HCL will be holding its second annual Library Tailgate on October 26, 2017, on the Library Veranda. The event will include activities to highlight information access points in a relaxed atmosphere. Games and snacks will be freely available for students, faculty, and community members with the intent of generating library interest and decreasing library anxiety. A table for each floor will be set up around the perimeter of the building to advertise service points and to offer casual meetings with librarians – before those stressful assignments are due. The event will be part of JSU Homecoming Week activities, facilitating stronger campus connections.

The Tailgate Planning Committee is currently finalizing plans, requesting donations, and spreading awareness of the event. The Committee is comprised of thirteen members of the Houston Cole Library’s faculty and staff, from across all departments. Library Tailgate Planning Committee Members for 2017 are: Kim Westbrooks, Paula Barnett-Ellis, Charlcie Pettway Vann, Alisha Henson, Debra Deering-Barrett, Delores Collier, Jan McCormick, Jodi Poe, John Upchurch, Karlie Johnson, Linda Reeves, Tiffany Onkst, and Yolanda Cox.

Considering all of the positive exposure and increased attendance connected to 2016’s Library Tailgate Event’s success, the Library hopes to draw even more attendance and participate in 2017.

Tailgate 2016 Participation:
- 110 students completed a Library Tailgate Ticket Tour
- 88 students completed a survey
- 200 students ate a hotdog and visited the 11th floor
- Library gate traffic counts increased 1,396 over the previous Thursday

Library to build Children’s Reading Room

With assistance from students and faculty from the JSU Drama Department, design and construction will soon begin on the Houston Cole Library’s Children’s Reading Room. Planned construction will include a readers’ theater stage, as well as a colorful and imaginative space for community children. The Drama Department will also be working with University Capital Planning & Facilities to enhance the space. During the summer, the Children’s Reading Room space, located on the 5th floor, will receive new carpeting, paint, a divider wall with an arched entrance, and LED lighting.

In April, librarians Laurie Heathcock, Kimberly Westbrooks, and Karlie Johnson welcomed over 100 fifth graders from Odenville Elementary School during a field trip to JSU. Students broke in the new 5th floor space by participating in an arts and crafts exercise to design book covers for topics they would like to write about. The book covers were displayed in the room. Some of the children’s titles included: Skeletons from Heaven, The Good & The Bad Ballerina, The Fat Whale, The Ultimate Guide to Doing Nothing, and The True Tale of Two Love Rats. The students also ate their picnic lunches in the Reading Room space.

Westbrooks, Heathcock, and Public Services department head John Upchurch received a donation from The Anniston Book Club in April, and the Children’s Reading Room was also awarded a grant from the Alabama State Council for the Arts. The Reading Room will provide caregivers with a space where they will be encouraged to read aloud with their children. “Shushing” will not be allowed in this space. The room will also host weekly storytelling by volunteers from JSU’s faculty, staff, and students. Stay tuned for more updates on the construction of the Children’s Reading Room.

Tailgate program

In this issue...

- Children’s Reading Room
- Library resources
- Employee news
- Honors courses
- Alabama Library Convention
- Tailgate program

Visit http://www.jsu.edu/library/news.html to view more COLE Train issues online.
Congratulations to Lisa Gowens, Employee of the Month for September, who was also selected as Jacksonville State University’s Employee of the Year for 2016! Gowens was hired in 2004 and serves as a technical services assistant. Her duties include cataloging and processing materials. Prior to joining JSU, she worked at Allstate Insurance in Anniston, Alabama.

Those who nominated Gowens for the award said she is a “dependable and trustworthy” colleague who “comes to work each day with a great work ethic and attitude that is contagious to those around her.”

Library faculty Paula Barnett-Ellis and Harry Nuttall applied for promotion in Fall 2016. Preparing portfolios and cataloging career achievements was followed by waiting for the application and portfolio review and decision process, which takes several months, to be completed. The Library is pleased to announce that both Barnett-Ellis and Nuttall were awarded promotion: Barnett-Ellis to the rank of Professor and Nuttall to the rank of Associate Professor.

Health and Sciences Librarian Barnett-Ellis, a Georgia native, holds B.S. degrees in Home Economics and Journalism, a Master of Mass Communications, and Master of Library and Information Studies. Her research and publication record reflects work individually and with colleagues to turn out multiple presentations, book chapters, and peer-reviewed articles. Barnett-Ellis is also an advocate for her subjects (which span Health, Physical, and Life Sciences), working diligently to improve services and resources. Barnett-Ellis is also engaged with the community through her activities in both the Alabama and the Calhoun County Master Gardener Associations.

Nuttall, long-time Literature Librarian, holds both a Bachelor and a Master of Arts in English, as well as a Master of Library and Information Science. He is an active library instructor who works closely with faculty in Drama and English. Nuttall is an advocate for improvements in service, and he goes above and beyond on a regular basis. Quick with a pun, Nuttall is also a bass aficionado and periodically performs with the Calhoun County Community Band.

Congratulations to both Barnett-Ellis and Nuttall on reaching these milestones and the successful culmination of years of work. Karlie Johnson, new History, Anthropology, and Geography Librarian, joined the Library faculty on January 26, 2017. She hails from Hokes Bluff, Alabama, and was a student at JSU from 2004 to 2011, receiving her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in History. After graduating from JSU, she attended the University of Alabama’s School of Library and Information Studies, obtaining her MLIS in December of 2012. She stayed on at the University of Alabama, working first in the Gorgas Library Circulation Department before transferring to Gorgas Information Services, where she was employed as a Research and Instruction Librarian in the areas of History, American Studies, and UA’s Honors College. Johnson credits her interest in librarianship directly to JSU and the Houston Cole Library. It was Dr. Phillip Koerper, a faculty member with JSU’s History & Foreign Languages Department, who suggested librarianship to Johnson as a possible career for a history major, and it was Linda Cain, former History, Anthropology, and Geography Librarian, who encouraged and inspired Johnson to become an academic librarian. Johnson, who comes from a large family with whom she is extremely close, loves being a fashionista, reading romance stories, watching movies, and singing karaoke. Johnson says, “I’m thrilled to be back at HCL and JSU, and relish the fact that I get to do what many believe is impossible: go back home again. JSU gave so much to me in helping me to succeed, and I cannot wait to start giving back.”

Upchurch, Laurie Heathcock, and Kim Westbrook will be teaching a semester-long, one credit hour University Honors (UH) Course during the 2017-2018 academic year. Dr. Lori Owens, Director of the Honors Program, oversees these courses, which John-Bauer Graham, Dean of Library Services, encouraged Library faculty to pursue, given that librarians already serve as instructors for the student body, faculty, and community through instruction sessions on how to most effectively use library resources, conduct efficient searches, avoid plagiarism, evaluate the quality of information sources, and other topics.

Upchurch will teach a UH Lecture 101 course in the spring of 2018 on source evaluation and critical thinking, focused through the lens of the News Game. The course will survey fake news as an information phenomenon and also provide students with tools to help them become more savvy information consumers. Heathcock is incorporating her research on alternative presses of the 1960s counter-culture into a Book Club 202 course in the fall of 2016. The class will center around the Underground Press Syndicate (UPS) microfilm newspaper collection, available on the Library’s second floor. This microfilm collection includes more than 900 underground newspapers that are not available anywhere else. Heathcock plans to include the texts Smoking Typewriters: The Sixties Underground Press and the Rise of Alternative Media by John McMillian and The Sixties: Years of Hope, Days of Rage by Todd Gitlin as part of the curriculum.

Westbrooks is also teaching a UH Book Club 202 course in Fall 2018 on books that incorporate visual as well as textual storytelling methods and art styles. Comic books, graphic novels, and manga have enjoyed high rates of popularity in US libraries, and have expanded into academic library collections, where they are employed as instruction resources to incorporate multiple fiction and non-fiction genres. Westbrooks looks forward to bolstering attention to this part of the curriculum, teaching students critical reading skills, and showing them the literary and cultural value of comics. Carried in the collection are comic books, graphic novels, and manga are available on the 5th and 6th floors of the Houston Cole Library.

The Library was well represented at the Alabama Library Association’s Annual Convention, held April 18 – 21 in Montgomery. Library faculty Kimberly Westbrooks, Charlie Vann, and Paula Barnett-Ellis presented a poster session, “Starting from Scratch: Houston Cole Library’s Inaugural Tailgate Open House.” Vann and Barnett-Ellis also teamed up with Nancy Nee, a librarian from Auburn University, to present a group session, “Tag Team Tailgate,” where attendees could learn about academic library open houses, tailgate style. Finally, John Upchurch, Westbrooks, and Harrong Wang presented a best practices session, “A How-to on Promoting Open Educational Resources,” where they discussed the rationale for and activities surrounding the introduction of open educational resources to the JSU community.

The Library continues to offer extended hours during final exams. During the spring semester, the Library opened noon – 1:00 a.m. on Sunday, April 16 and 7:30 a.m. – 1:00 a.m. from Monday, April 17, until Thursday, April 20. Library gate counts indicate approximately 600 people took advantage of the quiet and comfortable atmosphere for studying the Library offered during this spring’s extended hours.

Over 150 were in attendance on Tuesday, April 18th from 1 p.m. – 10 p.m. for Gaming Day, held on the Library’s 11th floor. The Library, the JSU Tabletop and Collectible Card Game Club, and the Technology Support Center provided card games, board games, video games, and snacks to help students de-stress during finals. Students came and went throughout the event, completing papers, research, and exams. A huge thanks to James King, President of CCG and Tabletop Gaming Club, and Mark Camp and Glenn Davenport from Technology Support Services for their help with this event. The Library has held a successful finals gaming events for three semesters, seeing record attendance this semester. Plans are already underway for the fall 2017 finals Gaming Day.

Karlie Johnson | History, Anthropology & Geography Librarian

The Library has changed the way you access our resources from off campus. Now, access is granted through the same credentials you use for MyJSU, so when you select any of our electronic resources, databases or journals, you will be prompted to use your MyJSU account.

Please note that users will still be verified, so if there is a problem with your record in the Library’s system, you will be prompted to contact us at 256.789.5758 or 1.800.231.5291.

The Library offers a wide range of resources, including e-books, access to databases, and information services. The Library’s collections include materials on a variety of topics, such as history, literature, and popular culture. The Library also provides access to online databases and resources, including academic journals and e-books.

The Library is committed to providing excellent service and support to students, faculty, and staff. The Library’s staff is available to assist you with your research needs, and we are always happy to help. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

The Library also offers a variety of programs and events, including workshops and classes on research and information management. We also host regular events, such as book sales and author signings.

In addition to our physical facilities, the Library provides remote access to our resources, allowing you to access our collections from anywhere in the world. We are proud to serve the JSU community and look forward to helping you with your information needs.