Game On!
Partnering with Student Activities to Host a Library Game Night. Create Library Buy-In Through Innovative Events & Partnerships

Coleen Rose, Southwest Baptist University
MUSIC AND GAME NIGHT
MAY 16TH IN THE LIBRARY

FOOD

30+ BOARD GAMES

LIVE 60s & 70s MUSIC
FEATURING TIM DECLUE'S BAND

BADMINTON CHALLENGE
STARTS AT 7:00 PM

MADDEN CHALLENGE
STARTS AT 9:00 PM

$400 IN GIFT CARD GIVEAWAYS

UAC
These are some of our reasons for hosting a game night. You may have other reasons that are just as valid.
Shared responsibility goes both ways - the library and Student Activities both benefit. Timing is important. Try and pick a night that meets your particular needs, and where there is less competition. One of our nights was extremely well attended, the other night less so. Turns out there was a theatrical production that overlapped our event. Same audience. If you want to use your event as a student retention aid, you will need to work closely with your student activities personnel to identify the weekend(s) when students are most likely to go home and not return due to homesickness.
So Where Did Our Library Game Night Idea Originate?
Bearcat Days
Mini-Golf Event
Golf? In a Library?

Bearcat Days- where prospective students spend the weekend on the SBU campus with other admitted students. They stay the night in a dorm, attend a classroom experience, and participate in campus activities.
The SBU Student Activities director approached our Library Dean and asked to hold a Mini-Golf event in the library as a Bearcat Days activity.

Our Dean said yes! One condition - someone from the library attend the event and lock up securely afterwards!
For months after the event, we encountered students in the library who would say things like, “this is where we played golf when I first visited the University, it was so much fun!”

Students at ease in the Library- the idea for game night was born!
"Collaborating with different departments for activities helps to provide variety to events and, perhaps, a different perspective of a department to our students.” — Nathan Penland, Director of Student Activities, Southwest Baptist University
“With all events, I would consider the events co-sponsored with the library a success due to the fact that they offered something different to our student population.” — Nathan Penland, Director of Student Activities, Southwest Baptist University
Collaboration & Compromise

- If you are collaborating you will compromise.
- The Student Activities Committee really wanted badminton as their big game “Draw” for our first game night.
Collaboration & Compromise

• I worried about the possibility of shuttlecocks in the light fixtures.
• I also thought that too much floor space would be taken up for only four people to utilize at a time. I wanted Human Battleship as our “Draw” game.
Short of death or destruction, it’s ok to compromise.

• Yes, shuttlecocks ended up in the light fixtures. Nobody died. No light fixtures were damaged.
• Yes, it took a lot of space.
• A lot of people were in line waiting their turn.
• It was the game they wanted, they had fun anyway.
Another example of collaboration. An SBU art professor made the chess pieces for us out of scrap wood. The pieces slot together and can be taken apart for storage.
Food is a Big Draw, but Keep it Simple

We served ice cream floats at our first event. The floats were very, very popular. Surprisingly few spills, but much more labor intensive, as we had to have people making the floats.

At our 2nd event, we went with self serve foods. Actually messier, but much easier.

Student Activities paid for the refreshments. Library funds were not used for food.
Finger foods are definitely easier.
Word to the Wise

• Try and procure extra trashcans for your event. We borrowed some larger cans from Housekeeping Services.

• The more available trashcans around, the more students will utilize them.
Red arrow points to a large trashcan which we borrowed from Housekeeping.
We did not provide pizza. These enterprising young men went on a pizza run. Another reason to have large trashcans, to hold unexpected trash.
Who Did We Market To?

Both our Game Night events were advertised to our whole campus family- the young, the very young, and the young at heart!
We had students, faculty, staff, and their children. Our students seemed to enjoy interacting with their faculty in a new environment. They also enjoyed interacting with our younger guests.
A faculty member, his wife and two children.
Another faculty member and his two children
Have a Variety of Games & Activities

• No surprise, but just as students have different learning styles, they have different “gaming styles”

• We had board games, athletic games, and a videogame system. ALL types were used.
A variation of Twister
All it takes to play the game of spoons are spoons and a deck of cards.
Selfies are very popular. All the props were borrowed, so no cost was incurred.
These two gentlemen played badminton wearing selfie props.
Gentleman wearing a hat from the selfie prop area.
Another cheap game- two $1.00 paratrooper toys and...
Paratrooper jump targets made from masking tape
During our second game night, our draw game was the one I had wanted- Human Battleship
Students enjoyed playing Battleship, but it somehow morphed into a game of volleyball.
Roll with it - be open to change. Battleship and volleyball were both fun, and students enjoyed going back and forth between the two games.
We had a golf chipping game
This game was borrowed, so no library funds were used
We had tons of board games.
No library money was used for the board games
New vs. Old Board Games

We had a few "hot" recommended titles, such as *Forbidden Island*, *Rollick!*, *Ticket to Ride*, *Settlers of Catan*, *Axis & Allies*

The "hot" titles were barely touched. Students seemed to prefer things they played as children.
I purchased games at garage sales and thrift stores for about 3 years before holding our first game night. Most cost me 50 cents to two dollars.

Question: You may be wondering, do we own, catalog, and circulate board games?

Answer: No. I own most of the common board games, so I “loan” them to the library for our events. I didn’t donate them, because it would be too much to ask Circulation staff to keep up with dozens of board games with dozens of pieces.
Cost

• Is hosting a game night expensive? The answer can be Yes or No.
• Student Activities funded the refreshments, provided the prizes, some of which were donated from area businesses.
• We provided one T-shirt prize, the board games, the physical space, and most of the labor.
They were happy winning $5.00 gift cards, or free drink coupons from area fast food restaurants. They were just happy to get anything.
Another cheap game. A borrowed referee jersey, a $1.00 piece of foam board and electrical tape becomes...
A Rock, Paper, Scissors tournament! Cheap entertainment!
A library T-shirt was the only prize that the library paid for during our first game night.
We turned this information over to our accounting department as required, we don’t know if they did anything with it.
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More About Cost

I purchased used games from area thrift stores and garage sales. Most of these cost me from 50 cents apiece to two dollars.

We also borrowed some more expensive “fancier” games from faculty & our campus Strategic Games Club.
We did include nine mini-golf “holes” during our latest game night. We used thrift store finds and found objects to create the obstacles. We also utilized the mini-golf supplies belonging to Student Activities.

We had one very nice mini-golf obstacle created by our Maintenance staff. They also made us a Shishkaball game (Think giant Kerplunk) from materials that I found very cheaply at a garage sale.

This Old House has instructions for making this game.  
https://www.thisoldhouse.com/how-to/how-to-build-shishkaball-ball-drop-game
Shishkaball game
One of our mini-golf obstacles made out of a 50 cent doll house. The ramp is made with gorilla tape and a piece of an old calendar.
A ten cent thrift store toy. Again, the ramp was made out of the back of an old office calendar and gorilla tape.
Our “putters pool” golf game. We made the “pool table” out of short lengths of pvc pipe, pvc joints, and end-of-season pool noodles purchased at clearance prices. No library money was used, I donated this.
My 50 cent Jenga game.
50 cent game
50 cent Mousetrap
Who knew college age students would want to play Candy Land?
I panicked when Student Activities could not be reached, and turned up 1 ½ hours late to the event. They had the badminton supplies, and the prizes. Make sure you have the cell phone number of your contacts. I was practically gibbering at the windows. To gibber is to “speak rapidly and unintelligibly typically through fear or shock.” Turns out a meeting the Student Activities director was in ran long.

Contingency Plans, Successes & Failures

• Know this now. Things will go wrong. Roll with it.
• Do not panic!
• Try and have a backup activity that you can roll out quickly, if a main activity crashes and burns.
• You want a success, but you will learn just as much from failure.
This Angry Birds game became our main attraction for awhile, until Student Activities turned up with the badminton supplies.
Borrowed Angry Birds radio controlled balloon
Angry Birds balloon taking out some pigs (green balloons with faces drawn on them)
Library Biannual Survey Comments

I think you should keep all of the listed events and try to add more, such as board game night or something like the game show 'Silent Library'.

Have more game nights. Finals week for sure! Also the game night was really fun, and I would like to see that more often.

Finals Week was a great event the library hosted! I was unable to attend the game night last semester, but I would really enjoy more of those in the future.

I went to game night and won a prize from the drawing! I also had fun playing Pictionary with some friends, it was the most I had laughed since coming to SBU.

I always get a lot of help when I go to the library! I really enjoyed a game night that the library held a few months ago! It was super fun!
BONUS ROUND

- Halloween
- Comic-Con (2016)
- Finals Week Activities
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Edible Book Contest
Staff can wear costumes
As long as they aren’t too gruesome
Or are too risqué
Most library staff/faculty purchase an extra bag of candy and donate it to the library.

We bag the candy in snack bags (otherwise students rifle the candy and take all the chocolate!)

We also have labeled, nut-free candy made in a nut-free facility

We set out the candy in two plastic cauldrons early in the evening

We watch the fun!
Volunteer Ghostbusters vehicle, parked in front of the library to draw interest
Look familiar?
Who ya gonna call?
This giant Tsudo game was loaned to our event by Calliope Games
Selfies are very popular
Costume contestant
Opportunity to showcase student organizations
Finals Week Spring 2016

Special Finals Week Hours
Monday & Tuesday: 8AM-3AM
Wednesday & Thursday: 8AM-12AM
Friday: 8AM-5PM

POPCORN & DRINKS
SERVED ALL WEEK!

COME RELAX AND MAKE A FURRY FRIEND!
Pet Therapy
10AM-12PM Wednesday

De-Stress Stations Throughout the Library
K’Nex
Board Games
Legos
Origami

University Libraries
Southwest Baptist University
We have puzzles, origami and coloring stations, games, and back massage cushions available throughout finals week.
Pet therapy visitor. Always keep the miniature horse on the tile. Very popular. Tons of selfies taken with therapy animals
This dog is about the same height as the miniature horse
A retired faculty member gave hand massages during finals week
The library smelled like a circus, and we did a lot of sweeping, but it was extremely popular.
EASTER EGG HUNT!!

There are lots of Easter eggs hidden all over the library.
Your mission: find the big prizes and get candy!

Good luck!

HEY, WAIT! KEEP READING!
Once you’re done emptying your eggs of goodies, put them back in the basket so we can hide them again all week!
Thanks!
Happy Easter!

We’ve hidden Easter eggs around the Library.
Feel free to take whatever you find inside but please return the empty eggs to the basket up front.
Two of the eggs will win you a Library T-shirt if you can find one.

Happy Hunting!

Return empty Easter Eggs Here.
Thank you!
Our Edible book contest advertising
Our overall prize winner, this Gray’s Anatomy book cake was made by a member of our Physical Therapy faculty
Harry Potter cake
Jaws entry. Jello, a gummy shark, graham crackers, and jerky
All photographs were taken at Library events by University personnel and are used with permission.
Contact Information

For Game Night and Pet Therapy visit questions contact:
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Credit where credit is due, for Comic-Con & Edible Book contest questions contact:
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