

Distance Education

By Maggie Dwyer

In 2004 students from the University of Texas at Arlington may travel to (in no particular order) Australia, Korea, Mexico, Thailand, Malaysia, Norway, Denmark, Austria, Costa Rica, Eastern Europe, Scotland, the Czech Republic, England, Italy, France, Africa, Russia, Greece, and Spain to study. And as tuition-paying students, they have access to the UTA Libraries, whether by mail, fax, long distance phone call, or the various web interfaces available today. But distance education (DE) isn't just for students around the world, it's also available for students around the block.

Once upon a time if you wanted to take a university class and couldn't get to campus you might have taken a class through the mail, or watched public television

telecourses sponsored by your local community college or school district. Your choices were limited to the most basic of lower-level undergraduate classes. Today, that has all changed with the technological advances that make it possible to take courses almost anytime from just about anywhere. And today's DE student can complete not only undergraduate work but also earn master's and Ph.D. degrees. Students can go to classrooms in a variety of satellite locations around Texas for classes taught by UTA faculty who travel to them. The Spring 2004 class schedule lists 18 locations for off-campus classes, including community colleges in Tarrant, McLennan, Dallas, and Lamar counties. Students can go to classrooms where a technician sets up a camera and screen and watch remotely a class

being conducted from UTA, they can take virtual correspondence courses from just about anywhere on the planet, and can even take them

from the comfort of their own local home or campus dorm room. The lectures may be streamed, downloaded, or saved and sent through the mail via VHS tape or CD. Students participating in classes offered abroad have access not only to what they can reach via the Internet, but to librarians themselves by



UTA's Interim President **Charles Sorber** (left) joined **Tom Wilding**, Director of Libraries, **Sam Maverick**, and **Dana Dunn**, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, to cut the ribbon at the Grand Re-Opening of Sam's Click Internet Café on Nov. 21, 2003. The popular facility was expanded to house 86 computers and now occupies the entire south end of the Central Library's first floor. Remarks were made by President Sorber and Tom Wilding. Photos on page 8 include a view of the "before" state, when the café was being installed. Students were not daunted by clutter, noise, and dust, in their desire to use this state-of-the-art computer facility.



The UTA Fort Worth Campus contains one of the Libraries' several satellite locations. The library is on the third floor.

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Tom Wilding, Sam Maverick, and Suzanne Montague.

From the Director

By Tom Wilding

Staying Ahead

“The more things change, the more they stay the same,” someone once said. As our environment has changed, the Libraries try to change with them (or slightly ahead of them) while at the same time building on the traditional principles of access and service that have been our underpinnings since the days of Alexandria and before. A mere ten years ago, when digital delivery of the curriculum wasn’t even a gleam in our eye, we worried about meeting the needs of students who were in

classes being offered in a few physical locations around Texas. How could we communicate with them and provide the resources they needed to be successful?

Ten years later we still worry about them, but as Maggie Dwyer describes in her lead article in this issue, both the problems and the solutions have taken on new dimensions. The information world is infinitely more complicated at the same time it is infinitely richer. Library customers still need assistance – even more assistance – from knowledgeable staff as well as access to the full range of information resources in order to be successful. Technology can solve many issues, but there’s nothing like a good set of track shoes to make sure we can provide the personal contact to students wherever they are.

As I close down my tenure here at UTA and my career as a librarian, I am frequently led to speculate what the future may bring. I know that ten years hence someone else will be worrying about new dimensions of these same issues of providing great service to an increasingly dispersed set of students. I also know that the same principles of access and service will be involved in the solutions.

phone, through online chat, email, or on occasion, a librarian will travel to meet them in person. When a department makes the request, the Libraries have sent staff to other countries to assess the requirements and make arrangements for the delivery of library services. This, according to UTA librarian Tommie Wingfield, assistant to the directorate for marketing and external relations, “is what we are here to do.” She points out that since so many entities (on-campus departments as well as other schools) offer DE courses there isn’t one common denominator when it comes to serving or researching these

courses, but regardless of how they enrolled, “anyone who pays tuition to take classes at UTA is entitled to use our library resources,” even if that anyone happens to be in China, Mexico, the Mediterranean, or New York City.

Recent travelers include social work librarian John Dillard, who has traveled to Monterey, Mexico, to help with the joint UTA and Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León (UANL) School of Social Work program that was started in 1997. These universities offer a dual Ph.D. in International Comparative Social Welfare Policy in Monterrey, Mexico, the first

Ph.D. program in Social Work in México. Other traveling librarians include Tommie Wingfield and Ruth Brock, who went to Pau, France, to assist the College of Business with their undergraduate Semester Abroad program. “We went over to see what the library was like, to see what access they had to English language materials on that campus.” Finding only about 20 English-language journals, but armed with a new tool called E-Z Proxy installed on UTA Library servers, the librarians set about instructing the students in how to use the French computers (with accounts established at their host school, the Ecole de Commerce) to reach the English language resources they were familiar with, now available at UTA through the proxy server program. This allowed the students to merge their classroom work and new resources in France with their established resources at UTA. Librarian Terry Wang was scheduled to travel to Taiwan last year until the SARS outbreak cancelled her travel plans.

Students taking DE courses from UTA are not always matriculated at UTA, but may be enrolled in any number of programs at other schools around the state of Texas or the Western United States or in programs offered around the world. They may not set foot in Texas or the United States at all, but if their tuition money reaches UTA, they have access to both their home library and to UTA’s library. They may reach our librarians through email, chat, and a long distance toll-free

phone line. Visit <http://www.uta.edu/library/askus.html> for more information about reaching reference librarians.

Some of these UTA classes are taken by students who arrive “virtually” via the University of Texas System, which operates the UT Telecampus (visit www.telecampus.utsystem.edu/ for more information). Others take classes via programs like the Western Governors’ University, a nationally accredited online university (information at <http://www.wgu.edu/wgu/index.html>). According to the

WGU homepage, “WGU was founded by the governors of 19 western states and is the only university to be regionally accredited by four regional commissions.” Schools in Hawaii, British Columbia, Massachusetts, Alabama, Nebraska, Arizona, and Texas, among others, are able to participate in the program only if they are primarily a regular and certified provider of higher education and have in place the facilities to handle distance education. They subscribe to the “Best practices for electronically offered degree and certificate programs” which state “These *Best Practices* have

been developed by the eight regional accrediting commissions in response to the emergence of technologically mediated instruction offered at a distance as an important component of higher education.”

Many definitions exist as to what exactly constitutes “distance learning,” according to Wingfield. For some departments and programs, it means there is no UTA faculty member in the room, so if a faculty member is abroad with students, some would not consider it DE. How do the librarians solve this puzzle? In the “best practices” of this

library, Wingfield said, “Here’s our rule. If they pay tuition to UTA we give them library services, we don’t care where they are. We made the decision to be inclusive rather than technical in defining who we serve.”

For more information about distance education resources, visit <http://www.uta.edu/library/distance/>. ■



Circulation desk

Most of this issue has focused on how we reach users who don’t always set foot in the physical libraries here at UTA. This newsletter clearly shows a change in the scope of work the libraries and librarians do in relation to distance education. It would be remiss to not remind readers that within the brick and mortar library things are also changing rapidly.

At a recent staff meeting Sue Sappington, Coordinator, Access Services, was asked to speak briefly about the function of Access Services. This talk is one in a series of conversations at staff meetings, intended to remind all library employees about the function of various program areas. Sue pointed out that the circulation desk isn’t just about checking out library books any more. In addition to checking in and out books and answering many questions to do with everything from fines, finding staff, reference, reserves, and lost and found, they now check out many of the library’s DVD holdings (films added during the National Library Week celebration last year), handle reservation and room keys for the electronically equipped group study rooms, and check out and check back in the library’s laptop computers. Laptops were borrowed over 3000 times a month during fall 2003. Each time a computer is returned it must be booted up and reset.

Sappington quipped that it was more like working at a combination “Best Buy, Blockbuster, and Motel 6, with the transactions involving computers and equipment, DVDs, and room keys.”

Friends Begin the 03-04 Season

By Gerald D. Saxon

The Friends of the UTA Libraries began their 2003-2004 season on September 1 with new officers taking office. The new officers for the year include Richard Francaviglia, president; Dorothy Rencurrel, first vice president; Mary Ellen Emery, second vice president; Stephen Stillwell, jr., secretary; Brent Nicholson, treasurer; and Betty Bob Buckley, parliamentarian. The new members of the Friends' Advisory Council include Shirley Applewhite, Richard Browning, and William Stallings, and they join continuing council members Beth Anderson, Betty Clark, Nathan Dillinger, Charles Duke, Jenny Hudson, Jim Johnson, Lisann Peters, Allan Saxe, Marcus Smith, and Terry Wang.

September 12, 2003. One of the Friends' favorite writers and popular novelist Jane Roberts Wood spoke to the organization about her new book, *Roseborough: A Novel*. The book is the story of two women whose view of the world and themselves is altered when their lives unexpectedly collide. The Friends hosted a reception and autograph party in Wood's honor and sold more than 50 copies of the book to eager audience members. More than 100 people attended the program.

October 17, 2003. Western novelist J. Lee Butts spoke to the Friends about his popular book, *Texas Bad Girls: Hussies, Harlots, and Horse Thieves*, a collection of stories about some of the more colorful and notorious women who have helped to shape Texas history and folklore. Butts regaled the Friends with stories about such diverse women as Belle Star, Bonnie Parker, Etta Place, and Karla Faye Tucker. After Butts' presentation, the Friends hosted a reception and book signing for the 90 people in attendance.



J. Lee Butts signed copies of *Texas Bad Girls* following his talk.



Children attending the Friends' holiday program were invited to join the Martin High School choirs for a couple of songs.

December 12, 2003. The Martin High School Varsity and Junior Varsity Show Choirs took the Friends on a Holiday Tour, featuring singing, dancing, loads of personality, and holiday cheer. More than 40 young voices entertained the Friends, singing jazzy renditions of holiday favorites like "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer" along with numerous contemporary holiday songs. Kay Owens directed the choir. After the program everyone in attendance enjoyed a special holiday reception. The Friends also gave out holiday sachets made of potpourri and cinnamon for their annual keepsake.

As the fall 2003 issue of *Library Notes* goes to press, the Friends are planning their first program for 2004. The program will feature historian, classical sports authority, and chairman of the UTA History Department Don Kyle speak about "The New Ancient Olympics." The program will be on January 30 at 7:30 p.m. ■

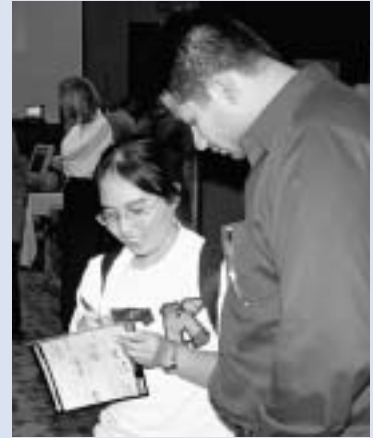
TECH FAIR



Attendance more than doubled at this year's Tech Fair, held in the University Center's Bluebonnet Ballroom on Oct. 29, 2003.



One of the organizers was the Libraries' Tommie Wingfield, assistant to the directorate for marketing and external relations, here with the t-shirt.



Two UTA students in attendance were Jannielu Depas, left, an engineering undergrad, and Amit Thakkar, who is working on an electrical engineering master's degree.

Focus on Faculty

Focus on Faculty is a speakers series that focuses on the research being conducted by UTA professors. The programs are open to all. Our first speaker this fall was Richard Francaviglia, whose topic at the Sept. 11 program was "Skyline as Symbol: The World Trade Center Towers, 1974-2003." Professor James Cornehl's discussed the impact of recent legislation on civil rights in "The USA Patriot Act and Censorship" on Sept. 24. Beth Wright, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, presented "Painting Thoughts: Delacroix and the Challenge of Romantic Historical Painting" on Oct. 15, and the final speaker, on Nov. 19, was Dr. Sharma Chakravarthy who discussed ongoing research in Computer Science in Engineering.



Beth Wright



James Cornehl's



Sharma Chakravarthy



Richard Francaviglia

On Exhibit: The Materials of Special Collections

By Katherine R. Goodwin

Special Collections of The University of Texas at Arlington Libraries maintains an active exhibits program of displays of its varied materials in the library and on campus,

but also contributes images and materials for video and print media as well as to major exhibitions across the United States and Mexico. Special Collections collects and provides access to historical materials in all formats relating to Texas, the Mexican American War of 1846-1848, the cartographic history of Texas, the Gulf of Mexico and the Southwest, and

Mexico from 1810 to 1920. Many of the items are rare and unusual and are sought by other institutions and museums to enrich and enhance their temporary exhibitions. Newspapers, magazines and journals, and television stations use materials from Special Collections, mostly from our

photograph collections which hold 3.2 million images in print and negative format.

A number of institutions and museums have used resources relating to the history of Texas, which is documented in the collections beginning from European exploration to the present.

This history is represented in books, broadsides, manuscripts, government documents, newspapers, periodicals, sheet music, graphics, and maps. The Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum in Austin opened in 2000 with a number of items from

Special Collections, including 800 picture postcards, several historic maps, government documents and a vintage oil painting. The museum recently requested rare lithographs from the Mexican War period, additional picture postcards of Texas towns and cities, and a rare 1555 book written by

Cabeza de Vaca of his travels in what is now Texas and the American Southwest. The

of noted cartographers, such as Martin Waldseemüller, Abraham Ortelius, Jodocus



Exhibition Brochure. *To the Halls of Montezuma: Soldiering in the Mexican War 1846-1848*. Published by the Hidalgo County Historical Museum, Edinburg, Texas, in 1998.



Lithograph. "Scott's Entrance into Mexico City" by Carl Nebel from Geo. Wilkins Kendall's *The War Between the United States and Mexico Illustrated*. Published in New York by D. Appleton & Company in 1851.

Bullock Museum is a dynamic educational institution that engages visitors in the exciting story of Texas through a variety of program and exhibit experiences. The museum hosts more than 200,000 visitors every year on its three floors of exhibition space and in its two theaters.

Other institutions requesting materials for displays in the last several years include the Presidential Museum in Odessa, Texas, which displayed a number of maps from the Virginia Garrett Cartographic History Library (VGCHL). The VGCHL holds thousands of maps, charts, atlases and geographies that focus on five centuries of exploration and mapping of the New World, with particular emphasis on the region of the Gulf Coast and the Greater Southwest. The cartographic materials date from 1493 to the present and feature works

Hondius, Vincenzo Coronelli, and Guillaume DeLisle. Almost all the requests for loan of materials include at least one map. The Presidential Museum showed eighteen maps depicting the exploration, discovery, and development of Texas from 1550 to 1850,



Woodcut. Title Page. *La Relacion y Comentatios* by Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca. Published in Valladolid by Francisco Fernandez de Cordova in 1555.

including the 1836 map produced by Stephen F. Austin.

Maps also were the subject of a loan to the Museum of the Big Bend. The museum presented an exhibition focusing on the boundary questions that arose with the annexation of the Republic of Texas to the United States in 1845 and Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo that ended the Mexican-American War of 1846-1848. The museum requested a number of maps relating to the treaty as well as the presentation copy of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo that resides in Special Collections.



Copper Engraving. Map. *America Settentrionale Colle Nuove Scoperte fin all'Anno 1688*. Published by Coronelli, in 1695.

The years surrounding the Texas Republic and the Mexican-American War, the 1830s-1850s, represent a dynamic time in the history of Texas, and materials pertaining to that period are the subject of requests. The Hidalgo County Historical Museum (HCHM) has displayed items from the collections in several exhibitions, including their widely acclaimed exhibit, "To the Halls of Montezuma: Soldiering in the Mexican War, 1846-

1848." Documents on loan to the HCHM relating to the Mexican War included maps, newspapers, U.S. Army orders, broadsides, sheet music, lithographs, engravings, and soldiers' letters.

An exhibition in 2001 in Mexico City by the Fomento Cultural Banamex displayed

Special Collections' materials pertaining to the Texas colonial period as well as the Mexican-American War years. The company's goal is to diffuse culture through the preparation and execution of artistic programs, exhibitions, concerts, and lectures designed to promote the fine arts in Mexico. The exhibition titled "México, los Proyectos de una Nación, 1821-1888," included sheet music and newspapers from the war years published



Certificate of Warranty. Three Dollar Denomination. Produced by the Republic of Texas in Houston in 1837.

in the United States, maps, broadsides, and Republic of Texas currency and treasury notes.

The Mexican-American War period is an era that attracts a great deal of interest across the country. KERA-TV, the local public television station in the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex, produced an Emmy Award winning national television series in 1998 using a large number of materials from Special Collections. The station sent a number of researchers, writers, and video personnel to search extensively in the collections for materials to tell the story of the conflict. Special Collections had previously mounted an in-house exhibition on the graphics of the Mexican-American War, which helped persuade the directors that we would be a major source for both research and visual materials for the documentary. The studio used hundreds of images in the television presentation and the accompanying curriculum package with teacher's guide, illustrated information sheets, and lesson plans.

Loans to museums, television, and media productions allow Special Collections to share the bounty of its collections with others across the state and the nation as well as other countries. Many of the museums, in addition to their displays, provide ways for the items to be incorporated into the educational system with their in-house programs for teachers, lesson packets for students, and other onsite programs and publications. The television and print media broadcasts and publications reach viewers in the hundreds of thousands, more than could ever visit the campus and view the rare books, maps, and documents housed in the division. The institutions and publications always credit Special Collections, The



Copper Engraving. Map. *Map of Texas with Parts of the Adjoining States* compiled by Stephen F. Austin. Published in Philadelphia by H. S. Tanner in 1836.

University of Texas at Arlington, as the source of the items on display and in their published materials, thus broadening the reputation and outreach of the library and the university. ■

Librarians Will Check Into KC Hall in Fall 2004

By Maggie Dwyer

When the new FIGs move into KC to join the MAV Scholars LC program in the fall of 2004, the UTA Libraries will be part of the team that husbands these special interest groups in their communal approach to scholarship. Too many acronyms? Keep reading! A "FIG" is a Freshman Interest Group, and these special clusters of students will join others in one of 13 targeted UTA Learning Communities. "KC" is the new Kalpana Chawla Hall dormitory that will open in the fall. MAV Scholars are students who reside in these learning communities and FIGs are just one part of the program, according to UTA Librarian Mary Jo Lyons, who has been meeting this year with representatives from many campus departments to iron

out the details of this ambitious undertaking.

Freshmen involved in the program are typically in groups of 15 to 20 students who live and study together. They are housed in one of eight subject-related wings in university housing (this will be a major role of the new KC dormitory), though there are also other non-residential learning communities.

The goal of these academic communities, according to Lyons, is to enable the students to "build a core of friends and cohorts and for the

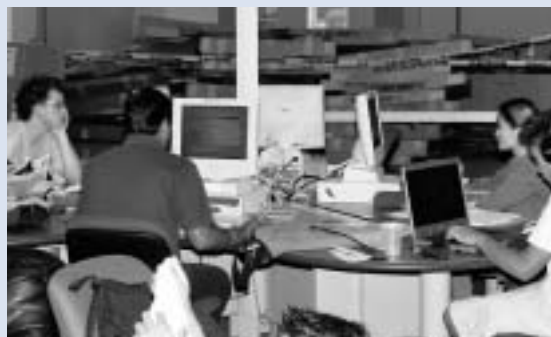


sharing of academic and social experiences." The design of the new KC residence hall includes classrooms, computer labs on each floor, and office space,

Sam's Click Internet Café



James Stewart, right, of O.I.T., handed a student a prize during the drawing following the ribbon cutting at the expanded facility (see page one for ribbon cutting photo).



Demand is so great for computer access that the noise and debris of the installation didn't disturb nearby students at work in the existing portion of the café.



Sam Maverick demonstrated the dexterity of his cartoon hands by helping James draw names from the bowl for the prize drawings.

offering exciting possibilities for taking library seminars directly to the students and for even setting up regular librarian office hours if the need arises, said Lyons, noting that “the core resource group for students will include a peer advisor, a faculty mentor, and a librarian.” She said that there are many types of learning communities around the country that have to do with special interests (such as crafts) or have social roots, but here at UTA “we made a conscious choice to make ours academic, to tie them to course work. They’re academic in nature, not just social.”

There will potentially be as many as 400 learning community participants in KC hall, half of them freshmen members of FIGs. Planning for the implementation of these learning communities began more than a year ago, and involved some new collaborations on campus “between systems and processing,” according to Lyons. While the foundations are being poured and the walls are going up, the Housing Department is working with the Admissions office to organize class schedules and to place

participating students in the appropriate clusters of rooms.

For more information about UTA’s MAV Scholar program and how students may join, visit <http://www.uta.edu/lc/>. For a comprehensive list of learning communities in universities around the United States, visit <http://www.bgsu.edu/colleges/as/clc/rlcch/submissions/>. You may reach Mary Jo Lyons at mjhandke@uta.edu or by phone at 817-272-7520. ■

School of Social Work e-library Ribbon Cutting

Another satellite library has opened on campus, this time in room 111 in the School of Social Work. Dean Santos Hernandez and Director of Libraries Tom Wilding cut the ribbon at the Nov. 18 reception. Social Work librarian John Dillard, who will run the e-library, read the name of the winner of one of several donated door-prizes.



Donor List May 2003 through November 2003

The UTA Libraries receive many donations throughout the year, in the forms of books and journals and other materials, membership dues to the Friends of the UTA Libraries, and through the Adopt-A-Journal program. These individuals help the Libraries serve all users. This list represents donations and Friends membership dues made to the Libraries from May 2003 through November 2003.



David Finrock addressed the Texas Map Society on Oct. 4, 2003.

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 Penny & Gary Acrey
 Keith Alcorn
 Julie Alexander
 Barrie Alguire
 Richard & Keith Allen
 Beth Anderson
 Richard & Louis Ankele
 Sandra Asebedo
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 Lyle & Jane Pattie
 Mary Penson
 Lisann Peters
 Kenneth & Marjory Philp
 Vasant & Barbara Prabhu
 James Pratt
 Robert & Janet Putman
 James & Sheri Quick



Jane Roberts Wood (right) is a popular writer who has returned several times to speak to the Friends. This time she discussed her book *Roseborough: A Novel*.

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 Dennis & Judy Reinhartz
 Dorothy Rencurrel
 Robert & Donna Ressler
 Beverly & James Reynolds
 H.D. Richardson
 David Robinson
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 Lee & Patricia Taylor
 Gordon & Carolyn Teague
 Benedict & Trudy Termini
 Patricia Thompson
 Gary & Nancy Tong
 Alexander Troup



Gerald Saxon, associate library director (right), greets Friends members and visitors at a recent meeting.

Ernest & Fay Van Dam
 Gloria Van Zandt
 Peter & Melinda Van't Slot
 Evelyn Smith Vogel &
 Peter Vogel
 Marynell Wallace
 Terry & John Wang
 Rusty Ward
 Donald Welch
 Gus White
 Thomas Wilding
 Dan Williams
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 Walter Wilson
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Tommie Wingfield
 Robert & Anne Witt
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thank you



*B*est wishes

for a prosperous and

happy new year

from the Staff of the

UTA Libraries.

Thomas L. Wilding
Director of Libraries
The University of Texas at Arlington

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