

ST-11

Utah Library News
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The grand opening of Washington County Library System's new St. George Branch was held on Presidents Day, February 19th. The 30,000 square foot main library includes architectural features designed to echo the style of the century old nearby buildings, while offering the latest in information technologies. The \$5 million dollar building was financed in part by a \$23 million dollar bond passed by voters in 2001.

Utah State University administrators support relieving stress during finals , however, they draw the line at howling in the Merrill-Cazier Library, a four-story building where sound tends to carry. The tradition began last spring when a small group of students howled like wolves in an effort to relieve stress. Another howling session was organized last semester. Junior Eric DeFries, one of the planners, related: "We went back to the library because we figured that was the place where the most people would be during finals week". In response, Linda Wolcott, USU vice provost for libraries stated: "I sympathize with them. I'm just not sure the library is the most appropriate place to do it". USU's student government is currently considering a request to sanction future finals week howls, while organizers are exploring new locations.

The Guild of Book Workers 100th Anniversary Exhibition is currently on display at the Utah Museum of Fine Arts through March 18. The traveling show includes the works of 60 artisans, including those of three local book artists: Madelyn Garrett, Marnie Powers-Torrey and Toni Nelson. Initially the exhibition focused on book binding, however, it has grown to promote hand papermaking and decorating, printing, calligraphy and illumination, and the conservation, preservation and restoration of older book materials.

On February 7th, Salt Lake County Library Services announced that Ken Verdoia, a former trustee of the Salt Lake County Library Services Board of Directors, has been selected as the first recipient of the Public Library Association's (PLA) 2007 Gordon M. Conable Award. This award, PLA's newest honor, was established to recognize commitment to intellectual freedom in a public library setting, and will be awarded at the American Library Association's annual convention in Washington D.C. in June, 2007. Ken Verdoia was a SLCLS Trustee from 1999 to 2006, during which time he demonstrated his commitment to intellectual freedom and the Library Bill of Rights in a variety of ways including defending and promoting open access to electronic information, library materials and services, and contributing to awareness of diverse viewpoints within the Salt Lake community at large.

Douglas County Libraries is a recipient of the 2007 John Cotton Dana Award. The award is the American Library Association's most prestigious award, and honors outstanding library public relations. Douglas County Libraries was recognized for the skillful promotion of its Page to Stage Productions literary theatre tour. Page to Stage Productions is a theatrical outreach program, performed by professional actors. With free performances at schools and libraries, this popular tour is an innovative way to promote library cards, and library programs and services.