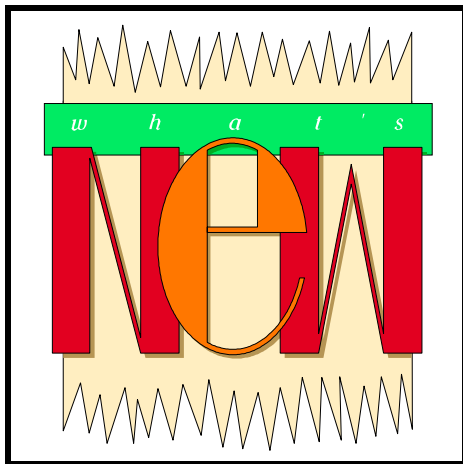


TSU Special Collections Renaissance News

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"Ms Sharon Hull of TSU's Brown-Daniel Library Special Collections to speak on Research Opportunities at Afro-American Culture & History Conference."
(more on page 2)



All about

US: Tucked away on the third floor of TSU's main campus library is a cozy room called Special Collectons. This department preserves the history of Tennessee State University, from its founding to the present. Items include old year-books, photographs, back issues of *The Meter*, books written by African Americans, rare publications, newspapers, audio-visual materials, theses, dissertations, manuscripts, archival materials, and papers of TSU presidents. Collections that include notable persons and events such as Edward Temple, Avon Williams, Clarence Robinson, Thomas E. Poag, Daniel Owens, Walter C. Robinson, Lois C. McDougald (Nashville Church History), and

Geier vs. Tennessee State Higher Education

Desegregation Case papers are expertly organized within this room. Under the directorship of Dr. Yildiz Binkley, Department Head Sharon Hull and Library Assistant Loretta Divens oversee this area of the library. Special Collections materials cannot be checked out, so items must be examined inside the room.

There are many changes on campus, and Special Collections seeks to continue to preserve the past as foundation for the future of the University. As time passes, this area continues to grow, and is filled with very interesting materials

TSU is nearing 88 years of thinking working, and serving the local community and beyond.



The attention to detail and historical accuracy is essential in setting up exhibits and displays as a learning tool for students, faculty, and the general public. Improvement in library services by implementing new technology to increase accessibility will help ensure that the institution's history continues to live in the files and books of TSU's Special Collections.

The area is an excellent place to do research. According to Ms. Hull, Special Collections has helped many students and outside researchers with their academic endeavors. Over 1000 patrons use the resources each year.



19th Annual Conference on Afro-American Culture & History

The conference will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2000 at TSU's Avon N. Williams, Jr. Campus (10th and Charlotte Avenue in downtown Nashville) from 8:40 a.m. - 2:40 p.m.

Since 1982, Tennessee State University and the Metropolitan Historical Commission have sponsored the Local Conference on Afro-American Culture and History. The one-day event brings together historians, educators, students, and other individuals interested in

the contributions of African Americans to the history and culture of Nashville and Tennessee.

Scheduled to speak on "Research Opportunities in Special Collections at TSU" is Sharon Hull. Ms Hull is also a member of the Planning Committee, along with Dr. Yildiz Binkley, Dr. Bobby Lovett, Mr. Michael McBride, Dr. Reavis Mitchell, Ms. Anne-Leslie Owens, and Ms. Linda T. Wynn.

The conference will begin with opening remarks from Mayor Bill Purcell, Ms. Ann Roberts, Dr. Bobby Lovett, and Michael McBride.

Other TSU faculty and students participating in the conference include: TSU Jazz Band, Charles Dungey, Director; TSU Show Stoppers, Diana Poe, Director. The art exhibit for the conference is "The African-American Jockey".



Library Art Celebrates Black History Month

by Yanetra Mitchell

The Art Corner of the Brown-Daniel Library has on exhibit 16 artworks by R. Lafayette Mitchell depicting cultural images of African-Americans through the end of March. "The Art Corner brings culture to the library," said Dr. Yildiz Binkley, Director of the Libraries and Media Resources. "It is a community effort and a open forum".

Many works included in the exhibit emphasize various subjects of African-American history. In "Let Freedom Ring", Dr. Martin L. King Jr. is cast as a magnificent silhouette above four children pulling on three blue bells that represent freedom. Bill Cosby is the complex role model in "Cosby: Youth Education", that represents a

mentor and powerful educator. Inspired by Pulitzer-Prize winning novelist Toni Morrison, "Clarity of Thought" depicts the author in an open field engulfed in a flowing breeze, which is symbolic of the serenity of her literary work.

The warm but cool hues of beige, cream and maroon unleash the sultry and swooning sounds played by Nat "King" Cole, as he strokes the keys on his piano in "Cole for the Soul". Other artworks include "Knight Light" a tribute to singer Gladys Knight, "Mood Sounds", "Old Man's Vision", "Duke and Friends", and "Satchmo".

When TSU President James A. Hefner officially dedicated the Library Art Corner on October 22, 1996, James Threaskill, an artist and representative of former Nashville Mayor Philip Bredesen

presented an official proclamation to the Art Corner. Artists William Johnson, Greg Ridley, Vivian Walker, Larry Scott, and R. Lafayette Mitchell were also honored on this occasion.

Other displays in the library include figures such as Martin Luther King Jr., Bill Cosby, Colin Powell, and Wynton Marsalis. The Jambo Stamp Image/Black Heritage Postcards (on loan from Latoyea Cockrill) and the Black Heritage Stamp Collection (on loan from Glenda Alvin, Head of TSU Library Acquisitions Dept.)

These items join the permanent exhibits of Coach Edward Temple/TSU Tigerbelles, Avon Williams Jr., Clarence Robinson, and others to make every "corner" of the Library an exciting place to visit.



"In 1978 the new Library building (82,000 square feet) was dedicated on April 21. A room called SPECIAL COLLECTIONS was born to house the university's historical archives, theses, dissertations and other special materials."

**Students and the general public can also view the T.S.U. Brown-Daniel Library Homepage at the web site address:
<http://www.tnstate.edu/library>**