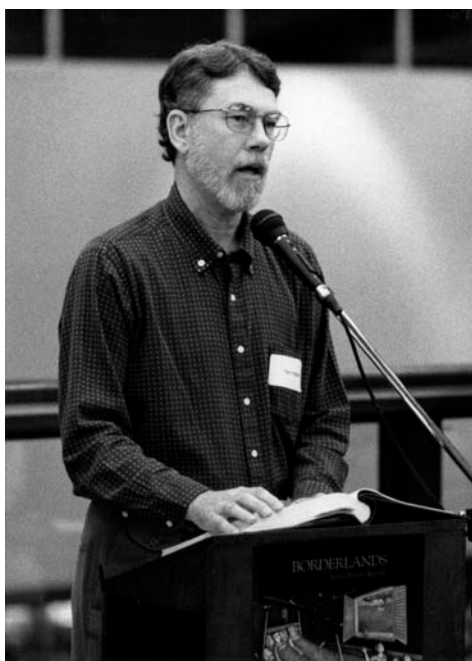


## DAVE OLIPHANT PAPERS

By Mike Strom, Senior Archivist



Special Collections is pleased to announce that the Dave Oliphant Papers are available for research. Oliphant's distinguished career includes work as a poet, writer, editor, translator, and teacher. Published collections of Oliphant's poetry span more than four decades, beginning in 1962 with *doubt & Redoute* to *Backtracking* in 2004. In addition to his poetry, he has written four books about the history of jazz. His translations focus on the work of Chilean poets, including the well-known and influential Nicanor Parra. He has taught at New Mexico Junior College, Northern Illinois University, and the University of Texas at Austin. For twenty-five years, from 1973 to 1998, Oliphant wrote, translated, and produced publications through his Prickly Pear Press. The press's publications include three anthologies of Texas poets: *The New Breed* (1973); *Washing the Cow's Skull* (1981); and *Roundup* (1998).

The Dave Oliphant Papers is one of several archival collections in Special Collections documenting the careers and accomplishments of Southwestern writers. A finding aid for the

papers is available in the Special Collections reading room and on the department website, <http://library.tcu.edu/Spcoll/www/index.htm>.

## GIFT FROM PAUL AND JUDY ANDREWS HONORS BOB NEWKIRK

By June Koelker, Dean of the Library

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Andrews recently honored Mr. Bob Newkirk, former President of The Friends of the TCU Library, with a gift to the Library in his name. Their generous gift provides funding for an architectural and engineering study to determine costs for a library addition. The beautiful Mary Coats Burnett Library, initially built in the 1920s with additions in the 1950s and 1980s, is now woefully inadequate for current needs. About ten years ago, the Library began to lease climate-controlled storage to house thousands of volumes off campus, creating more space for functions such as the Information Commons. The extremely popular Information Commons, housed in the 1980s wing, is the hub of the Library's recently expanded 24/5 schedule of hours. In the Information Commons, there are 115 desktop computers, 55 wireless-enabled laptops, comfortable seating, three staffed service desks, and Frog Pods (collaborative study spaces). Together these resources create a rich learning environment for TCU students. The Information Commons itself was partially funded by the Andrews. With the new gift from Paul and Judy Andrews, TCU will select an architectural firm to develop cost estimates for various library expansion scenarios in early 2009.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Awe! It's fall. I know it's fall even before the colors on the trees start changing or the temperatures become cooler. My home is quite close to the Amon Carter stadium, so I can hear as early as August the TCU band practicing in the parking lot. I must confess that I love hearing the band and going to the games throughout the fall semester.



Fall and the end of the calendar year tend to make us all a little nostalgic. I

have enjoyed serving on the Friends' board here at TCU for some eight or so years. Now as president, I have an awareness and pride in the direction that both former Dean, Bob Seal, and current Dean, June Koelker, have taken our TCU Library.

Particularly exciting is the vision that June Koelker now has for expansion and physical improvement of the Library. A generous gift has made possible the first steps in this important planning process. We are fortunate indeed to have such devoted friends and capable leadership at the Mary Couts Burnett Library.

Reflecting historically on library growth in America, I found through some research that in the early 1900's the only library in America which had over a million items in its collection was the Library of Congress. Furthermore by the 1980's the numbers grew to include 150 U.S. Libraries that could maintain a collection of more than a million items. Currently our own Mary Couts Burnett Library houses 2.1 million items. So, is it any wonder that our need for expansion of size and services here at the TCU Library is so great one hundred years later.

As we conclude our year here at the Library, don't forget that the TCU Press offers a special event on Friday, December 5th at the Botanic Gardens. The featured writer and speaker is Michael Barson. In addition there will also be many other books available and authors there to sign them. What great Holiday gifts.

Don't forget to mark your new calendars as well for the 5th Annual TCU Texas Book Award Banquet. The date for this event is March 19, 2009. This is an occasion that my husband and I particularly look forward to every year. Hope to see you there.

Cynthia Reaves  
TCU Friends of the Library President

## DEAN'S MESSAGE

Fall 2008 finds us in the middle of a busy semester. This issue of *Windows* describes events we are planning and programs happening in the Library. Come by and visit!



I want to express my appreciation to Paul and Judy Andrews who recently gave the Library a generous gift in honor of Bob Newkirk, a Past President of The Friends of the TCU Library. An article in this issue of *Windows* tells you more about their gift. The Library also received a

wonderful gift from Ben Gunn, a Past President of the Friends. Thanks to both Paul & Judy Andrews and Ben Gunn for their support of the Mary Couts Burnett Library.

What's new?? Well....The library is now open 24 hours a day. Early in the fall semester, we began these new hours. The Library now opens at noon on Sundays and is open continuously until Friday nights at 8 p.m. The Library then reopens on Saturdays at 9 a.m. and closes at 8 p.m. We restrict access to the building during the late hours to those with TCU ID cards as a safety measure. We have two new employees who regularly work the nightshift. We welcome Michael Weiss and Chris Wood and are glad they are night owls!

A significant initiative for me as Dean this year is the development of a Strategic Plan for the Library. The Library Strategic Plan 2009-2013 will provide guidance and direction for the future. The Library has been operating for the last few years with a focus on short term goals. Goals such as these are important, but in addition to those, a well-run organization ought to have a plan for the future.

We want to challenge ourselves to plan effectively for the library's future for the next five years. The Plan will give guidance and direction for internal, departmental level activities and guidance and direction for external, campus-wide delivery of library services. If you would like to share your thoughts with me about library planning, please do.

Sincerely,  
Dr. June Koelker,  
Dean, Mary Couts Burnett Library

## THE NON-VIRTUAL 24/5 LIBRARY

By Kerry Bouchard, Director of Library Systems

Everyone “knows” that today’s college students rely exclusively on Google for research, are wirelessly interconnected with their peers 24/7, and have as much use for quaint 19th century edifices like physical libraries as a modern copy-editor has for Liquid Paper™. Which must explain why, last fall, a delegation of students told the TCU board of trustees that their highest priority for improving their experience at TCU was 24 hour access to the library. Not the “virtual library” at <http://library.tcu.edu/>, which has been accessible 24 hours a day for years, but the actual bricks, mortar, carpet and tile.

So, this fall, the library began opening at noon on Sunday, and not closing again until 8:00 p.m. Friday evening. (Previously we closed at 1am Monday through Friday mornings and reopened at 7:00 a.m. Monday through Friday.) Two new computer lab managers were hired to work from 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m., supplementing the managers who are on duty 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and 4:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Unlike many university libraries, where 24 hour access areas are staffed, if at all, by student workers, these are full time employees who show up reliably, and have the expertise to help students with computer access and basic research questions. Only TCU students and faculty are admitted after 8:00 p.m., and a campus police officer staffs the lobby from midnight to morning to monitor access to the building.

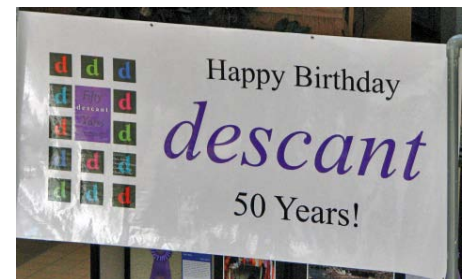
In order to staff a 144,000 square foot building with just three people, we took advantage of the way the 1980’s (east) wing of the library connects to the other two wings to restrict access to just the first floor of the east wing after 1am. This is where the computer lab, “Frog Pods” for collaborative work, and some public seating is located, and most students who come late at night are working on projects rather than looking for books. However, we have already had some evenings where the number of students here after 1:00 a.m. exceeded the seating capacity of this area, so we may begin leaving the rest of the building open longer on busy nights.

Use of the facility after 1:00 a.m. was light at first (for some reason not many students attended our midnight kickoff ceremony in early September), but by October, we were seeing as many as 147 students remaining in the library after 1:00 a.m. An auxiliary benefit of having full time staff here after midnight is that they can work on solving technical problems and installing software updates that are difficult to get to during the day, when use of the computer lab stays at near 100% capacity. It is hard to predict the future habits of college students - certainly none of us predicted that 24 hour library access would be their top priority last fall - but so far the expanded service is meeting the needs of some very dedicated, caffeinated student scholars. Now I’m going to go get some sleep.

## DESCANT CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

By Susan Swain, Library Specialist

On Wednesday November 12<sup>th</sup> the English Department celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> year of *descant* with cakes and informal readings from the *descant* volume by faculty and students. Later that evening two Texas Poet Laureates, Larry D. Thomas (2005) and Alan Birkelbach (2008), read in the Library Conference Room.



The literary journal, *descant*, is a product of the TCU English department. It is based on *The Fugitive*, a 1920s journal of Vanderbilt University. *The Fugitive* was published by a group of students who called themselves by the same name. *The Fugitive Group: A Literary History* by Louise Cowan is about these southern writers and students of literature. Mrs. Cowan and her husband were friends of Betsy Colquitt, professor of literature at TCU. The trio started *descant*, and Betsy Colquitt was its editor from 1956 to 1995.

In the last 50 years, *descant* has published the works of authors who are, were, or would become, literary greats, including William Barney, Charles Bukowski, Clyde Edgerton, Dave Hickey, Walter McDonald, Joyce Carol Oates, Carolyn Osborn, Anne Tyler, and Robert Penn Warren. “Nobody Listens When I Talk” by Annette Sanford is an example of the high caliber of writing the journal features, appearing in *descant* in 2000 and republished in *The Best American Short Stories* in 2001. *Descant* offers prizes for each category in an issue: best short story, outstanding story, best poem, and outstanding poem. Though *descant* is not well known at TCU, it is known worldwide. Its contributors as well as its subscribers may be found everywhere.

## RECLAIMING THE PAST: SCHOOL OF MUSIC RECORDED HISTORY COMES ALIVE AGAIN!

By Cari Alexander, Music/Media Librarian

Summer at the TCU Library generally consists of home-improvement projects intended to improve the lives of campus inhabitants and their surroundings. The Music/Media Library Audio/Visual Center was still clad in a dismal green, so the summer of 2006 brought Physical Plant knocking at the Library door with paint brushes in hand; ready to coat the interior with the policy-defined shade of antique white. We were informed that the removal of these last vestiges of color would require the temporary relocation of the room's contents.

It was during this hasty and somewhat haphazard rearrangement that some old wooden cabinets were opened, the contents of which had not seen the light of day for many years. A waxy odor accompanied the discovery of a series of records of various sizes, made of acetate and recorded primarily in the 1950s. We had found archival broadcast recordings for the TCU School of Music dating back to 1949!

Removing and inspecting the discs, I saw that they were covered in a white flaky substance that induced a massive headache if breathed too long. Research revealed the culprit to be palmitic acid, a toxic breakdown of the acetate in the discs. These pieces of TCU history were deteriorating fast and would become history themselves if something wasn't done to preserve them.



A Grouping Showing the Before and After Conservation

With the help of a student worker (Jamie Phelps '04G), a database was created to delineate the contents of the 16, 12 and 10-inch discs. The contents of one program often spanned several discs. Occasionally there was a tattered, embrittled program accompanying the discs to divulge the innermost secrets contained in the white crusted grooves. The palmitic acid deposits prevented our playing them, so we trusted that the programs and writing on the disc sleeves were accurate. We discovered historically significant names such as Gillis, Guenther and Giordano among this fragile musical legacy of TCU, so the entire project was quickly presented to the Dean of the Library and the Director of the School of Music to discuss preservation options and funding.

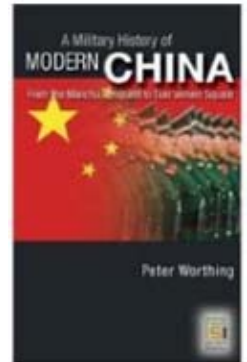
After months of searching for a vendor, we settled on SafeSound Archives in Philadelphia, but the resurrection of these precious recordings would not be cheap. I applied for grants to no avail. Miraculously, funding materialized from a very appropriate source. Miss Anna Harriet Heyer, former TCU music librarian, had left part of her estate to TCU and the funds had just become available! In the fall of 2007 we packed up the recordings and sent them to Pennsylvania. The involved process of inventory and sequential boxing of the records in acid-free housing was assisted by student workers and our first graduate assistant (Cole Ritchie '08G). Nine boxes, 135 discs and a few back aches later, the recordings were on a truck bound for Philadelphia. Providentially, the caring and capable engineer who performed the work was from Texas, known to me through professional meetings. The recordings returned to us in March in beautiful digital clarity and, miraculously, the original discs are now cleaner than the day they were recorded. Ensemble concerts, faculty and student recitals and special events from 1949-1959 are alive again, including both moments of exquisite perfection and moments a little south of A440.

The CDs will eventually be integrated with other Library holdings for visitors to browse and experience here with us. It is our hope that someday they will be available online via streaming audio. To inquire about the recordings, please contact me at 817-257-6623 or [c.alexander2@tcu.edu](mailto:c.alexander2@tcu.edu).



## TCU Faculty Lecture Series

Sponsored by The Friends of the TCU Library



On November 7<sup>th</sup> Dr. Peter Worthing, History Professor, spoke about his latest book, [\*A Military History of Modern China: From the Manchu Conquest to Tian'anmen Square\*](#) (Praeger Security International, 2007) a chronological survey of modern Chinese military history. He is currently working on a book length study of Chinese General He Yingqin and the role of the military in Republican China.



A native of western Massachusetts, Peter Worthing teaches courses on Chinese and Vietnamese history. He has degrees from Trinity College (B.A.) and the University of Hawaii (M.A. and Ph.D.), and studied Chinese at Tunghai University in Taiwan and Shaanxi Normal University in Xi'an, People's Republic of China. Prior to joining the TCU Department of History in the fall of 2002, he taught at Muskingum College and the University of North Florida. His research interests include the military, diplomatic and political history of China's Republican period (1911-1949). He is the author of [\*Occupation and Revolution: China and the Vietnamese August Revolution of 1945\*](#) (Institute of East Asian Studies, University of California at Berkley, 2001), which deals with the Chinese nationalist army's occupation of northern Vietnam at the end of the Pacific Revolution.

### **“COMPUTER, SHOW ME RAMBERT DANCE COMPANY... YES, THAT’S IT. SELECT *LONELY TOWN*.”**

**By Laura Ruede, Van Cliburn Archivist and Music Librarian**

While voice access still belongs to the future, video-from-anywhere is here, available to the TCU community and to guests within the library building, courtesy of TCU’s Vision in Action grant program. Dance in Video, Opera in Video and Theatre in Video, databases from Alexander Street Press, are available via the Library’s alphabetical database list and are gathered together in the Music/Media Library’s online Subject Research Guide. The generous VIA grant also purchased four music reference databases available from anywhere - Classical Music Reference Library, African American Music Online, the Garland Encyclopedia of World Music and Classical Scores Library. Because the University provided funds to purchase these databases, rather than merely subscribe to them, database upgrades, additional productions and reference works will be added as soon as they become available.

The video databases will ultimately contain over 800 dance, opera and theater productions, in addition to interview footage and documentaries, and allow precise access to segments of works, as well as a full-screen viewing option and full production information. Classical Music Reference Library currently brings together more than 30,000 pages of essential reference materials, spanning the entire history of Western classical music through the twenty-first century. African American Music Reference will contain 50,000 pages of text reference, biographies, chronologies, sheet music, images, lyrics, liner notes, and discographies chronicling African American music from the 19th century to the present. The first comprehensive online resource devoted to world music, The Garland Encyclopedia of World Music Online covers antiquity to the present time in more than 9,000 pages of material. Classical Scores Library will offer 400,000 pages of downloadable classical music scores from the Renaissance to the twentieth-century linked to the listening database, Classical Music Library.

TCU’s Vision in Action, detailed at <http://www.via.tcu.edu>, is the University’s ongoing strategic planning effort, aimed at charting and achieving a grand vision for the University’s future. These important acquisitions further one of the program’s cardinal goals - that of creating and sustaining outstanding facilities and cutting-edge technology. Through this grant to the Library, TCU is now the only university in the State of Texas offering both on- and off-campus access to the largest grouping of these particular electronic resources.

## LIBRARY STAFF: NEW HIRES



**Beth Callahan**

Beth Callahan has been hired to fill the Library Specialist I position in the Government Information Department. Beth has a Bachelor's in English Literature from TCU. She most recently has been the Office Manager for a local doctor's office, but while Beth was here for school she worked four years as a student worker in the Government Information office.



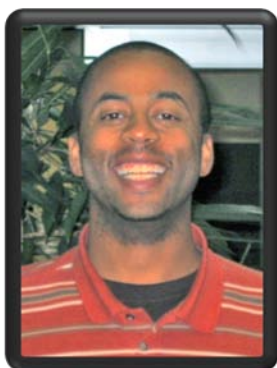
**Desmond Hemphill**

Desmond Hemphill has been hired as the new daytime Information Commons Lab manager. A Fort Worth native, Desmond has a Bachelor's degree in Management Information Systems from Texas Wesleyan University. He worked for Fort Worth ISD for four years, providing technical support and training to teachers and staff, and managing the computer lab at WM Green Elementary School.



**Michael Weiss**

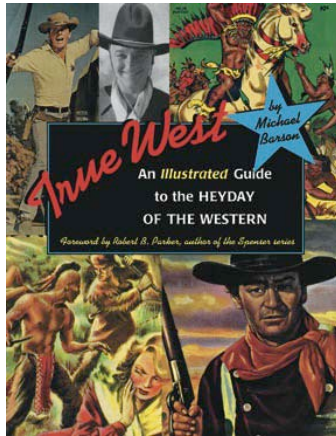
Michael has CompTIA+ software and hardware certifications, and most recently worked for Unisys in Austin, staffing their help desk operation. He has provided computer and audio-visual technical support for a variety of organizations, including Sea World in San Antonio, and has just completed an Associate of Arts degree at Tarrant County College.



**Christopher Wood**

Chris has an associate's degree in Business Management, Microsoft Desktop Support certification, and has worked in technical support at Lockheed Martin and other companies. He also acquired some computer lab support experience while a student at Florida Community College of Jacksonville.

Ride with us to yesteryear, when cowboys were cowboys  
and gunslingers lurked around every corner—  
take this imaginary journey at



An Evening with Michael Barson  
Jeff Guinn interviews the author of  
*True West: An Illustrated Guide to the Heyday of the Western*  
at the  
**TCU Press Annual Autograph Extravaganza**

Friday, December 5, 2008 4–6 p.m.  
THE FORT WORTH BOTANIC GARDEN  
3220 Botanic Garden Blvd.  
(off South University Drive)  
Free to the public

Authors signing will be  
Judy Alter, Michael Barson, Alan Birkelbach, Michael Cochran, Don Collins,  
Carole Nelson Douglas, Leslie Gordon, Jeff Guinn, Elmer Kelton,  
Jim Lee, Dave Lieber, Jon McConal, Quentin McGown, Marty Norman,  
Mary Rogers, C..W. Smith, Carlton Stowers, Larry Thomas, and Phil Vinson.

Come browse and purchase books, meet the authors,  
sip a glass of wine, and enjoy.

Co-sponsored by the Friends of the TCU Library,  
TCU Bookstore, and the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*

For further information 817-257-7822

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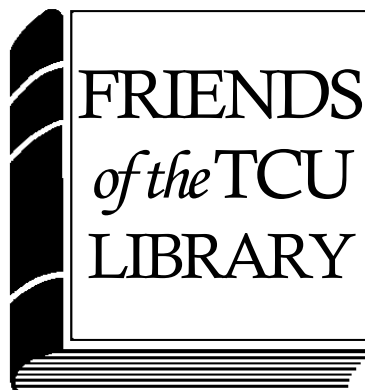
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