The Special Collections at the Fine Arts Library just got a little more special.

The curtains were raised on two major theater acquisitions this summer, both of which will increase the visibility and resources of the Fine Arts Library (FAL).

A collection of materials from the Austin Theatre Alliance and a contemporary archive of materials by playwright Sam Shepard have been acquired as part of the special collections at the FAL.

The Sam Shepard archive covers the span of the actor/playwright's career from the late 1970s to the present, and consists of manuscripts, film scripts, correspondence, photographs, volumes from his personal library, awards and other items.

The items are part of a purchase acquisition and the agreement provides for augmentation of the existing archive by allowing the University of Texas Libraries the right of first refusal on future Shepard materials, effectively making the FAL's Shepard collection the living archive of one of America's finest contemporary playwrights.

Among the materials in the collection are manuscripts from such plays as *The Tooth of Crime* (1972) and *The God of Hell* (2004), as well as for the screenplay *Don't Come Knocking* (2005) and his collection of stories *Great Dream of Heaven* (2002). Shepard's film scripts for *Black Hawk Down* (2002) and the soon-to-be-released *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford* (2006) are part of the collection, as is correspondence with German director Wim Wenders. Also included in the archive are eight of Shepard's Obie awards.

Additionally, Shepard's personal copy of *Buried Child*, his 1979 Pulitzer Prize-winning drama, becomes the nine millionth volume held by the University of Texas Libraries. This addition elevates the university's library system to the sixth largest among research libraries in North America.
Roberts Gift is Largest Ever to Libraries

The University of Texas Libraries received the largest individual gift in its history in March, a $1 million grant from University of Texas at Austin alumnus Jan J. Roberts, who has established an endowment in honor of her late husband, Richard T. “Dick” Roberts.

The endowment will serve to upgrade and maintain the Fine Arts Library facility, acquire new library materials and support readings or lectures by renowned playwrights, poets, composers and authors.

In recognition of the gift, the reading room at the Fine Arts Library has been named The Richard T. and Jan J. Roberts Reading Room.

Roberts, an avid traveler and philanthropist, credits her husband with opening her eyes to the world outside tiny Hunt, Texas, the Hill Country town where she grew up.

In the early 1970s, a friend asked to sponsor Jan Roberts as a docent for the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, an experience she says played a major role in the development of her interest in the arts.

“I began to audit art history classes to learn more about the works we were presenting to visitors,” says Roberts. “The impression made on me by the studies encouraged my desire to travel to museums where I could experience first hand what I had only seen previously in books. I’ve since been traveling pole to pole, visiting museums and libraries and growing ever fonder of the arts.

“We love to read, so the house was always full of books,” Roberts says. “The written word provides an entrée into worlds we might not otherwise experience, so the support of a library dedicated to the preservation and advancement of the arts and culture seemed a natural beneficiary of our gratitude. I see the endowment as an honor to my husband’s legacy and a way that others can benefit from his interests as I have.”

Roberts’s husband was not the only influence on her developing world view. Roberts describes her father-in-law, Colonel Leo Bond Roberts, as playing a part as well.

“Colonel Roberts was exposed to many cultures in his travels,” says Roberts. “The stories he told further piqued my curiosity and desire to travel.”

A collection of Ethiopian weapons collected by Colonel Roberts on an expedition permitted by Emperor Haile Selassie and recently donated by Roberts is displayed in the Fine Arts Library.

“The university is grateful to Jan Roberts for her remarkable generosity,” says University of Texas at Austin President William Powers Jr. “Her gift will transform and elevate our Fine Arts Library, making it an even greater center for reading, scholarship, and public events. Jan has said that The University of Texas at Austin introduced her to the arts and inspired her lifelong passion for the visual experience. This gift will inspire others for generations to come.”

The Austin Theatre Alliance collection consists of approximately three thousand items including posters, fliers, documents and ephemera detailing the Paramount’s history as a non-profit since 1971 and the State Theatre’s recent history. Among the materials are one-sheets from films that premiered or showed at the theatres, playbills from individual and ensemble performances, architectural drawings from the Paramount’s various renovations, artist contracts and specifications, set designs, programs, photographs, video and much more.

Represented in the archive are a variety of events including a 1977 Billy Joel concert which includes a contract rider specifying Joel’s required accommodations (security requirements, meals, beverages, dressing room amenities, etc.); materials related to the 1982 world premiere of the Burt Reynolds/Dolly Parton film The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas including an event workbook and press package as well as a playbill from a 1981 stage version of the musical; and various autographed film premiere posters, including 2005’s Sin City signed by Robert Rodriguez.

Materials now in the archive had been gathering in various storage locations at the Paramount and State Theatres, unavailable for public access. The placement of the collection materials at the Fine Arts Library at The University of Texas means that students, scholars and local historians will have access to some of the Paramount and State’s private documentation and rare publicity materials for the first time since the events occurred.

Both collections are expected to be processed and available for use by students and scholars by summer 2007.

As a result of the expanding scope of the Fine Arts Library’s special collections, plans are underway to repurpose the special holdings room on the fifth floor of the library to suit the increasing needs for a secure materials viewing area. As part of a small-scale renovation of the room, new security measures will be implemented and the overall space will be converted for scholarly study of the special collections.
Digital Library Partnership Launched

The Texas Digital Library (TDL) was established to assemble and provide for the benefit of society the combined technological advances and cultural and creative resources of four major research university systems in Texas - Texas A&M University System, the University of Houston System, the Texas Tech University System and the University of Texas System, as well as other Texas colleges and universities. While headquartered at the University of Texas Libraries at The University of Texas at Austin, the Texas Digital Library will operate in cooperation with university systems throughout Texas.

TDL stakeholders met in July to review goals achieved over the past year and to develop strategies for continued rollout of the project over the next four years. Having completed in year one the initial phase of development—which included establishing a presence, core technologies, and base services—participants agreed to a set of goals for the next four years that can be summarized as planning, demonstration, deployment and assessment. Stakeholders established five working groups to oversee various components of the project and outlined expectations for each working group.

Year two of the TDL project will concentrate on planning infrastructure for the overall project and developing policies for content submission and management. Demonstrating the implementation and viability of the planning phase will be the goal of year three, with deployment of practicable assets occurring in year four. By year five, an assessment of TDL’s impact on higher education in the state of Texas can be undertaken to determine the project’s effectiveness.

Five working groups—Computing Infrastructure, Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD), Repositories, Metadata/Cataloging and Web Oversight—have been established to address particular facets of the overall project. Each working group has been charged with specific goals that contribute in a vital way to the overall success of TDL.

The Computing Infrastructure group will organize TDL’s approach to computing infrastructure, networking, and software. Workflow guidelines and policies for the ETD collections that will reside on The University of Texas Libraries played a key role in developing a newly released web site documenting the participation of African Americans in the legislative history of the United States. AVOICE (http://www.avoiceonline.org/index.html) – a virtual library developed by the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation – tells the story of the Congressional Black Caucus and African American participation in Congress dating back to the 1800s.

Organized around virtual exhibits exploring themes such as the Voting Rights Act or the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Holiday, the website provides historical context for each of the exhibits as well as access to primary documents, photographs, and media files related to each subject. The instructional needs of schoolteachers and students played an important role in the selection of themes and materials, and in the design of the overall site. Each exhibit features a timeline that helps readers understand the historical context of significant events and connect them to key figures and institutions. To enhance the impact of media, the gallery images utilize “Zoomify” software to allow readers to magnify images for detailed viewing.

The initial exhibits – Origins of the CBC, Voting Rights Act, Martin Luther King, Jr. National Holiday, and the Anti-Apartheid Movement – were developed using archival resources loaned by the Manuscripts Division of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center (MSRC) at Howard Payne University in Washington, D.C. The MSRC is recognized as one of the world’s largest and most comprehensive repositories for the documentation of the history and culture of people of African descent in Africa, the Americas, and other parts of the world. Its collections include the records of the Congressional Black Caucus, as well as the personal papers of several notable political figures.

Working with staff members from the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, archivists from the Moorland-Spingarn Research...
The University of Texas at Austin

In 2005, the Vice Provost and Director of the University of Texas Libraries formed a committed, engaged advisory council representing a broad range of interest areas to help provide the University of Texas with the superlative academic library in the world.

"The University of Texas Libraries provides us access to a world of fact, fiction and knowledge. It is appropriate that we pull together a team of advocates for the University’s libraries to be public champions of its stellar reputation and to help formalize its role in the future of public education and service to Texas and the world."

—Vincent Salas, Chair

Mission/Purpose

• Act as leadership body for the advancement of the University of Texas Libraries, not only within the University but also to outside constituents

• Serve in an advisory capacity in the development of strategy, policies and best practices for the Libraries, helping to define the Libraries and information interchange at the University of Texas as technologies continue to evolve

AVOICE: continued from page 2

Center combed through the voluminous records of the CBC for documents, images, and media files to illustrate key developments in African American history. MSRC archivists then worked with staff from the UT Libraries to create metadata documenting the materials and arranged to have them delivered to Austin for digitization. Once in Austin, the Library’s Digitization Center arranged to have each item inventoried and assessed by preservation services before creating digital images of all items. Web Services staff worked with CBCF representatives to develop information architecture and graphic designs for the web site, and then built and programmed the site.

AVOICE was released to the public on September 6 at the annual Congressional Black Caucus Legislative Conference. University of Texas President William Powers, Jr. was among several speakers who marked the site’s launch with prepared comments.

AVOICE represents a dynamic collaboration between the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, University of Texas Libraries, and Dell, Inc., which provided funding and encouragement for the project. The website exemplifies the Library’s commitment to collaborative projects that extend the mission of the University by providing expanded access to information through digital technologies. The site is expected to evolve as additional content partners develop new exhibits based on an expanding base of documents and images, all of which will be preserved through a digital library hosted by the UT Libraries.

TDL will be developed by the ETD group. The Repositories group is charged with establishing policies, guidelines and acceptable content types that will provide direction in TDL’s approach to archiving scholarly materials. Workflow guidelines and policies for cataloging TDL collections and establish standards-based metadata schemas for content on TDL will be developed by the Metadata/Cataloging group. The Web Oversight group will edit and maintain TDL’s web presence by insuring current, organized information.

Members of the working groups are drawn from the consortium of participating institutions currently involved in the TDL project, with expectations that the groups will grow and evolve as the project does. With the expansion of the project from existing charter members to additional partner institutions, there will be a need to add to the working groups through the inclusion of qualified staff from potential new members through a nomination process.

For more information on becoming a participating institution in the TDL project, or further information on TDL, please contact Hillary T. Spiller, Administrative Assistant-TDL, University of Texas at Austin, at htspiller@austin.utexas.edu, or visit http://www.tdl.org.
Decorated Swedish Novelist Offers Inaugural Nilsson Lecture

Swedish novelist, poet, and essayist Lars Gustafsson presented the inaugural David O. Nilsson Lecture in Contemporary Drama on April 20, 2006.

Gustafsson, the author of more than fifty published volumes including *The Tennis Players*, *Death of a Beekeeper* and *Stillness of the World Before Bach*, offered a lecture entitled “Ibsen, the Wild Duck, and Illusionism in the Nineteenth Century” to an audience of students, faculty and Ibsen enthusiasts. The talk was followed by a brief question and answer session and informal meet and greet with both Gustaffson and the event’s benefactor David O. Nilsson.

Gustafsson has received numerous accolades including a Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship in Poetry, The Swedish Novel Prize and the Premio Grinzane Cavour (Italy) and was named Officier de l’Ordre des Artes et des Lettres by the French Government in 1986. Gustafsson served as Hayden W. Head Regents Professor and Jamail Distinguished Professor in the Plan II Honors program while in residence at the James A. Michener Center for Writers at the University.

The event, hosted by the University of Texas Libraries, is the result of the philanthropy of Dr. David O. Nilsson, a retired Special Instructor in Mathematics at The University of Texas. Dr. Nilsson taught for 25 years at the University and currently works as an independent scholar in the fields of linguistics and drama.

The David O. Nilsson Lecture in Contemporary Drama is an annual event hosted by the Libraries featuring themes related to contemporary theater presented by scholars, playwrights and other authorities in the field of drama.

Staff Highlighter: Bob Wolfkill

Name: Bob Wolfkill
Position: Coordinator, Gifts of Library Material
Age: 47, but I don’t look a day over 60.

Hometown: None – I’m an Army brat. Started kindergarten in France, graduated from high school in Italy. Have also lived in Louisiana, Maryland, Texas, California, Kansas and Guam.

Years of service: 6 at the library, 24 at UT, in various capacities.

Job description: Managing the Gifts-in-Kind process, from talking with prospective donors to arranging transportation for gifts, to placing material, chiefly books, in the system. In reality, my job description is quite simple: I move things, primarily publications, from one place to another. Things come in, things go out…

Strangest experience at library: Having to explain to a rather malodorous person why I could not give him a gift of National Geographic Magazines. “This is the Gifts Unit, right?”

Favorite book: *Steal This Book* by Abbie Hoffman. Just kidding… There are so many that I can’t even narrow it down to my favorite ten. But somewhere in the top twenty would be *The Woman Who Escaped from Shame* by Toby Olson, a strange but compelling and beautifully written novel.

Hobbies: Cooking, whacking weeds out in the country, making noise with my mandolin.

Best library memory: Uncovering a book inscribed by Queen Victoria to her “…beloved children Albert and Victoria in remembrance of the 26th August 1843.”

What does your future hold? I see a veritable ocean of publications, thousands and thousands of monographs, magazines and newsletters, drifting through these halls. I also see Italy somewhere along the way – though not drifting through the halls…
Anita Farber Recommends

Like most people, I read what I like - mostly random fiction, and more often than not titles that have been recommended to me by friends rather than those culled from reviews. There is one category of fiction I favor above all others, though–I am a life-long fan of mysteries.

My devotion to mysteries started long ago, in those lazy radio only days of my youth when I would curl up on the back porch glider with Nancy Drew. From there it was a short hop over to Agatha Christie and over the years I have certainly read many of the mystery classics from other British and American authors as well as current pop favorites like Hillerman, Cornwall, Grafton, Leonard, and George.

I am currently renewing my interest in P.D. James, and just finished Original Sin, a murder mystery set in London at Innocent House, home of Peverell Press. An old and established publisher, Peverell Press is being yanked into the modern time by the publisher until he is murdered. Is it his heavy hand in this transition or something mysterious from the past that leads to his death? I leave you to discover.

Faceless Killers by Henning Mankell (1991)
In the last several years I have become fascinated with mysteries set in Scandinavia. Perhaps it’s the intrigue of a foreign place, or the colder climates of Scandinavian countries that seem to set a darker, more heavy tone to each story. My absolute favorite among contemporary Scandinavian mystery writers is Swedish author Henning Mankell who has written a series of eight titles featuring Kurt Wallender, a divorced, emotionally fragile, easily excited detective who is often at odds with the police establishment. Mankell paints Wallender much as he sees other Swedish men of his own generation—disoriented in a changing world whose social and moral fractures are reflected in its gruesome crimes.

Never End by Ake Edwardson (2006)
Another Swedish author to interest me is Ake Edwardson who has written Sun & Shadows (2005) and Never End, both featuring Eric Winter. The latter title is about a rape that is disturbingly similar to an unsolved five-year old rape/murder.

No. 1 Ladies’ Detective Agency by Alexander McCall Smith (2003)
I offer Alexander McCall Smith, a prolific author, who has written a lovely series of books featuring Precious Ramotswe, founder of the No. 1 Ladies’ Detective Agency in Botswana. Although loosely identified as mysteries, these books are much more studies in human nature, personality, and positive approaches to life. I recommend No. 1 Ladies’ Detective Agency as an introduction to Smith’s writing.

The Seven Sisters by Margaret Drabble (2002)
Margaret Drabble is another author whose writings I admire. I loved The Seven Sisters—a story written in various styles about a middle aged woman cast adrift after a divorce who creates a new life and view of herself retracing Aeneas’ journal as told by Virgil in The Aeneid.

Happy reading. Anita Farber

Anita Farber is Head Librarian for Acquisitions at the University of Texas Libraries.
Dr. Iyo Kunimoto is one of many visiting scholars from foreign countries and every region of the United States who, along with the large community of interested students and faculty at the University of Texas at Austin, are attracted to the unique research materials of the Benson Collection.

Dr. Iyo Kunimoto is thrilled each time she has the opportunity to consult the Benson Collection. In the past, her research has focused on 19th and 20th century Mexican history and on Japanese immigration to Latin America. In fact, Dr. Iyo conducted groundbreaking research on a Japanese immigrant community in San Juan Yapacani, Santa Cruz, Bolivia. Her book on the subject was translated into Spanish and published in Bolivia in 1990.

Although identifying all visitors is impossible because of the library’s easy accessibility to the public, records for the most recent academic year show that at least twenty-six U.S. states were represented, as were fifteen other countries: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Czech Republic, England, Germany, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, Scotland, Spain, Venezuela, and of course, Japan.
From the Vice Provost

The University of Texas Libraries continues to provide vital support for information discovery, teaching, and research at the University and in the community at large. As we begin the 2006-2007 academic year, I’d like to take this opportunity to reflect on a number of exciting developments at the Libraries over the past several months.

As you will see elsewhere in this newsletter, the Libraries have recently been the beneficiary of some unprecedented philanthropy by both extraordinary individuals and organizations. Jan Roberts’ gracious gift to the Fine Arts Library insures substantial funding for infrastructure, book acquisition and public programs for the foreseeable future. It exemplifies our commitment to develop comfortable and functional learning environments that will enhance the value of library spaces in the academic community and reinforces our position as a key partner for collaborative ventures at the University.

Historically, the University’s libraries have frequently benefited from private philanthropy. Increasingly, however, this is a necessity rather than a luxury. Over the past several decades, the task of securing funding for higher education has increasingly fallen to the schools themselves, creating new challenges for the individual units within the university. Many initiatives traditionally funded by state subsidies — infrastructure improvements, new construction, acquisitions and the like — now often require a concerted effort to secure funds from public and private foundations that recognize the intrinsic value of supporting higher education.

Last year, the Libraries established an advancement team to address this growing need. With the fielding of a development staff and the implementation of a development strategy, the Libraries have taken a significant step towards addressing budgetary gaps resulting from the sea change in public policy towards higher education. This strategy embraces a renewed drive for public engagement through an increase in public programs and events and the institution of the Libraries Annual Giving Program and Friends of the Fine Arts Library membership group.

Two recent acquisitions announced by the Libraries are of special importance in this regard. The archives of the Austin Theater Alliance and Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Sam Shepard came to the Libraries as the result of private funding in one case and from a novel partnership in the other. Both collections demonstrate the expansion possibilities that emerge with mature collections such as those of the Fine Arts Library, and they reflect our recognition of changing patron attitudes toward the way information is gained or exchanged. In today’s world, where it’s possible to acquire a great deal of information from the comfort of one’s home, enhanced special collections provide our patrons with an opportunity to have direct personal contact with source materials. It’s an experience that draws people to museums, theaters, symphonies, etc., and one that will help the Libraries continue to play a central role in the academy and the larger community.

Ultimately, public interest and support of the Libraries depend on the strength of our commitment to providing the resources necessary to sustain our broader cultural importance in a changing world. With the talent, energy, and generosity of like-minded individuals from across our vast communities, I am confident the University of Texas Libraries will continue to meet that challenge.