Room! The machine arrived on Wednesday, March 14 and



will soon be stocked juices, energy drinks, lattes, and more. Construction began before the holiday shutdown to prepare for the larger equipment, and the new space also includes a campus phone and open storage area. Between the limited hours of the Book and Bean and later library hours during finals, students have been asking for an increase in beverage choices while they are here studying, particularly caffeinated options such as coffee or energy drinks. Many thanks to Brian Fee from the Physical Plant and Rich Renollet, director of Smith Bowling Center in the RSC for their efforts to make this happen.

Jack Stewart participates in State Bowling Competition

Congratulations to Jack Stewart, son of Stacks Manager John Stewart, who represented Collegiate High School at the 5A-1A State Bowling Championship on March 2.

Jack had the 4th highest score out of 72 competitors from all over Kansas. “His three game series was 742,” said John, who attended the event at Northrock Lanes in Wichita. Jack is currently in his junior year and has plans to try out for the WSU Bowling Team after graduation. “We are very proud of him. He did this all himself because we know nothing about bowling,” John brags.



Debbie, Jack and John Stewart.

Compact Shelving Update

Stacks Maintenance has been very busy preparing the Compact Shelving area for the addition of new compact shelving. Items in the static shelving are being relocated into temporary ranges built in Compact Shelving aisles and Reserve area and to an empty range on the second floor. The platforms and rails are scheduled to arrive in the library on April 2, so it's good that the shift ahead of schedule. The complete installation of the compact shelving is expected to take about six weeks. A map of all temporary locations and call numbers is pending; if there is a problem locating

an item please consult Circulation for the latest information.

The compact shelving weeding initiatives are also progressing. Collection Developers, Technical Services, and Stacks Maintenance, have all been working hard to select items for removal, update catalog records, and move the items to the recycle bin. So far over 2000 items have been removed.

From the Archives

According to newspaper accounts, our third president, Walter H. Rollins, arrived in Wichita on September 7, 1914, to great fanfare. When he and his family stepped off the train at Wichita's Union Station, they were greeted by Fairmount College trustees, faculty and 200 students who belted out college songs and cheers.

Like his predecessors, President Rollins was a Congregational minister. Born June 1, 1869 in Massachusetts, he was educated at Dartmouth College and Andover Theological Seminary. The first years of his career were spent leading churches in the Northeast and in Waterloo, Iowa. From Iowa he came to Wichita with his wife and four young children, aged 6 months to 12 years.

During Rollins' seven years as president, Fairmount's financial problems continued to mount, and, as early as 1917, he tried to resign. The trustees upped his salary \$500 (to \$3,500), and he decided to stay on. Spending time back East and in the local community raising funds was again the president's main task. To keep the college going, mergers with Kingfisher College of Oklahoma and hometown rival Friends University were seriously considered. Rollins' involvement in the community set the stage for the transformation of the college to a municipal university a few years later.

Despite the money crunch, several buildings were constructed during the Rollins administration. Structures still in use today include a long sidewalk, completed in 1915, connecting Hillside Avenue to the west-facing front entrance of Fairmount Hall. Now the sidewalk leads to Wilner Auditorium. A home for the president on the campus, located just inside the 17th and Fairmount entrance, was completed in early 1916. Delta Upsilon fraternity later acquired the home and moved it to 1720 N. Vassar. As a memorial to Fairmount College students who died in World War I, a gymnasium was constructed in 1920 and formally opened in early 1921. We know this building as Henrion Hall.



Walter H. Rollins

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Explore...Enlighten...Empower

InfoShock

A newsletter for the WSU
Libraries Employees by the
Employees
This edition: Stephanie Sauls,
Kathy Downes, Mary Nelson,
Robyn Tiemeyer

Special articles: Lorraine
Madway, Melissa Mallon, Angie
Paul, Nick Wyant

WALA

The Wichita Area Library Association is helping to staff the registration/information booth at the Kansas Library Association Conference this year. The conference will be held on April 11, 12, and 13. Please let Angela Paul, WALA President 2011-2012, know if you would like to volunteer. You do not need to be a WALA member.

New WALA memberships may be purchased at the conference for the next school year, which will allow you to purchase tickets for the annual meeting and luncheon at membership prices. Jeff Davidson will perform "Kansas History in Songs" as a speaker and with music on Thursday, May 17, 2012, 11:30-1:30 p.m. at Eberle Farms. In addition to the entertainment, WALA holds elections. Several board positions will be available for the next school year, so please consider working on the board or as an officer.