Good Luck to Our Graduating Student Workers!

Gloria Lee (Brentwood, TN) will receive a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and Public Relations. She has worked at The Texas Collection for one year.

Lily Espinosa (Katy, TX) will graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. She has worked with us for one year.

Thomas DeShong (Harrisonville, PA) will receive a Master of Arts in History. He has worked with us for one year.

Joanna Ayala (El Paso, TX) will receive a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies. She has been at The Texas Collection for one year.

Travis Porteous (Houston, TX) will receive a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance. Travis has been at The Texas Collection for two years.

The Pro Texana Society

Renaissance of the Guy B. Harrison, Jr. Reading Room Continues

In November, The Texas Collection received a generous grant from the Summerville Foundation. These funds, along with funds from the Pro Texana Society, enabled us to move forward with the following upgrades and improvements in the Guy B. Harrison, Jr. Reading Room.

1. New cove lighting was installed, replacing 32 fluorescent lights. In addition, 12 new globe lights were hung, and spot lights were strategically placed in the room to highlight artwork.

2. The Pro Texana Society now has the support of the Summerville Foundation and donors like you. Thank you for your support.

3. The Texas Collection is open to the public and the staff is here to help answer questions about Texas history, culture or literature. Please join the Pro Texana Society and support the important work of The Texas Collection at the beginning level of $30 or more.

Visit The Texas Collection online

http://www.baylor.edu/lib/texas/

The Pro Texana Society Welcomes Two New Archivists

For Donna Vaughan, the new Special Collections and Manuscripts Archivist at The Texas Collection, “entertainment is infectious” and nothing excites Vaughan more than historical discoveries and the mystery of archiving.

With an interest in the archives field, Vaughan first came to Baylor as an intern for the Poage Legislative Library. In 2001, she became the Bullock Archive Project Director at Poage, a position that focused on exhibitions and patron services for the Bullock Collection.

Ravenous years later, Vaughan’s voracious dedication and enthusiasm brought her to The Texas Collection, where she is the new Special Collections and Manuscripts Archivist.

Vaughan sees importance and value in the job of archiving. She loves the “mystery and discovery” of unraveling the origins of a particular item and what it says about a culture or time period. An archivist is vital to the preservation of important records and works to provide access to our heritage.

Vaughan eagerly anticipates the work that awaits her in The Texas Collection, where she hopes to honed her skills and contribute to the growth of The Texas Collection. She says, “The Texas Collection is like Christmas every day of the year… you are always coming across something new and fresh.”

Vaughan attended the University of Texas at Arlington, where she received her Bachelor of Arts in History and a Master of Arts in Public History with an archival emphasis. However, the acceptance she felt from the Baylor family solidified her commitment to the university. “Baylor is just different than other workplaces, but you don’t realize how different until you get here,” she said.

Not only does Vaughan have experience with Baylor, but also her dedication to patron services made her the perfect candidate for her new position at The Texas Collection. Vaughan believes that it is important to have “an understanding and willingness to provide patrons with good public service.”

This devotion and excitement drives Vaughan to share her work with other people. “When you are excited about what you do and you are providing for your patrons, it becomes a shared experience which is very fulfilling, so loving what you do is very important to me,” she commented.

“Being here is part of something permanent and important to the future… These discoveries intrigue me,” Vaughan said. And her excitement will provide a fresh outlook to an already thriving archival collection.

The 5th street curb is in front of the Bill Daniel Student Center. The Texas Collection Welcomes Two New Archivists

A Celebration of Texas Literature, Music & Film

February 28 - April 26, 2012

A month-long series of events and exhibits that celebrate Texas literature, music and film presented in conjunction with Humanities Texas, the Historic Waco, Texas, Foundation, the Department of English, the School of Music, the School of Education, the Film and Digital Media Division and Student Activites. Each event is free and open to the public.

A Celebration of Texas Poets: Featuring 2012 Poet Laureate Jon Estep Holye

Wednesday, March 28, 2012 1:00 p.m.

Armstrong Browning Library

A Celebration of Texas Music: Getting in the “Swing” of Things

Featuring Chad Gimble, Jon Ann Boyd & the Baylor Swing Dance Society

Thursday, March 28, 2012 7:00 p.m.

Mossy Oak Memorial Library, Allison Foyer

A Celebration of Texas Writers: Exploring Women of the American West featuring Judy Alter

Monday, April 16, 2012 4:00 p.m.

Carroll Science Building, Room 101

A Celebration of Texas Film: The Cultural Impact of Grant (1956) on the Idea of Texas

Thursday, April 19, 2012 7:00 p.m.

Bill Daniel Student Center

www.texascollection.baylor.edu

Keep up with The Texas Collection on Facebook, Twitter & Flickr

www.facebook.com/texascollection

www.twitter.com/texascollection

www.flickr.com

For Donna Vaughan, the new Special Collections and Manuscripts Archivist at The Texas Collection, “entertainment is infectious” and nothing excites Vaughan more than historical discoveries and the mystery of archiving.

With an interest in the archives field, Vaughan first came to Baylor as an intern for the Poage Legislative Library. In 2001, she became the Bullock Archive Project Director at Poage, a position that focused on exhibitions and patron services for the Bullock Collection.

Ravenous years later, Vaughan’s voracious dedication and enthusiasm brought her to The Texas Collection, where she is the new Special Collections and Manuscripts Archivist.

Vaughan sees importance and value in the job of archiving. She loves the “mystery and discovery” of unraveling the origins of a particular item and what it says about a culture or time period. An archivist is vital to the preservation of important records and works to provide access to our heritage.

Vaughan eagerly anticipates the work that awaits her in The Texas Collection, where she hopes to honed her skills and contribute to the growth of The Texas Collection. She says, “The Texas Collection is like Christmas every day of the year… you are always coming across something new and fresh.”

Vaughan attended the University of Texas at Arlington, where she received her Bachelor of Arts in History and a Master of Arts in Public History with an archival emphasis. However, the acceptance she felt from the Baylor family solidified her commitment to the university. “Baylor is just different than other workplaces, but you don’t realize how different until you get here,” she said.

Not only does Vaughan have experience with Baylor, but also her dedication to patron services made her the perfect candidate for her new position at The Texas Collection. Vaughan believes that it is important to have “an understanding and willingness to provide patrons with good public service.”

This devotion and excitement drives Vaughan to share her work with other people. “When you are excited about what you do and you are providing for your patrons, it becomes a shared experience which is very fulfilling, so loving what you do is very important to me,” she commented.

“Being here is part of something permanent and important to the future… These discoveries intrigue me,” Vaughan said. And her excitement will provide a fresh outlook to an already thriving archival collection.

The 5th street curb is in front of the Bill Daniel Student Center. The Texas Collection Welcomes Two New Archivists

A Celebration of Texas Literature, Music & Film

February 28 - April 26, 2012

A month-long series of events and exhibits that celebrate Texas literature, music and film presented in conjunction with Humanities Texas, the Historic Waco, Texas, Foundation, the Department of English, the School of Music, the School of Education, the Film and Digital Media Division and Student Activites. Each event is free and open to the public.

A Celebration of Texas Poets: Featuring 2012 Poet Laureate Jon Estep Holye

Wednesday, March 28, 2012 1:00 p.m.

Armstrong Browning Library

A Celebration of Texas Music: Getting in the “Swing” of Things

Featuring Chad Gimble, Jon Ann Boyd & the Baylor Swing Dance Society

Thursday, March 28, 2012 7:00 p.m.

Mossy Oak Memorial Library, Allison Foyer

A Celebration of Texas Writers: Exploring Women of the American West featuring Judy Alter

Monday, April 16, 2012 4:00 p.m.

Carroll Science Building, Room 101

A Celebration of Texas Film: The Cultural Impact of Grant (1956) on the Idea of Texas

Thursday, April 19, 2012 7:00 p.m.

Bill Daniel Student Center

www.texascollection.baylor.edu

Keep up with The Texas Collection on Facebook, Twitter & Flickr

www.facebook.com/texascollection

www.twitter.com/texascollection

www.flickr.com
Letters from the Battlefield to Fanny from Alex (1862-1865)

I will allow one hour in the day, my favourite hour, twilight. You, the children, my little world, are hardly ever out of my mind, but at that particular time of day I am most apt to dream of you.

--Alex Morgan, "In the Trenches near Marietta, Georgia - June 30, 1864"

A newscast. The Internet. YouTube. Even a Twitter feed. In 2012, these sources give us a sense of immediacy and connect us to the people living the stories that make up the news. But once the events become history—especially if that history is more than one hundred years in the past—then we need another way to connect. Letters, what Tennyson called "those fallen leaves that keep their green," are our link to that past.

The American Civil War yielded many such fallen leaves, carefully preserved by families through the intervening years. One striking set came from a man named Alex Morgan. In November 1861, Dr. Nathaniel Alexander "Alex" Morgan enlisted in the Confederate Army with Company F of the 19th Louisiana Infantry. He served without furlough until the war's end in April 1865, traveling from Louisiana to the Carolinas. Morgan's letters home to his beloved wife Fanny tell a story of faithful love in a time of great hardship.

Written with tender affection and thoughtful honesty, the Morgan letters reveal an educated man's meditations on the war, medicine, human nature, marriage and family. Alex writes Fanny, "not an account of the battle, that you will see in the paper, but...my own impressions of things, as they passed before me." His letters begin immediately after the Battle of Shiloh and continue through Sherman's march.

The Texas Collection is releasing Alex Morgan's letters in an online exhibition with annotations, maps, photos and music. Visit us at www.baylor.edu/believemeyourown and experience the anticipation and drama of reading news from the battlefield with "Believe me your own...Letters to Fanny from Alex."

These letters were donated in loving memory of Maggie Scott Logue, granddaughter of Dr. and Mrs. N.A. Morgan, by her children and grandchildren.

From the Collections

New Hope Baptist Church

New Hope Baptist Church, one of the oldest African-American churches in Waco, Texas, was founded in 1886. From at least 1905, and probably before that, New Hope Baptist Church was famous for its musical programs.

Notable members through the years include Jules Bledsoe, later an international African-American opera star, and Vivienne Malone-Mayes, one of the first African-Americans to receive multiple graduate degrees in mathematics and the first African-American professor at Baylor University. The Texas Collection has at least seven collections that relate to New Hope, with wonderful letters and photographs about this important church's 147-year history.

Carter-Harrison Family Collection

In 1861, a group of Texans were sent to modern-day Oklahoma to find out how the American Indian tribes would respond if there was a civil war. McLennan County resident James Harrison, a wealthy cotton planter and former frontier trader, was a member of this fact-finding mission. His report back to the governor of Texas in what is believed to be his original handwriting is in the Carter-Harrison Family Collection, held by the Texas Collection.

Many Native American tribes did side with the Confederacy and lost everything by the end of the war. James Harrison went on to become a Confederate general in the Civil War and is buried in First Street Cemetery, Waco, Texas.

History and Topography of the United States

The Texas Collection recently acquired a copy of The History and Topography of the United States. The two-volume set was compiled and edited by John Howard Hinton, an English author and Baptist minister. Samuel Walker of Boston first published the title in 1843.

Our copy is the third edition with information updated to 1842. In addition to color maps of the states and territories, there are steel engravings of many public buildings of the era.

Introducing the 2012 Wardlaw Research Fellow: Dr. Zeb Baker

Dr. Zeb Baker, instructor in the Department of History at Georgia Southern University, is the 2012 Wardlaw Fellowship recipient to conduct research focusing on desegregation in college football, specifically for the time period after World War II and into the 1970s.

At The Texas Collection, Dr. Baker researched the Baylor University presidential papers of W. R. White and Abner McCall. From his research, he hopes to publish a book tentatively titled Forward Progress: Desegregating College Football 1945-1975.

For more information, see our YouTube channel: YouTube.com/texascollection

Raising Our Banners

If you have been by the Carroll Library in the past few months, you might have noticed our new building banners. The four banners that adorn the building were designed using images from our photograph collection and feature rarely-seen photos of Baylor students from the turn of the century up to the 1990s. We hope that these banners help patrons easily identify our location and that the descriptive words will give passersby a glimpse of what we do at The Texas Collection!

Texas Collection Staff Achievements

Amie Oliver and Tiffany Sowell will present at the Texas Library Association Annual Conference in April in Houston. Their presentation, "All are Welcome! Accessibility in Special Collections," will be featured in the 1001 Great Ideas session.

Congratulations to Librarian Michael Toon on his 25 years of service and to Archives Assistant Geoff Hunt and Coordinator for User and Access Services Amie Oliver on their 5 years each of service to Baylor University and The Texas Collection.

Grandfather Clock Restoration Fund

In the last issue of Viva Texas, we asked for donations to repair our beautiful grandfather clock. A generous gift has us on the right track, but we still need your support. Won't you consider helping us restore this dignified piece of history?