Library faculty at home and abroad...

**JSU in China**

Tenth floor law and technology librarian Hanrong Wang visited China in May in order to promote distance education and bring students to JSU. During her 17 day trip, Ms. Wang met with thirteen different universities and institutions in Wuhan and Hangzhou. Since this was her first trip to China in almost eight years, much had changed. She was surprised at the expanding rate of economic development in comparison to that of higher education. To her, it seemed that the cities were becoming more modern, yet the universities had remained the same. Education in China is expensive. The government funds the U.S. equivalent of grades one through nine, but if students wish to attend a more prestigious school they must pay above what the government will finance. After the 9th grade, students are entirely responsible for the cost of their education. Ms. Wang hopes that students will find distance education a practical and more viable means of attaining a university degree in China.

**Mississippi Library 2.0 Summit**

Paula Barnett-Ellis and Laurie Charnigo attended the Mississippi Library 2.0 Summit at Mississippi State University on June 15. Paula and Laurie presented a poster, “Face-book Worms: The Impact of a Digital Trend on Academic Libraries”, which was based on their recently published study on the use of and perspectives of librarians towards online social networking sites, such as Facebook. The Summit was a “one-day intensive session providing practical ideas...”

Library 2.0 Summit: Continued from page 1

2007 Faculty Awards Program

Houston Cole Library was well-represented at the Annual Faculty Awards Program on May 22, 2007. Librarians receiving Faculty Research Awards included Paula Barnett-Ellis, John-Bauer Graham, Betsy Latham, Jodi Poe, Kimberly Stevens, Carley Suther, and Hanrong Wang. Mr. Graham and Ms. Poe were also recognized for being named tenure, effective fall semester 2007, and for their promotion to the rank of Associate Professor, effective October 2007. Sonja McBee, Head of Technical Services, was recognized for thirty years of service to the University, and Mr. Graham received his ten-year service pin.

Tami Humphries Receives Martha Cole Memorial Award

Houston Cole Library has awarded Tami Humphries the Martha Cole Memorial Award for the 2006-2007 academic year. This award, which is given out annually, honors the most outstanding student worker and his/her contributions to the library’s workforce.

Ms. Humphries is pursuing her degree in early childhood education. She has worked for the library for about three years, spending much of that time working in the Acquisitions Department. Ms. Humphries received numerous nominations for the award based on her maturity, enthusiasm, studiousness, and attention to detail. The honoree received a check for $100 and will have her name engraved onto the Library’s plaque, which includes the past winners of this award. Ms. Humphries’s children were at the award ceremony, smiling from ear to ear as they cheered her on, obviously very proud of her accomplishments.

What We’re Reading

The libraries have become my candy store.

What literary delights are the folks at the Houston Cole Library feasting on this season? Perhaps Debora Frasgo, Acquisitions Staff, has one of the “sweetest” jobs at the library. Opening daily shipments of books, Ms. Frasgo gets the first peek at new books. In fact, she keeps a growing list of titles she wants to read. Currently, at the top of her list is The Sister: A Novel of Emily Dickinson by Paula Kaufmann, a historical novel told from the standpoint of Dickinson’s younger sister, Lavinia, who first discovered Emily Dickinson’s letters. Linda McCrcles, Cataloging Assistant, has also been immersed in the haunting, eccentric mysteries hidden deep in the Appalachians in the novel Gap City by Rebecca Hazelton. The novel is being read by Robert Morgan.

Mr. William Hubbard, University Librarian, has been reading Out Stealing Horses, by Norwegian novelist Per Petterson, a book which recently donned the front cover of the New York Times Book Review. Lynn Vacar, Secretary to the University Librarian, is reading top New York Times fiction Best Seller, A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini, a book about a friendship between two women in war-ravaged Afghanistan.

Michael Sanders, Audio Visual Staff, is reading a book which is currently on the New York Times Best Seller list. Mr. Sanders is reading The Reagan Diaries by Ronald Reagan which he received as a Father’s Day Gift and has found to be extremely interesting, particularly Reagan’s personal reactions to major events that happened during his presidency. Mr. Sanders says the book is also fascinating, given the fact that only a few presidents, including George Washington, left diaries behind for the public to read.

Music lover Yolanda Cox, Government Documents Assistant, is getting philosophical with her favorite musician. In Bonos Bonos: Conversations with Mickha Assayas, lead singer of U2, Bonos (Paul David Hewson), talks ‘passionately’ about global issues, his relationships, and his Faith. Deborah Collier, Technical Services Assistant, is currently reading Why People Believe Weird Things: Pseudoscience, Superstitions, and Other Confusions of Our Time by Michael Stern. She claims “it makes you take a new and different look at many culturally held beliefs.”

Patrick Bolack, Public Services Assistant, is getting drunk on history. In And a Bottle of Rum: A History of the New World in Ten Cocktails, the author, Wayne Curtis, serves up fascinating tidbits of cultural history chronologically corresponding to the history of rum from seventeenth-century rum to modern brands. Yoi! Ho! Ho! . . . and speaking of a bottle of rum, Kim Stevens, Senior Catalog Librarian, is currently reading The Republic of Pirates by Colin Woodard.

Ms. Stephanie Johnson, Technical Services Assistant, is reading A Thousand Splendid Suns. Tsang, and Front-Fulff Snegging Confessions of Georgia Nicolson by British author Louise Rennison, the diary of a fourteen-year-old girl who brings a sense of British humor to every entry, no matter how mundane the topic. Ms. Charlie Pettway Vann has been reading Cinderella and Sleeping Beauty to her daughter, Trinity, who is just the right age for fairy tales. But when are we ever too old for fairy tales? And finally, Ms. Tiffany Ounot, with the arrival of International Women’s Day, has been heavily browsing Baby 411: Clear Answers and Smart Advice for your Baby’s First Year by Denise Ferber and Ari Brown. Who knew?