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2018 was a busy and exciting year at Texas Tech University Libraries, from launching our Costa Rica library to support the new Texas Tech campus there, to celebrating the inauguration of the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library’s Monte Monroe as Texas State Historian.

And we expect even more excitement in 2019. We are thrilled that the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, the accrediting body of degree-granting higher education institutions in the southern states, has approved the Library’s new Master of Science in Library and Information Science (MSLIS) program which will launch in the fall of 2019. This interdisciplinary program will train archivists and librarians of the future in their areas of interest such as health sciences, law, academic librarianship, technology and more.

And as always, we continue to provide our students with the latest tools and technology to meet their academic needs. The new Safari Books online database allows students, faculty and staff to explore more than 40,000 interactive tutorials, videos and books from more than 200 of the world’s best publishers. Users can build proficiencies and develop new skills in areas such as web development, design, business and more – all at their own pace.

And we’re excited to soon launch a virtual reality lab, thanks to generous support from The CH Foundation. This interactive lab will be located on the Library’s second floor.

It is indeed an exciting time to be part of Texas Tech University Libraries, and we’d love for you to join us. The Texas Tech Friends of the Libraries work tirelessly to help our students achieve their full potential, whether the Friends are handing out snacks, pizza or coffee during finals, or bringing in engaging speakers for the campus as well as the Lubbock community to enjoy. If you’d like to join this dynamic, passionate group, contact membership chair Karen Savage at glodio@suddenlink.net for membership levels.

And if you just want to share ideas or simply chat, you can always contact me at bella.k.gerlich@ttu.edu or at 806.834.8190.

#GoLibrary #Wreckem

Bella Karr Gerlich, Ph.D. Professor and Dean of Libraries
TTU-Costa Rica campus, Library going strong
By Guest Editor Cynthia Henry

On July 17, Dean Bella Gerlich asked if I would be willing to go to Costa Rica. What an amazing opportunity to open a new library on a new campus for Texas Tech! By Aug. 16 I was in Costa Rica assisting with Red Raider Orientation covering the three library rotations and on Aug. 27, 2018, the campus and the library opened to welcome the first 38 students onto the new TTU Costa Rica campus.

Since then, TTU-CR has gone through SACSCOC accreditation, completed our first semester and has started the second. At present the campus has seven faculty teaching face to face classes, ranging from RHIM to Computer Science. We have students from Costa Rica and Latin America, but also from around the world including Mexico and Venezuela. In the spring of 2019, we added 26 students with a total of 64 attending currently.

The building is eight levels, but presently TTU-CR only occupies three. The sublevel is where the library is mostly housed, the street level is the lobby, and the third level houses most of the faculty and staff offices and is where the library lab classroom with 24 seats is located. It is a bit interesting working here, as parts of the building are still under construction, so you hear the odd hammering or drilling. This new modern building has ecofriendly features: all water fountains have a bottle fill and most rooms have motion-censored lighting so when you are not in the room, the lights automatically turn off.

The reference desk in the library is staffed when TTU-CR library covers online chat, a service that is split with the TTU University Libraries. The library has several individual study rooms for student use, as well as spaces for group study. The quiet space in the library has sound proofing and is big enough to hold several tables and chairs, ready for mid-terms and finals for this spring. The library also has eight computers in the open lab area on the sublevel that are available for any student to use. This spring semester, the library has hosted workshops for faculty and students covering such topics as “Getting to Know Your Library” and “Endnote.” While there is a small collection of books, TTU-CR library has access to all the online materials available to any student attending at TTU!
Curtis Peoples (right) leads a panel discussion on “Women and West Texas Music” with (from left) Tamara Saviano, Diana Finlay Hendricks, Kimmie Rhodes, Amy Maner and Kathleen Hudson, Ph.D. The event took place March 23, 2018 at the Texas Tech International Cultural Center.

Jasmine Parker, Ph.D., of the Texas Tech College of Education presents “Do Black Lives Really Matter? Championing Social Activism and Litigation for Civil Rights” Feb. 20 in the Library’s Croslin Room.
Members of the Texas Tech Friends of Libraries pass out pizza to students for a late-night study break during finals. Funds were raised via a Giving Tuesday crowdfunding campaign.


The Humanities Center of Texas Tech and the University Library once again teamed up for a book discussion series over Julie Child’s “My Life in France.”
The Hispanic Student Society and Unidos Pos Un Mismo Idioma hosted a Dia de Los Muertos event where students created an altar and enjoyed food and dancing from Ballet Folklorico. The Library also hosted Lightning Talks as part of the month-long celebration in October.

Students lined up for food, swag and music during the Library’s annual Tailgate. Friends of the Libraries members joined the festivities by helping pass out T-shirts and hot dogs.
Friends of the Libraries members day-tripped to Caprock Canyons and enjoyed lunch at the Bison Café in Quitaque before driving through the canyon and spotting the Texas State Bison Herd.
The Texas Tech University Office of the President, Office of the Provost and University Libraries announced the acquisition of the Allen Collection on Feb. 15. Attendees enjoyed a panel discussion and were presented with excerpts of “Hold It on the Road,” a documentary film on the lives and works of Terry and Jo Harvey Allen, by Paul Hunton, associate managing director of Texas Tech Public Media.
The Texas Tech University Archives has served as the institutional repository for one of the largest academic institutions in the State of Texas for more than 60 years. It is the second largest archival unit in the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library in terms of physical holdings, today encompassing over 5,200 linear feet of manuscript material and related ephemera. Much of this donated material was produced by and/or collected by the university, its staff and alumni.

Physical materials include campus blueprints, departmental and administrative records, master copies of the Graduate School’s theses and dissertations, alumni scrapbooks and other TTU memorabilia, and more than 6,500 sound and video recordings. An estimated holding of 1 million photographic images provide a vast pictorial documentation of the growth and continuing expansion of the university. Examples of artifacts include a rare Texas Tech Dairy Manufacturing glass milk bottle, numerous Goin’ Band uniforms dating back as far as the 1920s, examples of different styles of “Slime Caps” (freshman beanies) worn by Tech students from the 1940s-1960s, vintage Red Raider football uniforms, and a miniature leather saddle made in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Masked Rider.

An ongoing supporter of the University Archives, KTTZ-TV (PBS, Channel 5) has produced several new episodes of Inside Texas Tech each year. The latest episode, on the history and repurposing of the Dairy Barn, should come out early this spring. Past episodes continue to air on Channel 5 monthly and a few can be viewed online at https://tv.kttz.org/local-productions/inside-texas-tech/

Additionally, as Texas Tech approaches its charter centennial in 2023 and its opening centennial in 2025, the University Archives seeks records, papers and related materials which fill in underdeveloped areas of the university’s history and/or complement existing holdings.
Texas Tech student Sivateja Pati created a prosthetic hand in the Library’s Makerspace for 10-year-old Malakai Johnson who was born without his right hand. Malakai and his mother Audrey Dominguez visited the Makerspace Feb. 1 to be presented with the finished product, which took about four months to create via 3D printing.
Monroe Sworn in as Texas State Historian

Monte Monroe, Ph.D., archivist at the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library, was sworn in by Gov. Gregg Abbott as the Texas State Historian Sept. 26 in the State Capitol. His one-year term will conclude on Sept. 26, 2020.

As State Historian, Monroe is responsible for increasing public knowledge about the rich and diverse history of the state, encouraging the teaching of Texas history in public schools, consulting with state leaders to promote Texas history and making presentations on Texas history topics.

Biography

Dr. Monte L. Monroe was born in Houston, raised in Orange, and received his B.A. from Stephen F. Austin. Monte received his M.A. and Ph.D. from Texas Tech University, where he taught Texas and U.S. history for 19 years. He is a tenured full-archivist at the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library. He is a founding board member of the Humanities Center at Texas Tech and has served in the Faculty Senate, among other appointments. He is a two-term member of the Texas Historic Records Advisory Board. Monroe is editor emeritus (15 years) of the West Texas Historical Review, has written widely on Texas history, and served on the boards of the West and East Texas Historical Associations. He is chair of the Texas State Historical Association Archives Committee. He is president of the Meriwether Society, Inc., a large national family history organization.

Monroe is past president of the Rotary Club of Lubbock (the largest west of I-35) and is currently president of the Rotary Club of Lubbock Foundation. He was the outstanding officer in Rotary District 5730. Previously Monroe was active in the martial art/sport of Taekwondo. He became an International Master Instructor (6th Degree Black Belt), an International Referee, and Secretary General of the Pan American Taekwondo Union (32 member nations). He was selected as one of a few people in the world to officiate the first Taekwondo event at the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul, Korea and at the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona, Spain. He remains the only American to officiate at two Olympic competitions. Monroe and his wife Laura, an attorney, have two adult children.

Monroe was honored with a reception Nov. 29, 2018, at the SWC/SCL co-hosted by the Office of the Provost and the University Libraries. Special guest Michael Martin Murphey attended and sang a few songs in honor of Monroe.
New Master’s Program to Launch Soon
By Ryan Burns

The Texas Tech University Libraries and Graduate School are pleased to announce the creation of Texas Tech University’s Master of Science in Library and Information Science degree (MSLIS).

The MSLIS is a 36-hour non-thesis online and/or face-to-face program including a three-hour practicum consisting of 120 field hours. The program consists of 21 core courses and 15 electives to meet students’ professional goals. The program centers on the following skill areas: (1) public services; (2) technical services; (3) information technology; and (4) success in the workplace.

“We are excited to be able to offer this graduate program in West Texas,” said Bella Karr Gerlich, Ph.D., professor and dean of Texas Tech University Libraries. “This convenient, online program will ensure the next generation of librarians, archivists and digital curators are ready to contribute to the profession upon graduation.”

The MSLIS is focused on equipping graduates of the program with the skills they need to work with diverse populations in an ever-evolving global information society. Each course will incorporate a project incorporating the skills and knowledge from readings, discussions and other coursework to provide a practical experience rather than one that is theory driven.

After completing core requirements, students will be able to study knowledge fields including archives, law librarianship, digital services, medical librarianship, academic librarianship and other special topics.

The University Libraries will soon begin hiring faculty for the MSLIS program, as well as raising funds for scholarships and internships. The program has been approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). Additional accreditation will be pursued with the American Library Association (ALA), which typically takes two to three years.

The program is set to be implemented in August of 2019.

For more information on the MSLIS program, contact Laura Heinz, laura.heinz@ttu.edu or Carrye Syma, carrye.syma@ttu.edu.

Achievements

Grants

Jennifer Spurrier, Ed.D., associate dean of the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library, received a $225,000 grant from the Helen Jones Foundation for a fire suppression system for the new offsite storage facility of SWC.

Curtis Peoples, Ph.D., archivist, received a $49,116 grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) Recording at Risk program to support the Mold Abatement, Restoration and Digitization of Americana Music Heritage Master Tape Collections at the Crossroads of Music Archive.

Dean of Libraries Bella Gerlich, Ph.D., received a $20,000 grant from the Helen Jones Foundation to purchase new Digital Media Equipment for the Digital Media Studio (DMS) located on the second floor of the University Library.

Donell Callender, Librarian, received $14,000 grant from the Helen Jones Foundation for a Children’s Reading Readiness program.
Publications

Librarian Jack Becker became the editor of a weekly Avalanche-Journal column on local history. “Caprock Chronicles” comes out every Sunday and in the past has covered such topics as Buffalo on the South Plains, Texas Tech’s first mascot, football hero Bobby Lane and Slaton newspaper man, W.P. Florence.


Librarian Brian Quinn published “Sources to Ponder: Developing a Meditation Collection” in Reference and User Services Quarterly.


Presentations

Dean of Libraries Bella Gerlich, Ph.D., was invited to speak on “Measuring Up: eMetrics & Libraries: Academic and Practical Applications” at the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) World Library and Information Congress Aug. 24-30, 2018, in Malaysia. She gave a panel presentation on “Effort, Education, Knowledge, Skill and Teaching Recognized: The READ (Reference Effort Assessment Data) Scale at work in Academic, Public & Special Libraries” with G. Lynn Berard, Jaqueline Cantwell, Morgan Miller and Lynne Rudasill June 21-26, 2018, at the American Library Association Conference. She presented the workshop “Implementing the READ Scale (Reference Effort Assessment Data) Tool At Your Institution: Introduction, Implementation and Outcomes” with G. Lynn Berard and Grant Gerlich at the Qualitative and Quantitative Methods in Libraries International Conference May 22-25, 2018 in Chania, Crete.

Librarian Brian Quinn presented the poster “Can Mindfulness Help Midlife People deal with Racial Discrimination? Evidence from a National Study” at the American Psychological Association annual conference; “Standing Room Only: Creating a Graduate Workshop Certificate Program to Increase Graduate Student Workshop Attendance” at the ACRL Academic Library Services for Graduate Students Interest Group Meeting at the American Library Association Annual Conference; and gave interview on the workshop “Fake News, Misinformation and Pseudoscience” with Betsy Blaney of KTTZ-FM.

Research Assistant Librarian Parviz Safadel along with David White and Ehsan Ghasemi presented “Examination of the Psychometric Properties of the Spatial Ability Self Efficacy Scale (SASES)” at the Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education (AACE) Conference; Ehsan Ghasemi, Hansel Burley, Ph.D., and Parviz Safadel presented “A Meta-Analysis of Gender Differences in Variance Ratio, Number of High-Achieving Students, and General Achievements in Mathematics” at the Southwest Educational Research Association (SERA) Conference. Authors Ghasemi, Burley and Safadel were awarded the 2019 SERA Bruce Thompson Paper Award that will be presented in 2020 at AERA.

Librarian Jayne A. Sappington, along with Denise Bedford and Alexeis Garcia-Perez, presented a workshop titled “How Does Your Knowledge Flow? Exercises in Spatial Syntax” at the 14th International Conference on Knowledge Management.

Librarian Rob Weiner gave the keynote address on “We Are Going to Eat You: The Zombie in Popular Culture” for a Halloween special conference at the University of Texas Permian Basin. He also was inducted into the Texas Tech Teaching Academy, the Matador Society and was a given a Mortar Board Apple Polishing Award.
You asked. We delivered.

Here are some of the ways we improved the Libraries in 2018!

- DESIGN NEW RESEARCH GUIDES WITH A SIMPLIFIED LAYOUT BASED ON STUDENT AND FACULTY FEEDBACK
- POST SMARTKAPP WHITEBOARD INSTRUCTIONS IN GROUP STUDY ROOMS
- IMPROVE NAVIGATION AND SEARCH FEATURES FOR DATABASES AND E-JOURNALS

What we’re doing well:

- Assistance from Library employees. "I needed help at the main library a few weeks ago and the staff was outstanding."
- Interlibrary loan. "Document Delivery is the most magical, wonderful thing. I use them all the time to get books for classes I plan to teach or just when a new book comes out that sounds cool."
- Study spaces. "I love the University Library, especially during midterm and finals, because I’m able to reserve a private study room on a quiet floor to study in."

What was a concern:

- Excessive noise levels. "Library staff do not enforce the ‘quiet’ rules in quiet areas of the library, and they allow people to get overly loud in the non-quiet areas."
- Library spaces needing improvement. "I’ve felt very uncomfortable looking for books before because of poor lighting—either there were no lights or the bulbs were out—and I did my best to grab my book and hurry off the floor."
- Not knowing about all the resources offered by the Library. "It seems there are a lot of things I was unaware of. I wish it was publicized better!"
- Food and coffee options. We submitted a report of all student comments about the library’s food and drink amenities to TTU Hospitality Services.

The Libraries are dedicated to your success by providing you with assistance and access to necessary services, spaces and resources.

Please send your comments and suggestions to libraries.ux@ttu.edu

Participate! Your opinion matters. Here’s how you can get involved.

Look for the UX Café. We introduced the café in Fall 2018 for you to tell us about your User experiences in the Library. We provide coffee and snacks in exchange for about 10 minutes of your time.
What we’re doing well: What was a thing. And finals, because I’m able to reserve a private study room on a quiet floor. I love the University Library, especially during midterm study spaces. When a new book comes out that sounds cool. Document Delivery is the most magical, wonderful. Interlibrary loan. A few weeks ago and the staff was outstanding. I needed help at the main library. Assistance from Library employees.

More improvements planned: improved the Libraries in 2018! You asked. We delivered. We provide coffee and snacks in exchange for about 10 minutes of your time. Look for the UX Café. We introduced the café in Fall 2018 for you to tell us about your experience in the Library.

Opinion matters. Here’s how you can get involved. Please send your comments and suggestions to email. We attached email. We wallet-size subscription alerts about workshops & events. Improve navigation and search features for databases and e-journals. Maps. Food and coffee options. We submitted a report of all student comments. Are a lot of things I was unaware of. I wish it was publicized better!

“It seems there. Not knowing about all the resources offered by the Library out—and I did my best to grab my book and hurry off the floor. Books before because of poor lighting—either there were no lights or the bulbs were. Excessive noise levels. Experiences in the Library.

The Libraries are dedicated to your success. You asked. We delivered. Here are some of the ways we improved the Libraries in 2018!

• Design new research guides with a simplified layout based on student and faculty feedback
• Introduce new research guides with a simplified layout
• Testing new study spaces
• Improved the Libraries in 2018!

For membership levels and more information, please email Vice President for Membership Sharon Prather at syprather@suddenlink.net. For membership levels and more information, please email Vice President for Membership Sharon Prather at syprather@suddenlink.net.

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NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS:
Krystal Baker, Julie Barnett, Ryan Burns, Bella Gerlich, Cynthia Henry, Monte Monroe and Lynn Whitfield

Designers: Cecil Carden and Nora Hyman
Editor: Julie Barnett
Photography: Ryan Burns