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2011

## America's Best Roller Coasters, Exhibit Brochure

Nicole LeBoeuf

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## Steel Roller Coasters

### **Manta, (Sea World Adventure Park, Florida)**

Sea World's newest roller coaster, Manta, uses a unique car which lifts riders up so that they lay parallel to the track, giving the illusion of flying. Clever water theming combines with the excitement of an inverted roller coaster to make this ride a park favorite.



### **Batman the Ride, (Six Flags, Multiple Locations)**

First built in 1992, this roller coaster has proven so popular that several reproductions have been built around the world. Riders dangle through rolls, drops, corkscrews, and a heartline spin all cleverly arranged to keep the passengers coming back for more.

## The Next Generation of Roller Coasters

### **Cheetah Hunt, (Busch Gardens, Florida)**



Opening in May 2011, Cheetah Hunt will be Florida's longest roller coaster, integrating a live

Cheetah exhibit with the replica of a Serengeti plane and a launch roller coaster to channel the spirit of a running wild cat.

### **Gotham City Gauntlet, (Six Flags, MA)**

Newly opened Gotham City Gauntlet : Escape from Arkham Asylum at Six Flags New England has 17 hairpin turns and is 1,213 feet long.

## About the Library

The Universal Orlando Foundation Library at UCF's Rosen College of Hospitality Management is devoted to the study of the hospitality and tourism industries. The Library is located at 9907 Universal Blvd., near International Drive and the heart of central Florida's tourism area. For more information, visit the Universal Orlando Foundation Library's homepage at <http://library.ucf.edu/rosen> or call 407-903-8100.



## Exhibit Design

### Curator:

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# AMERICA'S BEST ROLLER COASTERS

On display for  
Summer 2011 at:

The Universal Orlando  
Foundation Library  
At the Rosen College  
of Hospitality  
Management

## America's Best Roller Coasters

**The Beast. Texas Giant. Manta.** In the world of theme parks, perhaps no other ride attracts as much attention as the sinewy roller coaster. Legions of fans dubbed “roller coaster enthusiasts” have set up websites, societies, and YouTube Channels celebrating the ultimate thrill ride. But which roller coaster is the best? This hotly debated topic has no one answer, but read on to learn more about some of the most revered roller coasters in the USA!



### Wooden Roller Coasters:

#### **The Beast, (Kings Island, Ohio)**

The Beast was built in 1979 and is still one of the longest roller coasters in the world today. 7,400 feet of wooden track twist through 35 acres of wood, going through numerous drops and tight corners along the way. No wonder this ride continually lists as one of the top ten wooden roller coasters in America.

#### **Kentucky Rumbler, (Beech Bend Park, KY)**

Built in 2006, The Rumber has thirty track cross overs and twelve airtime moments, proving that, even in modern times, wooden roller coasters can still thrill the masses.

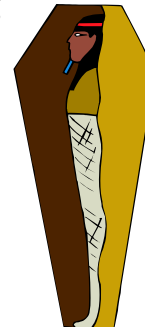
## What Makes a Roller Coaster “The Best”?

*Boundry pushing:* Breaking height and speed records allows roller coasters to stand out from the crowd. An excellent example of this is **Kingda Ka** at Six Flags New Jersey, which, at 456 feet tall and speeds of up to 128 mph, is one of the tallest and fastest coasters in America.

*New Technologies:* Trains propelled by magnets, cars that hold the passengers parallel to the track, 90 degree lifts - all of these once-impossible ideas now are employed on a number of roller coasters. As computers get more sophisticated and human understanding improves, current expectations of what coasters are capable of are thrown out the window. Universal Studios FL's **The Incredible Hulk's** unique launch, which uses special generators and design to immediately accelerate the riders to 40 mph, is still considered an prime example of what new technologies can do for the ride.



*Theming:* **The Revenge of the Mummy** at Universal Studios FL uses an elaborately decorated wait area and an enclosed roller coaster/dark ride to convince the rider that they are being chased around an Egyptian movie set by a Mummy. Also set in the dark, the legendary **Space Mountain** by Walt Disney World uses cars shaped like rockets and projections of flying meteors to enhance the feeling of blasting through space.



## For Further Information



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**The Incredible Scream Machine : A History of the Roller Coaster.** By Robert Cartmell, Rosen Gen Coll GV1860.R64 C37 1987

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**Roller Coaster Database website**  
<http://www.rcdb.com/>

**Roller Coaster : Wooden and Steel Coasters, Twisters, and Corkscrews.** By David Bennett, Rosen Gen Coll GV1860.R64 B46 1998

**Roller Coasters : A Thrill-Seeker's Guide to the Ultimate Scream Machines.** By Robert Coker, Rosen Gen Coll GV1860.R64 C65 2002

**Roller Coasters : United States and Canada.** By Todd H. Throgmorton, Rosen Gen Coll GV1860.R64 T47 2009

**Scream Machines : Roller Coasters Past, Present, and Future.** By Herma Silverstein, Rosen Gen Coll GV1860.R64 S57 1986

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