



National Book Festival Brings Readers from Near and Far

By Shannon Maughan

On Saturday, September 24, 90,000 people found their way to the National Mall in Washington, D.C., for what might be called a booklover's nirvana: the fifth annual National Book Festival hosted by the Library of Congress and First Lady Laura Bush.

An impressive roster of 75 authors including David McCullough, Neil Gaiman, Diana Gabaldon, John Irving and E.L. Doctorow spoke to fans about their work. Authors had the opportunity to get up-close-and-personal with readers at book signings scheduled throughout the day.

The Library of Congress got to strut its stuff for the day, too, showing off an interactive exhibit called "Creativity across America", which featured the "cultural treasures in the Library's vast online collections."

In the "Pavilion of the States," state libraries and reading and literacy initiatives for each of the 50 states were in the spotlight. Young readers could visit each state display and receive a passport-like sticker or stamp on a map of the U.S.

But the tragedy that recently befell

several states on the Gulf Coast was never far from attendees' thoughts. In her opening remarks, Mrs. Bush reminded attendees that "books have always helped many people through difficult times," and encouraged Festival attendees to contribute to the non-profit literacy group First Book, which in conjunction with the Library of Congress and members of the publishing industry, has launched the Book Relief initiative to deliver millions of books to victims of Hurricane Katrina.

First Book, located at a booth situated near the state library booths of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, collected monetary donations throughout the day and raised several thousand dollars during that time. First Book is very close to reaching its initial goal of five million books, but won't stop there.

The organization's president and co-founder Kyle Zimmer commented on what many people have come to realize: there was a desperate need for books in the region long before Katrina hit these towns.

"We can get resources down there that should have been there all along," Zimmer said.

In the "Let's Read America" pavilion, corporate sponsors of the Festival provided demonstrations, activities, and giveaways (as well as cool costumed characters like Arthur and Mr. McFeely the Speedy Delivery Man from *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*) to entertain kids and promote family literacy.

The Festival succeeded in providing a grand celebration of books and reading. Peg Miller, a librarian and first-time attendee, remarked, "This has been such a good time for us. I got to see Diana Gabaldon, one of my all time favorites."

Authors had kind things to say about the event, too. Mary Pope Osborne praised the Festival, saying, "I have undying admiration for the Library of Congress and the opportunity to be in their presence is very special. I have great admiration for Mrs. Bush's support and development of this festival and it should continue on, no matter who is in the White House. There is such a warm and friendly feeling here."

A Message From the Editors

Undaunted by the Steelers' recent loss, we bring you *Bibliofile* for the first time this semester. For many of you, this is your inaugural experience with *Bibliofile* – and how lucky you are. You're just in time for the social graces and wisdom of Ask Gertie, *The Dangerous Lives of Librarians*, and a whole bunch of articles about Pittsburgh and the library world. For our returning readers, get ready, because we're back and we're better than before.

Our concept for *Bibliofile* is pretty simple – a student newsletter should be a forum for the students. And that means we want to hear your voice. Whether you're from just a little north or south of Pittsburgh (like we are), a little further north or south like Toronto, Georgia, or the Virgin Islands, we want to hear about your interests, your likes and dislikes, and your take on things at the school and in the world at large (of course, the only football commentary fit to print is pro-Steelers).

If you've got a gripe, go ahead – tAlKInG pLEaSE! is just the place for you. If you've thought up a great idea for a story, we're always looking for writers. And if you just want to read something good about what's going on in the library world around here – hey, that's what we're here for.

We hope that you enjoy this and all forthcoming issues of *Bibliofile*. You'll hear from all of us again in a month, and we hope to hear from you, too.

BiblioFILE Editors
Brittany Elser & Ashley Kunsu

Spotlight On:



Dr. Sherry Koshman

By Brittany Elser

The School of Information Sciences builds its reputation on the excellence of its faculty, and Dr. Sherry Koshman's presence as a new assistant professor in the Department of Library and Information Science ensures the students in this program that they are learning from distinguished scholars.



Dr. Koshman

Dr. Koshman acquired a B.A. from the University of Saskatchewan and a MLIS from McGill University. Her Ph.D. (University of Pittsburgh) focused on usability testing of a prototype visualization-based information retrieval system, called VIBE (Visual Information Browsing Environment).

Dr. Koshman's research interests include information visualization systems usability testing, web retrieval and search analysis, visualization interface development, and human-computer interaction.

Dr. Koshman is currently concentrating her research on examining user interaction with a tool developed by InfoSpace, Inc. to visualize overlap data among Google, Yahoo, Ask Jeeves, and the metasearch engine, Dogpile. In addition, she is also involved in the Vivisimo Web Project, a Carnegie Mellon University spin-off company that developed a cluster-based search engine that organizes web search results into a cluster tree.

As an experienced instructor, Dr. Koshman is able to clarify particularly technical information in terms even a beginner can grasp. Dr. Koshman is currently teaching Information Architecture and Introduction to Information Technologies. As one of her students, I urge everyone who wants to gain knowledge that is essential in our profession from an expert to take a class from Dr. Koshman!

Dr. Judith Jablonski

By Ashley Kunsa

Dr. Judith Jablonski, a new assistant professor in the Department of Library and Information Science, comes to the University of Pittsburgh with educational and teaching backgrounds as diverse and impressive as the collections at Hillman Library.

A September 2005 Ph.D. candidate, Dr. Jablonski conducted her doctoral studies at the University of Wisconsin – Madison, and served as an instructor in the School of Information Studies at the university's Milwaukee campus in 2004.

But this was hardly the start of her teaching career. In the late nineties, Dr. Jablonski served as a lecturer at the University of Wisconsin – Madison for a course in Indexing in their School of Library and Information Studies. She was also an Indexer Trainer for PsycINFO from 1991 to 1993.

Prior to her career at the University of Wisconsin, Dr. Jablonski conducted bibliographic instruction sessions when she worked as Reference Librarian at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., where she received her M.S.L.S. in 1991.

As a graduate student in English at the University of Illinois at Urbana (where she received her M.A. in 1984), Dr. Jablonski taught courses in science fiction and fantasy literature, as well as in freshman composition.



Dr. Jablonski

Dr. Jablonski is currently teaching a section of LIS 2600, Organizing Information. In the summer term she will teach Abstracting and Indexing. Keep your eye on this new professor, and on the schedule of courses offered – she hopes to develop classes in Genre Fiction and Technologies and Culture of Writing, which promise to be interesting and exciting opportunities.

The Dangerous Lives of Librarians

By Matt Seibert

You may be interested in hearing some examples of the wild or interesting events that have occurred in the local libraries, proof that the job

of the librarian can be adventurous or even a little dangerous.

Our first incident occurred at the Carnegie Library. A patron who desired privacy in the library would

barricade himself in a corner using a chair and a table. He did this frequently, so much so that it caught the attention of the

Dangerous Con't on Pg. 4

Delivery available!

Oakland & Surrounding Area—CMU—Pitt—Carlow



5-11 p.m.

412.621.1773

415 S. Craig St.

*Neapolitan, Sicilian, and Stuffed Pizza
Pasta, sandwiches, salads, wings, and stromboli*

www.villapizza.com

We gladly accept credit cards!

Pittsburgh Arts & Lectures Series

By Liz Koch

This season, Pittsburgh Arts & Lectures presents three great series highlighting various contemporary authors, journalists, and filmmakers. Whatever your interests, these series will have something for you.

The **Drue Heinz Lectures**, which are held at the Carnegie Music Hall once a month on Monday nights, feature twelve acclaimed authors and journalists. Upcoming events include sessions with Jonathan Safran Foer (author of *Everything is Illuminated* and *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*), Nina Totenberg of NPR, and Alexander McCall Smith (*No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency*). Later in the season, look for Arthur Golden (*Memoirs of a Geisha*), Suzan-Lori Parks (*Topdog/Underdog*), Frank McCourt (*Angela's Ashes*), and Sue Monk Kidd (*The Secret Life of Bees*). Single session tickets are \$18 per per-

son or \$8 for full-time students under age 25 with a valid student ID. Series subscriptions are also available.

The **American Shorts Reading Series** features authors of short fiction and films, with each session emphasizing a distinct theme. Last season's themes included Sin, Compulsion, Sex, and Hazards. The series runs from March to August and tickets are \$4 at the door. Events are held in various locations throughout Pittsburgh once a month on Thursday evenings. Last year's venues included the historic DeSantis Mansion on the Northside, the Brew House on the Southside, and the Gateway Clipper Fleet. Put this one on your calendar for March 2006!

Black, White & Read All Over is a family series showcasing various award-winning authors and illustrators of children's books. Events are held in the Carnegie Li-

brary Lecture Hall on Saturday mornings. Children can participate in a Q&A and even meet the authors after the program for book signings. The first to take the stage this season (October 8) is Avi, who received the Newbery Medal for *Crispin*. Other speakers include Peter Sis (Caldecott Honor winner for both *Starry Messenger: Galileo Galilei* and *Tibet: Through the Red Box*), Patricia Polacco (*The Keeping Quilt* and *Pink and Say*), and Megan McDonald (the *Judy Moody* books). Admission is \$7 and snacks are served!

Each of these series offers a great chance to experience a taste of Pittsburgh culture—don't miss out!

Further details can be found at: www.pittsburghlectures.com.



HEAR YE! HEAR YE!
Town Hall Meeting! Wednesday, October 26th 5-6PM Room 403

Dangerous Con't from Pg 2

librarians. Eventually they removed the table and unfortunately, this angered the patron. As a result, he confronted one of the librarians and attacked him. A local news station happened to catch the event on camera. The lesson here is clear: Do not disturb a patron's furniture fort.

Another incident which just happened to occur on the Pitt campus is what I like to call, the "Langley Book Toss." A group of students opened a window within the library, and began throwing books to their accomplices waiting outside. Campus security arrived to put an end to this

game of catch; however the students continued their book burglary. Could this have been an attempt to bypass the University Library circulation system? ...Or rather, a pure and simple book heist? Well, at least we finally have students interested in reading.

Our last incident revolves around an angered student who was fed up with incurring library fines. In an attempt to avoid yet another fine, the student escaped from the SIS Library with book in hand and immediately headed for the stairs. He was tailed by an irate librarian, who chased and then caught him. The student

yelled at the librarian proudly stating, "I refuse to subjugate myself to your authority!"

The librarian informed the student that he would be required to pay for the book, if it was not returned. The enraged student shrieked, "I will bring it back on my own terms!" He continued to say that the librarian did not even know who he was. The librarian enlightened the student to the fact that his library card also contained his personal information. The book was subsequently returned.



tAlkInG plEaSe!

Questions? Comments? Complaints? Let us know what you're talking about! Submit letters to the editors to bibliofile.pitt@gmail.com. All letters that we publish will include author's initials only, so let us know what you have to say.

Monthly Specials!
30% off orange and black bead strands in October!



406 South Craig Street

412.681.2090

design & create your own jewelry

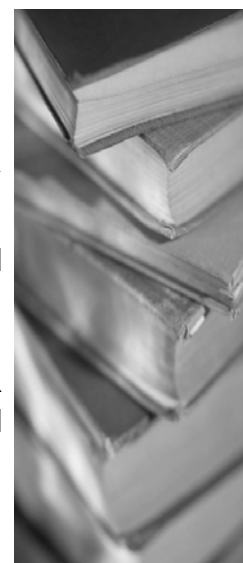
11 am-6 pm

Monday through Saturday

Wonderful Library Word Search

By Lori B. Stein

RFID	LISA	T D R E N S P A H M C L C V Y
CIPA	TEOMA	E B I K V R U S A Z J L B E I
YAHOO	OCLC	O P A F F G M I Z O C K W N N
MARC	CUTTER	M A R C R A C L C O P E T E T
DEWEY	LCSH	A L P Q R D T P I A D R U S E
ACRL	RUSA	H N P R X L D E W B K O O B R
LIBRARY	INTERNET	S M L H C U T T E R R O C L N
BOOK	OPAC	C K A J I B Z C A P O A N M E
PLA		L G N I P T F X C J D E R V T
		D O O H A Y N E P C F X K Y I



Ask Gertie

Dear Gertie,

How do we prevent the Romanian dance troupe from taking over the library? The whole group spontaneously breaks into dance each time a cell phone rings. Please help! The patrons are complaining.

Sincerely,
Crazy at the Circulation Desk

Dear Crazy,

It does seem that you have a serious problem. The most effective correction is to post signs alerting your chatty patrons to the no-talking-on-your-cell-phone-in-the-library policy which I am assured your library has in place and seriously enforces. I have full confidence that this will amend the situation in no time at all. Good luck!

Sincerely,
Gertie

Get serious answers to your questions of library etiquette—Ask Gertie.

The best in OAKLAND for

- Chinese food:**
Lu Lu's Noodles (400 South Craig St.)
- Italian food:**
Joe Mama's (3716 Forbes Ave.)
- Indian food:**
India Garden (328 Atwood St.)
- Mexican food:**
Mad Mex (370 Atwood St.)
- American food:**
Fuel and Fuddle (212 Oakland Ave.)
- Pizza:**
Pizza Prima (190 North Craig St.)
- Breakfast:**
Pamela's (3703 Forbes Ave.)
- Quick meal:**
Qdoba (3712 Forbes Ave.)

Look for our "Best Food" series in upcoming issues.

Next issue: the best food in Squirrel Hill.

CONTRIBUTERS

Editors: Brittany Elser
Ashley Kunsu

Design Directors: Callie Curran
Emily Moellman

Ad Designer: Tessa Barber

Marketing Director: Danya Leebaw

Staff Writers: Liz Koch
Shannon Maughan
Matt Seibert
Lori B. Stein