A Bi-Annual Publication of the
Hodges University Library
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Editor’s Note

Welcome to the Winter 2012 issue of Odyssey. We are excited to bring to you an article from the Library Director Carolynn Volz concerning the new library renovations that will take place in 2012. An artist’s rendition of the Fort Myers library is on the cover of this issue.

There is also a lot of buzz in our society concerning the place of books, or perhaps more accurately, the preferred format of books. With this in mind, I thought it would be interesting to look at an incident in recent history concerning the potential power of the published word to influence world events. This second article will examine historian Barbara Tuchman’s influence upon President Kennedy during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

The Naples campus library enjoyed participating in the Florida Libraries Snapshot Day last November, and we’ve included some pictures of that event. Riva Wharton brings us good news in our “Spotlight” section, and “In the News” recaps what has recently happened with us at Hodges University.

Thanks very much for reading!

Gerald Franz, PhD
Assistant Library Director

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The Hodges University Libraries in 2012: An Update on the Exciting Changes Ahead

By Carolynn Volz, Library Director

Gerald: We are excited for all of the changes in the libraries at Hodges University in 2012. Would you please outline these for us?

Carolynn: So much is happening at the Ft. Myers campus right now. We’ve already completed Phase I, which was moving all the Ft. Myers books to the Naples library for storage during the renovation. This way all the materials remain available, and can be brought to the Ft. Myers campus whenever requested.

For Phase II we will be moving into temporary quarters in the new classroom building in mid-February. We will have the equivalent of four classrooms on the third floor to use for library space and a group office.

This will be our library location until about August 15th, when the renovation of our old location is completed. Phase III will be the move into our new space.

Gerald: Can you give us a sense of the improvements that will be made in this new library?

Carolynn: Our space will increase to include the entire first floor of the West Wing in the main building. There will be a total of 19 study rooms, 16 more than we have now. Computer workstations around the floor will increase from 18 to at least 35. There will be furniture and white boards on wheels that can be reconfigured according to the needs of the students. More improvements are better lighting, more color, a variety of seating choices and study areas, a multi-purpose conference room, a reception desk, and a workroom.

Gerald: How do you envision serving the students from our temporary location in the new building?
Carolynn: We will have two computer classrooms for computer stations, and one classroom area set up with tables and chairs for a study area. Riva and our student worker Yara will be located in the middle of this area and available to everyone. We expect to have business as usual, and look forward to all our old regulars plus many new ones joining us every day.

The four librarians, however, will all be sharing one classroom space for six months. Perhaps a study on the confining of diverse librarians into one small space would be a good research project for a psychology student. I’m not too sure how it’s going to work, but there should be some good stories along the way.

Gerald: There will also be some changes made in the Naples library, correct?

Carolynn: Around October, after completion of the Ft. Myers library project, an upgrading of the Naples library will take place. There will be new paint and carpeting, less shelving, and a more open feeling. We also will have modern, ergonomic furniture and more study rooms. All of this will go a long way in creating a place of study that better fits the needs of our students. This work will be completed by the end of 2012, and will take place while keeping the library open, we hope.

Gerald: Of course, it is great to have new changes made like this in both libraries, but what is it about these changes that are most exciting to you?

Carolynn: We had three focus groups of wonderful students who really spoke up about their dreams for our library. Then we worked with three marketing classes that drew design plans for us. Some of the librarians attended workshops and joined in online forums to find best practices for library design.

Administration listened to our problems regarding lack of space to serve our growing student population, and gave us the support we needed. The architects listened to our dreams and plans and drew up a perfect design. Our facilities VP, Dave Rice is amazing. He’s like a symphony conductor in making it all happen. The library needs, dreams and plans are all coming together with the whole Hodges family caring and collaborating.

Most importantly, we will never have to turn students away just because we can’t seat them in the library.

Gerald: Thanks very much! It is great to be part of this exciting venture, and we appreciate your leadership.
A Book that Helped Move a Nation:
Kennedy, Tuchman, & the Cuban Missile Crisis
By Gerald Franz, PhD

One of my favorite historians is the late Barbara Wertheim Tuchman (1912-1989). Who needs a time machine, when authors like her can dramatically transport us to, and transfix us with whatever time period they desire?

However, to Tuchman we may owe more praise. I could be bold and say she saved our nation from World War III, but let me be safer and write that, at the very least, she significantly contributed to that noble end. This she accomplished by writing a book. As a librarian, the idea that a book helped steer a nation from disaster has great appeal. That would be something to write about, and so, here we are.

As a young, 25-year old idealistic journalist, Ms. Wertheim pursued a dangerous assignment covering the Spanish Civil War in 1937, already raging since mid-1936. She passionately embraced and wrote for the cause of the Spanish Loyalists, who were struggling against the Nationalists under General Francisco Franco. The later victory by the Nationalists spelled the end of her idealistic illusions, she would recount. This heartbreaking event appears to have opened for her a new view of the world and its history, where the irrational sometimes triumphs, and sweeping mistakes are committed by governments. She became engrossed with historical tragedy.1

It is not surprising then to see that two of her early books concerned the Great War, or World War I (The Zimmermann Telegram, 1958; The Guns of August, 1962) and The Proud Tower (1966) explained civilization leading up to the conflict. Mrs. Tuchman (now married to Lester Tuchman) published The Guns of August early in 1962. The book received immediate and wide acclaim. President John F. Kennedy devoured it.2 Kennedy had been a history and government major at Harvard, and had previously studied the Great War.3

However, the writing by Tuchman was not just a dramatic retelling of the outbreak. Tuchman wove throughout the narrative convincing threads of political miscalculation and misunderstanding. Tuchman portrayed the outbreak of the Great War, not as an inevitable slide of events, but the result of human decisions, many of which could (and should) have been more tempered and adept.4 Therein lay the tragedy – that such a terrible and violent cataclysm that swept over 20 million soldiers and civilians from the earth could have been prevented, but for the actions of a handful of politicians – actions that were severely tainted with miscalculation and misunderstanding.5

As a Harvard student, this thesis would have probably been interesting, but now as an American president during the Cold War, Kennedy was profoundly moved. He made it his avowed aim not to be the president who led the United States into World War III, if at all possible.6 Kennedy shared the book with the zeal of a modern evangelist. He recommended to top military leaders that The Guns of August be required reading for all Armed Forces officers over the rank of major. Kennedy also made sure the Armed Forces libraries contained this book. He spoke to the Secretary of the Army, Elvis Stahr, Jr., asking him to read the book, and recommending that every officer in the Army also read it.7
A few months after reading *The Guns of August*, Kennedy received the incredible, almost unbelievable intelligence reports that the Soviets were secretly shipping long-range nuclear missiles to Cuba. The U2 spy plane flyovers were spotting these missile sites in progress, and the range of these missiles covered most of the United States.

Space prevents me from describing those ominous events of the Cuban Missile Crisis. What is important to note here is that the President enshrouded himself with the Tuchman thesis during the whole conflict. There was not a shred of military inevitability in Kennedy’s mind. Nor would there be a path of miscalculation and misunderstanding descending to war on his watch. His skillful negotiations with the enigmatic Nikita Khrushchev and his long emergency meetings with his advisers and military leaders (including his brother Robert) revealed a passionate man on a mission – to get those missiles out of Cuba, and to prevent a nuclear war while doing so.

That Kennedy would have pursued those two aims without Tuchman’s influence is without doubt. However, during the Crisis, Kennedy hearkened back to *The Guns of August* in conversations with his advisory team. On October 26, 1962, he said to his brother Robert, “I am not going to follow a course which will allow anyone to write a comparable book about this time, *The Missiles of October*.... If anybody is around to write after this, they are going to understand that we made every effort to find peace and every effort to give our adversary room to move.”

President Kennedy believed he was in a crucial juncture of history, one that eerily mirrored August 1914. Barbara Tuchman had transported him there.

In the end, nuclear conflict was averted. The Kennedy Administration’s military quarantine around Cuba succeeded, and the Soviets withdrew the missiles. By all accounts, the prospects were grave, and military action seemed imminent. Today we rightfully look back with generous praise for the President, Robert Kennedy, and the other advisers. However, Barbara Tuchman’s presence was keenly felt in that somber conference room as well.

Though the Spanish Civil War ended wrongly, in her thinking, Tuchman published a book in 1962 that deftly put her hands (along with those of Kennedy and his team) on the steering wheel of American history, and the end result was right this time.

Notes


5. *Encyclopaedia Britannica Online*, s.v. "World War I," last modified 2011,


It is a pleasure to introduce Riva Wharton, Library Associate in the Fort Myers Library. Riva is a native of Detroit, Michigan area and has resided in Ft. Myers area since 2005. She is a Hodges University graduate and is currently attending Wayne State University on a fellowship with Project ALFA. Project ALFA is a federal grant that promotes Universal Access primarily in libraries, but will carry over to all facilities and programs. When she graduates, she will have a Master’s in Library Science with an emphasis on Universal Access for the blind, deaf and physically challenged. Project ALFA not only deals with facilities, though. Technological tools are stressed, web page design, and hopefully the ability to become proactive instead of reactive is taught. The library is really excited about this as they are expecting returning veterans to become a larger part of the student body. Riva’s training in the program will be beneficial for the Hodges’s Veteran’s Department and she is planning on working closely with them.

Riva was a literacy volunteer from 1988 through 2001. She worked with migrant workers, ESL, the homeless and those who slipped through the educational cracks. Her literacy training and first four years were in Fremont, OH and the remaining nine years were in Tecumseh, MI.

She likes to sew, but has disciplinary problems with her dog that keeps grabbing the fabric as she is running it through the feeder of the machine. She and Dale have become expert screen repairers, again, with this loving animal charging through screens and doors after cats, armadillos, raccoons or any other creature that dares to venture onto the property. “Hopefully he will outgrow this phase and peace will be restored in the household. That’s a big ‘hopefully,’” she notes.

She is looking forward to the new challenges the new building will bring, and remains optimistic the changes will be positive. The renovation of the library is the most exciting. The new study rooms, user friendly facility and updated technology will keep Hodges current with other 21st century universities.
The librarians worked together on various projects this term, including visiting IDS 1000 classes to provide short orientations, and shipping 140 boxes of books to Better World Books. According to the impact report sent to us from Better World Books, our donations kept “3,425 lbs. of books from landfills,” saved “50 trees, 23,575 gallons of water, 8,250 kilowatts of electricity,” and prevented “3,500 lbs. of methane and other CO2 from entering the atmosphere.” Sixteen boxes were also donated to the Bonita Spring Charter School.

The books on the shelves in Fort Myers were sent to the Naples Library, where the librarians integrated both collections together.

Barb Hawkes and Jeanine Brady participated in the WorldCat Navigator Webinar. Barb also participated in the SEFLIN Conference.

Carolynn Volz attended the regional meeting for the ICUF Libraries at Indian River Community College in November.

Gayle Haring attended the Charleston Conference for academic librarians in November.

Gerald Franz taught several Center for Lifelong Learning classes in Naples, including on the Berlin Wall and on the Lusitania. He also made a presentation on the Berlin Wall in behalf of Hodges University to the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce.

Jay Dela Cruz put together a new look for the library portal page, and the other librarians contributed their input.

Susan Smith was chosen to be the QEP (Quality Enhancement Plan) writer for Hodges University. She will be pulling together the writings of various committees into one final document that will be submitted to SACS (The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools).
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Assistant Editor: Jeanine Brady, Library Associate
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