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Wayne G. Basler Library Newsletter

May 2008



Better Get to Livin'

The Library Staff:

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Librarian

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Chrissie Anderson Peters,
Librarian

Virginia Salmon,
Librarian

Michelle Wyatt,
Library Assistant III

Amy Hopkins,
Library Assistant II

Dawn Kraft,
Library Assistant II

Travis Brooks,
Media Services Technician

Another academic year has come to a conclusion and another graduation ceremony is upon us. Another set of students comes while a set now prepares to leave our institution. This is a cycle that many of us in academia have participated in for a long time, and sometimes we forget the real significance of it all.

I remember when I graduated from Emory & Henry 15 years ago. That day was one I had waited for my entire life. I was the first person in my family to graduate with a college degree. My mother was unhappy with me because I was trying to spend every last moment possible with my friends, the people who had seen me through good and bad for the four years I was developing into the college graduate I was on that fine May day. My car died as I left the little town, and I thought for certain it was a sign that I should find a way to stay there.

But that wasn't meant to be, and I'm glad. Graduation isn't a time to stand still. Take a few moments to stop and reminisce, absolutely. But I truly believe that the real point of Graduation is to give you a swift kick that says, "Get out there and start the next chapter!"

I wish that Commencement speakers would speak more to this point sometimes. Each time you start a project — whether it is in a class or on the job — you are again taken through a cycle of learning, and completing each project is very much like Graduating. You get to take joy briefly in the fact that you accomplished this feat, but then you have to jump in and get started on the next thing that needs to be done. And there is no end of things that need to be done, merely a shortage of those who are ready and willing to take on those challenges. In this way, each and every day of our lives should be viewed as a sort of "Graduation," and we should embrace each day as a new opportunity to learn, a new chance to do and to experience. Standing around complaining about it doesn't get anything accomplished — there is nothing to be achieved through negativity. Lingering in one moment while dreading the next produces nothing productive for right now, and certainly does nothing to prepare you for what is ahead.

So, this Graduation season take a few minutes to reflect on your achievements — even if you aren't going through an official Graduation ceremony, you deserve a chance to reflect on what you have undertaken and gotten through for the past few months. Then take a deep breath and know that you are at peace with the past and that you are equipped for the future. And then, as Ms. Dolly Parton would say, "You better get to livin'!"

— Chrissie Anderson Peters, Librarian



BASLER LIBRARY HOURS FOR MAY 2008

During the month of May, the Basler Library at Northeast State will have abbreviated hours of operation. As always, if you are uncertain of our hours, please feel free to call us at 423.354.2429.

Monday-Thursday => 7:30 a.m.— 5:30 p.m.

Friday => 7:30 a.m. — 4:30 p.m.

Saturday => 9:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.

We will be closed on Saturday, May 25 and Monday, May 26, in observance of Memorial Day.





We're Here to Get You There

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PO Box 246
Blountville, TN 37617-0246

Phone: 423-354-2429
Fax: 423-323-0254
Email: capeters@NortheastState.edu

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT
WWW.NORTHEASTSTATE.EDU/LIBRARY

Have you read a great book that we own at the Basler Library? We want you to tell us about it! In about 200-250 words, write a review, then submit it to us at capeters@NortheastState.edu. Editors reserve the right to screen/edit all materials submitted for publication.



Congratulations!

We want to take this opportunity to share some exciting news from several of us here in the Basler Library.

First of all, Circulation Diva Michelle Wyatt has completed her Masters of Science in Information Sciences — and is now a bona fide LIBRARIAN! Michelle has worked very hard in the Masters program through the University of Tennessee's School of Information Sciences and graduates with an outstanding GPA! When asked how she planned on celebrating, Michelle answered, "With the utmost of dignity and decorum — our family is going to the Dixie Stampede!" It's good to know that success hasn't changed her!

Librarian Annis Evans and husband Steve recently celebrated the birth of another equine baby, Bella. As her name indicates, she is a beautiful horse!

Many of you know and love John Lane, who has been a part-time employee with the Library for quite a while now. John has just completed his degree through ETSU, and we wish him all the best!

Treat Me Like a Stranger

Kiss Me Like a Stranger: My Search for Love and Art by Gene Wilder.
[Unabridged book on CD. Read by the author.]

What a goofy autobiography by Gene Wilder, of *Young Frankenstein*, *Blazing Saddles*, and *The Producers* fame. And I don't mean goofy in a good way. This is one of those rare books that somehow manages to impart within the reader the complete opposite of its intended effect. Where the book strives for personal honesty, it merely supplies self-aggrandizement and an odd lack of discretion; where the book attempts to be insightful and objective, it becomes merely shallow and supercilious; and where the book seeks to relate a sense of the transcendent, it only achieves a remarkable level of literary preciousness. And it's not funny. Seriously: This might be the first audio book I've ever encountered where I never laughed once during the entire reading.

Perhaps the only smile Wilder's performance produces wafts across the listener's face when he or she begins to address the major issue within the book: Does Wilder simply reveal himself to be a narcissistic pisher (to use one of his favorite terms), to be a cancer-surviving deluded romantic of sorts, or to be a peculiarly bad writer?

Having said all of this, once I realized I wasn't supposed to get much of value out of the book . . . or perhaps when I realized Wilder's self-absorbed life story tends to parallel our current culture, I genuinely started to like it—kind of like that odd-but-rewarding feeling I enjoy when picking at a scab.

— Eric Fish, English Instructor



Turtle Blues Turtle Cake

(Contributed by Dawn Kraft, Librarian Assistant II)

- 1 pkg. German Chocolate Cake Mix
- 1 pkg. (14 oz.) Caramels
- 6 Hershey candy bars (regular size — or substitute a bag of milk chocolate chips)
- 1 cup Margarine (2 sticks)
- 1 can Eagle Brand Sweetened Condensed Milk (not evaporated milk)
- 1/2 cup Pecans (or Pecan Chips)

Prepare cake mix, as directed on box. Divide the batter in half.

To the first half, add 1/2 cup melted margarine and 1/2 cup sweetened condensed milk. Mix. Pour into 9"x13" greased pan and bake 20-25 minutes at 350°.

Melt caramels with 1/2 cup margarine and add remainder of sweetened condensed milk. Add pecans. Pour over baked cake. Shred or crumble chocolate bars and sprinkle over the top of the cake.

As the recipe only requires 1/2 of the prepared batter, you may dispose of the batter — or bake it alone or make a second Turtle Cake, if you choose.

