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Mary & Jeff Bell Library
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
Fall 2001

Volume 6

Issue 2

Fall Semester Library Hours

Mon. - Thurs.
7:30a.m. - 12:00a.m.
Friday
7:30a.m. - 5:00p.m.
Saturday
10:00a.m. - 6:00p.m.
Sunday
2:00p.m. - 12:00a.m.

Periodicals Department & Reference Services

Mon. - Thurs.
8:00a.m. - 10:00p.m.
Friday
8:00a.m. - 5:00p.m.
Saturday
10:00a.m. - 6:00p.m.
Sunday
2:00p.m. - 10:00p.m.

Library Media Center

Mon. - Thurs.
8:00a.m. - 12:00a.m.
Friday
8:00a.m. - 5:00p.m.
Saturday
10:00a.m. - 6:00p.m.
Sunday
2:00p.m. - 12:00a.m.

Special Collections & Archives

Mon. - Fri.
8:00a.m. - 5:00p.m.
and by appointment

Library Fines Policy Begins in Spring 2002 Semester

By Nancy Cunningham

Effective at the beginning of the Spring 2002 semester, the Bell Library will implement a policy to charge fines for overdue materials. This policy will apply to all library users and to all materials that can be checked out from the library.

As the university community grows, greater numbers of students and faculty rely on the collection and depend on materials being returned on time, especially reserve materials. The fines policy will encourage library patrons to return materials when they are due.

Over the last year, the library has researched this issue and interviewed over fourteen libraries that charge fines. Stakeholder groups inside and outside the library reviewed the proposal. Library representatives presented the policy to the Student Government Association (SGA), Faculty Senate, University Library Committee, and the President's Cabinet, which approved the proposal in June.

One important element of this policy is that no overdue items will begin to accrue fines until the first day of classes next Spring. In other words, no charges will be applied for

any time the item was overdue before January 14, 2002. During the fall semester the library will encourage borrowers to turn in currently overdue materials to the library as soon as possible and will alert users that fines will begin on January 14, 2002.

Under the approved fines policy, fines and all procedures related to their application will apply equally to all library users. The Judicial Board of SGA has agreed to be responsible for the appeals process.

Patrons will be able to pay fines by check, cash, or SandDollars card at the Circulation Desk or in the Bursar's Office.

The library will make every attempt to contact patrons with currently overdue materials and remind patrons of the new policy at the circulation desk. The library will make its best effort to ensure that no patron is caught unaware. Patrons will still be able to renew materials in person or by phone.

If there are any questions or concerns, please contact Nancy Cunningham at extension 5972 or by e-mail at nancy.cunningham@mail.tamucc.edu

Editor's Note: A separate article on specific fines is included in this issue of Infowave.

Fines Structure

The library will announce additional information about the new fines policy during the Fall 2001 Semester. Some of the fines (effective at the beginning of the Spring 2002 semester) will include:

Books and Government Documents - \$.25 per book or government document, per day. When fines accumulate to \$15.00 (60 days) a block will be placed on the patron's borrowing privileges. The maximum amount of charges that can be accrued for each item is \$50.00.

Media materials - \$.50 per item, per day. When fines accumulate to \$15.00 (30 days) a block will be placed on the patron's borrowing privileges. The maximum amount of charges that can be accrued for each item is \$50.00.

Reserve materials (2 day check out) - \$.50 per reserve item, per day. When fines accumulate to \$15.00 (30 days) a block will be placed on the patron's borrowing privileges. The maximum amount of charges that can be accrued for each item is \$50.00.

Reserve materials (3 hour check out) - \$3.00 per reserve item, per hour. When fines accumulate to \$15.00 (5 hours) a block will be placed on the patron's borrowing privileges. The maximum amount of charges that can be accrued for each item is \$50.00.

William W. Green (1911-2001)

Benefactor of Special Collections & Archives

By Dr. Thomas H. Kreneck

It is with much sadness that Special Collections & Archives learned of the death of William W. (Bill) Green, the County Surveyor of Nueces County from 1954-1994. Mr. Green was a great friend of Special Collections and was crucial in the University's acquisition of the Conrad Blucher Surveying Collection (CBSC).

Born in Iowa, Mr. Green graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a major in Civil Engineering in 1934. He came to Corpus Christi in 1940, and soon went to work for Conrad M. Blucher, then County Surveyor of Nueces County. In many ways, Mr. Green became a protégé of Mr. Blucher and contributed to the care and development of Mr. Blucher's surveying records.

Upon Mr. Blucher's retirement, Mr. Green was elected to that office in which he would serve for the next forty years. During that time, Mr. Green and his wife Patricia maintained and utilized the CBSC at the County Surveyor's office. Upon his retirement, Mr. Green facilitated the transferral of the CBSC to Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, where it is housed in Special Collections & Archives.

Mr. Green was a mentor to the staff of Special Collections & Archives regarding the nature and importance of surveying records as the documentary record of private land ownership.

The staff of Special Collections extends its deepest sympathy to Mrs. Green, their two children, and their grandchildren. His contributions to the University, however, will rank among his many legacies to our region.

Library Provides New Set of Electronic Databases Through Texshare

By Nancy Cunningham

The Bell Library provides access to many databases through a state-funded program known as Texshare. Recently, this set of databases changed. After much study and discussion, a group of librarians representing different libraries across the state made the decision to select a new set of databases to be provided by the Texshare program. In most cases, only the interface and format of the data changed, not the sources or type of information provided.

The new databases offer more full-text with full-images, as well as more journal titles. For example, an old favorite for business information, ABI/Inform, will be replaced with Ebsco's Business Source Premier. Business Source Premier has many more journal titles with full-text/full-images than ABI/Inform. Ebsco's Academic Search Premier will replace the well known OVID database, Periodical Abstracts. The following include some of the new database selections:

- Ebsco's Academic Search Premier (to replace OVID's Periodical Abstracts)
- Ebsco's ERIC (to replace OVID's ERIC)
- Ebsco's Religion and Philosophy Collection
- Chadwyck-Healy's Twentieth Century English and American Poetry

New and Noteworthy Titles

Thanks to the generosity of a university donor, the library is able to add these resources to its collection:

U.S. Serial Set, 1789 - 1969

This title is an extensive collection of Congressional documents for 180 years in microfiche, including special reports, papers, legislation, and maps. Excellent resource for primary documents in U.S. history and politics. Located in the Federal Documents Microfiche Section. Print indexes are provided for easy access, and the online index can be accessed on the Library's "Electronic Resources" page under the Social Sciences section.

Gerritsen Collection - Women's History Online, 1543 - 1945

Full-text database that covers the history of women's issues in different countries. The sources include books, periodicals, pamphlets and special publications. This resource can be accessed on the Library's "Electronic Resources" page under the Social Sciences section.

Supplement to the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies

This 100-volume set contains primary records for the U.S. Civil War that were not included in the *War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Other Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*. Located in the Library's Special Collections and Archives Department.



Personnel News

Grace Charles and Thomas Kreneck participated in a workshop on oral history technique and preservation held by TAMU-Kingsville in April, 2001.

Nancy Cunningham, Noreen Kalien, Terry De La Garza & Deanna Solmon visited the library at Austin Community College to observe electronic reserves procedures.

Tracey DeLillo resigned her position as Serials Services Librarian in June to move to Florida. Good luck, Tracey!

Denise Landry-Hyde has been selected as an Internet sources reviewer for Choice, a publication of the Association of College and Research Libraries. In addition, Denise is serving as a mentor for a graduate student in the distance education program offered by the Department of Information and Library Science at Southern Connecticut State University.



Congratulations & Best Wishes

Josie Ann Ortiz,
Systems Support Specialist II,
married Darrell R. Garcia
on July 13.

Penny Rogers and Edward Kownslar attended the Depository Library Council Meeting in San Antonio in April. In addition, Ed attended the GPO Interagency Seminar in Washington, D.C., in June.

Abby Kratz participated in the 55th annual summer conference of the National Council of Professors of Educational Administration where she presented a paper entitled *From Dean to Deantrepreneur: The Transformation of Academic Leadership*, with Dennis M. Kratz, The University of Texas at Dallas. The meetings were held in Houston from August 8-10.

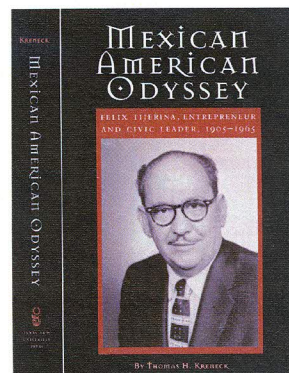
Priscilla Shontz has resigned her position as the Driscoll Children's Hospital Librarian to become the manager of the Aldine branch of the Harris County Public Library System in Houston.

Jan Weaver and Thomas Kreneck attended the Texas State Historical Association's annual meeting in Houston in March, 2001. Kreneck presented a paper entitled "What Did It Matter Where He Was Born: Writing the Biography of Felix Tijerina." In February, Jan attended the Amigos training session entitled "OCLC FirstSearch: Elements of Searching."

The following library staff members attended the American Library Association's Annual Conference in San Francisco, California, in June: **Clint Chamberlain, Nancy Cunningham, Edward Kownslar, Abby Kratz, Janet Murphy, and Christine Shupala.**

Kreneck Writes Book on Mexican American History

Texas A&M University Press recently published Dr. Thomas H. Kreneck's *Mexican American Odyssey: Felix Tijerina, Entrepreneur and Civic Leader, 1905-1965*. This biography chronicles the life of an important Hispanic leader and pioneer in the education of Spanish-speaking children in the United States



Born in Mexico, Felix Tijerina came to Texas in 1915. Making his way to Houston as an uneducated immigrant by 1922, Tijerina ultimately achieved success in the restaurant business as well as in banking, becoming reportedly Houston's first Mexican American millionaire. He likewise was a leader in numerous civic groups and governmental bodies. He reached national acclaim as the four-term national president of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) in the 1950s and as founder of the Little School of the 400, an innovation in preschool education for Mexican American children.

Mexican American Odyssey examines Tijerina within the context of the crucial first seven decades of the twentieth century. It deals with the emergence of the modern Mexican American community and focuses on such issues as immigration, assimilation, identity, race and ethnicity, citizenship, urban growth, education, leadership, organizational change, and many others.

Dr. Kreneck, head of Special Collections & Archives, had commenced work on *Mexican American Odyssey* while he was on the staff of the Houston Metropolitan Research Center and as a Visiting Scholar for the Mexican American Studies Center of the University of Houston.

Welcome Aboard

The Bell Library is pleased to welcome several new staff members:

Janet Murphy,
Reference
Librarian.



Sarah Sutton,
Library
Assistant III
for
Technical
Services



Daniel Cayce,
Library Assistant
III for Access
Services



Clint Chamberlain,
Information Literacy
Librarian



Frances Mitchell,
Coastal Bend
Health Information
Network
Project Librarian



Special Collections & Archives: Seminar on Archived Surveying Records

By Dr. Thomas H. Kreneck

On Saturday, April 21, 2001, Special Collections & Archives hosted an all-day seminar entitled "Researching Historic Archived Survey Data at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi." Accredited by the Texas Board of Professional Land Surveying, the seminar was a cooperative effort among the University's Geographic Information Science Program, the Coastal Bend Chapter of the Texas Society of Professional Surveyors, and Special Collections & Archives. It sought to educate practicing professional land surveyors on the value of archiving survey records for use in future survey research. The seminar principally used the Conrad Blucher Surveying Collection (CBSC) in Special Collections & Archives as an example of such materials.

The program consisted of four presentations and a practicum. Dr. Gary Jeffress, GIS professor at A&M-Corpus Christi, lectured on the development of surveying in South Texas, especially through the work of three generations of Blucher family surveyors. These individuals included Felix A. von Blucher, Charles von Blucher, and Conrad M. Blucher, perhaps the most influential land surveyors of our region. Thomas Kreneck, Special Collections Librarian/Archivist, gave an overview of the surveying records held by Special Collections, as well as explained their preservation and access. Mrs. Patricia Green, who along with her husband, the late William W. Green, was long time custodian of the CBSC, gave a detailed explanation on the CBSC index. Jamie Pyle, adjunct professor of surveying at A&M-Corpus Christi, lectured on the use of historic survey records in current survey research. The afternoon practicum included researching specific surveying projects in the CBSC. Special Collections staff members Grace Charles and Jan Weaver were on hand to reference surveying materials as well as to answer technical archival questions.

Eleven professional surveyors and a local attorney involved in land matters participated. They were encouraged by the efforts of Special Collections & Archives to acquire and make available such surveying records. They were likewise favorably impressed by the use of these records in the training of surveying students of the University's GIS program. Experts in their fields, these participants contributed greatly to the seminar through their observations and comments. Altogether, it was a valuable learning experience for the speakers and participants alike.



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Visit the Bell Library's website: <http://rattler.tamucc.edu/>



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