HEATHER PILCHER : COORDINATOR OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Heather Pilcher began working in the ULM Library’s Circulation department in the spring of 2002. While working in the library, she earned her M.S.L.S. from the University of North Texas and an M.A. in History from ULM. In July of 2012, she was hired as tenure-track faculty in the Reference department. Pilcher became the Interim Coordinator of Special Collections in the spring of 2016 with the position becoming permanent in 2017. ULM Library is also proud to announce that Pilcher was granted tenure in the summer of 2018.

Pilcher is dedicated to researching and promoting history and has an extensive knowledge of both local and campus history. She self-published her first book, Beloved Home, in 2009. Beloved Home is a young adult historical fiction novel set in 1905 in Monroe, Louisiana.
CON’T HEATHER PILCHER: COORDINATOR OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Her second book, a pictorial history of Atlanta, Texas, *Images of America: Atlanta*, was published in 2011 with Arcadia Publishing. Her most recent publication, a pictorial history of ULM titled: *The Campus History Series: University of Louisiana Monroe*, came out in January of this year. Pilcher has been volunteering with The Family Promise of Ouachita program for several years. She is also interested in animal welfare and enjoys spending time with friends and family, with the latter also including Bobby her 16 year old Chihuahua and Francie her 4 year old Yorkie.

NEW CHARGING STATIONS

Two new charging stations were purchased courtesy of the ULM Student Government Association, and these have been utilized frequently since this summer. One is located on the first floor of the SUB, and the other is on the first floor of the ULM Library. The stations have Apple, Android, and Micro-USB charging cables. The stations read active ULM IDs, which will both lock down and secure the items, and also open the locker after use. The ULM Computing Center is administering the charging stations, and Wayne McDaniel in IT has said, “It’s a free, easy, and secure way for students, faculty, and staff to lock-up tablets and smartphones for charging”.
ULM INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND LIBRARY TAKE ACTION ON NOISE COMPLAINTS

By: Maren Williams

Recently we’ve seen some complaints about noisy late-night crowds in the 1st floor computer lab area. The ULM Library and Information Technology (IT) are working on long-term strategies to address the issue. For now, please let us know at the time that it’s happening! Go to the Circulation desk and ask to speak with night supervisor Dennis Pruden, or call the desk at 342-1063.

Long-term solutions are also in the works. We have rearranged and relocated some furniture in the lab area that tends to attract socializers rather than studiers. In the near future, IT will also add another lab on the 2nd floor, which will likely be quieter due to its distance from the POD. Additionally, smaller groups of computers were moved to floors 3, 4, and 5, so there will be plenty of options for those needing quiet. Floors 4 and 5 are designated quiet floors and computers can be found on the bayou side. Also, new signage is on the way for placement around the elevators and the general area where the computers are located.

ULM LIBRARIANS ATTEND ARCHIVE WORKSHOP

On Friday October 5th, ULM Special Collections Coordinator Heather Pilcher and Reference Librarian Rebecca Yantis attended an archival workshop at ULL hosted by the Louisiana Historical Association. In the workshop History Lost? Saving Louisiana’s Archival Heritage, topics discussed related to the threats to Louisiana’s archives, funding issues, and archival preservation. Pilcher and Yantis hope to attend a series of workshops about archival preservation being offered during the spring of 2019.

ULM LIBRARY HIRES NEW LIBRARIAN

Our newest Reference Librarian, John Swearingen received his Masters in Library Science at The University of North Texas in 2009. He has worked over 14 years in libraries and has been employed in academic libraries in Texas and in Qatar. Mr. Swearingen also worked as a medical librarian in North Carolina for Carolinas HealthCare System. This experience will serve him well as the new liaison librarian to Pharmacy and the Health Sciences. He also published a book in 2016 titled: Where is Sam Houston Buried? A Tour of the Gravesites of the Governors of Texas.
Heather Pilcher, ULM Special Collections Coordinator, is happy to announce that the Gunby Letters Collection is now available for viewing through Louisiana Digital Library at http://louisianadigitallibrary.org/islandora/object/ulm-gunbyletters:collection

Gunby Letters Home is a collection of mostly letters, written home by the Gunby children, to their mother, Ellen (1866-1933). Their father, Andrew A. Gunby (1849-1917), was a prominent lawyer and judge in the state of Louisiana. He was very active in both the community of Monroe and the state of Louisiana, especially as it related to education. Together, A.A. and Ellen Gunby raised five children: Edith (1886-1978), George (1889-1962), Sarah (1891-1914), Olive (1893-1979), and Thomas (1897-1967).

Thomas (1897-1967) was the fifth child of A.A. and Ellen. Most of the letters in this collection were written by him, between the years 1915 to 1924. The major portion of his letters were written in France, during WWI. Thomas retired as a Colonel from the Army in 1953. After his sudden death at the age of 69, the Northeast Louisiana community named a local dam in his honor. The Thomas S. Gunby Dam is located near Hebert, LA. Other letters in the collection were written by his siblings, Olive and George.
Olive (1893-1979) was the fourth child of A. A. and Ellen. She graduated from Monroe City High School in 1907. She earned her B.A. from Tulane University in 1912 and her M.A.Ed. from Columbia University of New York City in 1916. She began her teaching career at Monroe Normal School as a third grade civics teacher that same year. She taught at the Ouachita Parish Grammar School from 1930 to 1959.

George (1889-1962) was the second child of A. A. and Ellen Gunby. He graduated from Bingham Military Academy in Asheville, NC in 1904. He received his B.A. degree from LSU in 1909 and his M.A. degree in 1910. George was admitted to the Louisiana Bar Association in 1916 and shortly after began practicing law in Monroe.