

MU LIBRARIES Library Connections

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI FALL 2009 VOLUME 6, NUMBER 1

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Oct. 2–Nov. 14

Changing the Face of
Medicine Exhibit

Health Sciences Library

Oct. 24

Homecoming Open House

10 a.m.–noon

Ellis Library Colonnade

MARKING TWAIN

Nov. 12

Mark Twain-Inspired
Dinner

4:30–7 p.m. *University Club*

Nov. 12

John Davis Concert
7 p.m. *Missouri Theatre*

Nov. 13

Friends of the Libraries
Mark Twain Reading
7 p.m. *Conley House*

Memories of Ellis Library



Kenneth R. Mares

I was a science major at Mizzou in the 1960s. It wasn't easy back then. The curriculum was difficult: organic chemistry, qualitative analysis, comparative anatomy, histology and microbiology were just a few of the classes I had to take. There was a lot to learn, and most classes had long afternoon labs. I spent a considerable amount of time in Ellis Library. It was a place to see friends, exchange notes from classes I may have missed, and it was quiet. I could plan, study and think. More important, Ellis Library had a wonderful staff who

helped me find reference materials and government documents I needed for term papers. It was my home away from home and, along with faculty, provided me with the setting to think and learn at a level that prepared me for what was to follow ... graduate school and life. I am delighted to have the opportunity to work with Jim Cogswell and others at MU to help raise awareness and assist in the continuing development of one of the most valuable resources that the state of Missouri has — the Elmer Ellis Library.

Kenneth R. Mares, BA '65

Member, Library Development
Advisory Committee

Marking Twain: Celebrating the author

Next year marks the 100th anniversary of the death of Mark Twain, one of Missouri's favorite sons. In honor of this anniversary, the University of Missouri has several public events planned for the academic year, including:

- Nov. 12: A Mark Twain-inspired dinner from 4:30–7 p.m. at the University Club, followed by an MU Libraries-sponsored John Davis piano concert at 7 p.m. at the Missouri Theatre. The University Club buffet is \$18.95 per person. Please call 573-882-2586 to make reservations. The John Davis concert is free but tickets are required. For tickets, contact Shannon Cary at carysn@missouri.edu or 573-882-4703.

- Nov. 13: Friends of the Libraries will host a Mark Twain reading at 7 p.m. at the Conley House. Please contact Sheila Voss at voss@missouri.edu or 573-882-4701 for more information.

In the spring, MU will continue the celebration with the following events:

- March 17–19, 2010: Paul Anthony Brick Lectures by Ron Powers, BJ '63. Powers' *Mark Twain: A Life* (Free Press, 2006) was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award.
- March 20, 2010: "Mark Twain in Our Time" panel discussion.

Please contact Shannon Cary at carysn@missouri.edu or 573-882-4703 for more information about any of the "Marking Twain" events.

MU Health Sciences Library hosts

“Changing the Face of Medicine”

Women doctors are the focus of a traveling exhibition that opened Oct. 2 at the J. Otto Lottes Health Sciences Library. “Changing the Face of Medicine: Celebrating America’s Women Physicians” tells the extraordinary story of how American women who wanted to practice medicine have struggled over the past two centuries to gain access to medical education and to work in the medical specialty of their choice.

Since the mid-1800s, when Elizabeth Blackwell became the first woman to earn a medical doctor degree in America, women have made enormous strides in every area of medicine and have achieved success in work once considered “unsuitable” for women. Female physicians are now found in every branch of medicine. They are researchers on the cutting edge of new medical discoveries, educators, surgeons, family practitioners, specialists and government officials.

“Changing the Face of Medicine” features the life stories of a rich diversity of female physicians from around the nation and highlights the broad range of medical

specialties women are involved in today.

The National Library of Medicine (NLM) in Bethesda, Md., and the American Library Association in Chicago organized the exhibition with support from the NLM, the National Institutes of Health Office of Research on Women’s Health, and the American Medical Women’s Association. The traveling exhibition is based on a larger exhibit displayed at NLM from 2003–05.

“Women have brought fresh perspectives to the medical profession,” says Dr. Donald A.B. Lindberg, director of the National Library of Medicine. “They have turned the spotlight on issues

that had previously received little attention, such as the social and economic costs of illnesses and the low numbers of women and minorities entering medical school and practice.”

Female physicians in the 21st century are benefiting from the career paths carved out since the mid-19th century by a long line of American women. Some early physicians featured in the exhibition are Matilda Evans, the first African-American physician licensed in South Carolina, and Florence Sabin, one of the earliest woman physicians to work as a research scientist. Among the many other doctors whose stories appear in the exhibition are Antonia Novello, the



From left, Dr. Antonia Novello with Deputy Surgeon General of the United States Audrey Forbes Manley and Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders, in 1998. Novello became Surgeon General in 1990. Photo courtesy of: Antonia C. Novello, MD, MPH, PD



first female U.S. surgeon general, and Catherine DeAngelis, the first woman appointed editor of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Two interactive kiosks traveling with the exhibit offer access to the NLM's "Local Legends" Web site (www.nlm.nih.gov/locallegends), which features outstanding women physicians from every state, and to a Web site created for the larger exhibition at the NLM (www.nlm.nih.gov/changingthefaceofmedicine). The exhibit Web site offers access to educational and professional resources for people considering medicine as a career, as well as lesson plans for classroom activities. A section of the Web site called, "Share Your Story," allows people to add the names and biographies of women physicians they know.

"We are delighted to have been selected as a site for this exhibition," said Jim Cogswell,

director of libraries at MU. "Although 'Changing the Face of Medicine' focuses on women in medicine, its lessons about persistence, dedication and courage in one's life choices speak to everyone — men and women — and to people in all lines of work."

The Health Sciences Library, with support from Carolyn Reid, BA '70, MA '71, and Mark E. Funk, BA '71, BS Ed '73, MA '76, is sponsoring free programs and other events for the public in connection with the exhibition.

Dr. Gloria Wilder, a nationally known speaker who has appeared on *Oprah* and is the founder of Core Health, will speak in Columbia on Nov. 5.

Contact Rebecca Graves, information services librarian, at 882-0469 or gravesr@health.missouri.edu for more information, or visit <http://healthlibrary.missouri.edu/changingface>.

IN MEMORIAM

Perry A. Proffitt, BS Ag '50, of West Plains, Mo., died June 29, 2009, of an automobile accident at age 81. A Hickman High School and University of Missouri graduate, he served in both the Marine Corps and the Army during World War II and the Korean conflict. Proffitt spent 54 years in the insurance field and was active in the Mizzou Alumni Association and the Farmhouse Fraternity Foundation. With his wife, Gwen Proffitt, he was a member of the MU Library Society. His civic activities included the Topeka-Shawnee County Zoning and Planning Commission, Auburn-Washburn School Board, Rotary, Lions Club and the Democratic Party.

Augusta "Gus" Towner Reid of Columbia died Aug. 1, 2009, at age 102 in her home. Reid joined the University of Missouri Department of English in 1946. She taught English composition and rhetoric, and supervised teaching assistants in freshman English. She was active in writing and published poems in a number of journals and the occasional anthology. She was an honorary lifetime member of Missouri Writers' Guild. In connection with the University Fortnightly Club, she wrote, produced, occasionally performed in and directed the Faculty Fun Frolics, a production that showcased the singing, dancing and acting talents of faculty and staff. She was a founder and first president of the Columbia Dance Group in 1936, which is still active. Reid and her husband, Loren, were members of the Friends of MU Libraries.

Dr. Nina Starr Braunwald, shown in this 1960 photo, was one of the first women to train as a general surgeon at New York's Bellevue Hospital. A pioneer in the field of heart surgery, she led the team that was the first to implant a prosthetic heart valve, which she also designed.

Photo courtesy of:
Eugene Braunwald, MD

Adopt-a-Book University of Missouri

Books have long been regarded by many people as friends, but as an old adage says, "in order to have a friend, you have to be one."

Many books in the MU Libraries are fragile, others need minor repairs, and still others require extensive help if they are to survive this century. By adopting a book, you will ensure that it gets the help it needs to remain a "friend" for years to come.

For more information, contact Sheila Voss
VossS@missouri.edu
University of Missouri, 104 Ellis Library
Columbia, MO 65201-5149
573-882-9168
or visit online at

<http://mulibraries.missouri.edu/about/adoptabook.php>
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MU Libraries Development Staff

Jim Cogswell
Director of Libraries
cogswellja@missouri.edu
573-882-4701

Gena Scott
Director of Development
scottgl@missouri.edu
573-882-6371

Shannon Cary
Communications Officer
carysn@missouri.edu
573-882-4703

Sheila Voss
Library Development Coordinator
vosss@missouri.edu
573-882-9168

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MU Libraries
Office of Development
University of Missouri
104 Ellis Library
Columbia, MO 65201-5149

Spotlight on the Ridenhour Student Ambassadors

In spring 2009, retired physician Gene Ridenhour established the Ruth E. Ridenour MU Libraries Student Ambassadors endowment in memory of his wife, who was a secretary at Ellis Library in the 1960s. The Ridenhour Ambassadors program provides an opportunity for MU undergraduates to serve their campus community by educating visitors about the MU Libraries. The ambassadors give tours, staff informational tables and attend alumni events.

In this issue of *Library Connections*, three Ridenhour Ambassadors share their reasons for volunteering at MU Libraries.



Tressa Canaday, English '10, Raytown, Mo.

I was looking for some way to meet new people and do something in the library. This group was perfect for me and has continued to be a perfect fit. The people are great, and the skills and opportunities we are given to grow and learn are wonderful for our future.



Jennifer Paull, journalism '11, Dallas

I was looking for the opportunity to share my passion for knowledge with others. Being a Ridenhour Student Ambassador allows me to share with Mizzou students the tools they need to succeed with the help of our books and online resources.



Liz Criswell, English and education '11, O'Fallon, Mo.

I saw the posting for library ambassador online, and I'm a big enough geek to admit that the idea of working in the library in any way is appealing to me. I thought it would be a good way to get involved and get some contacts with people in my field.