

# Views

The Newsletter of the  
**Friends of the Van Pelt Library**  
Michigan Tech University  
1400 Townsend Drive, Houghton, MI 49931  
*March 2008 Volume 13, Number 1*

## ***Friends Annual Book Sale 3-4 April 2008***

Booklovers, start your engines! The popular Friends of the Van Pelt Library Book Sale will once again take place this spring. The main sale will be Friday April 4 from 10:00 until 4:30pm, while the Members-only Pre-Sale will be the day before, Thursday April 3 from 5-7pm. The sale will take place in the Ballroom of the Memorial Union Building on MTU's campus, and memberships will be available at the door, \$15 for individuals, \$25 for families, and \$10 for students and seniors.

As usual, the sale is only possible because of the hard work of the Friends and our co-sponsoring student groups, the Society of Intellectual Sisters and Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society. We also gratefully acknowledge the help of MTU's Facilities Management Department, who help move the books to and from storage, and the MTU Recycling Group, who help us properly dispose of dated and damaged items.

Book donations are still actively being sought for the sale. Is it time for some early spring cleaning? Do you need more room on your shelves? Is your office closing in on you? Donate your books to the FVPL Book Sale. Book donations may be dropped in the collection box in the entry of the Van Pelt Library or at the Circulation Desk. The Friends accept books on any subject, software, CDs, DVDs and videos. We do not accept Readers Digest Condensed, vinyl records, or magazines, since these do not sell well and are very cumbersome to move and store. Email Dana Richter (dlrichter@mtu.edu) to arrange for pick-up of donations. The 2007 Book Sale netted over \$3,000 for the Van Pelt Library - and this year's sale promises to be even bigger and

better, with a larger variety of books. See you there!

## ***Library Director Phyllis Johnson Retires in 2008***

Nineteen years is a long time; time enough to supervise the move to a new building not just once, but twice! Such has been the tenure of Library Director Phyllis Johnson. At the end of May 2008 Johnson retires from Michigan Tech.

"We will miss her terribly," says Friends co-chairman Faith Morrison. "She encouraged the formation of the Friends of the Van Pelt Library in 1995 and is a charter member. She's always there for the board meetings, as well as for the down-and-dirty 'work bees' that we use to get ready for the book sale. It won't be the same without Phyllis."

Johnson has overseen a growing and expanding Michigan Tech Library. The physical building has doubled in size with the addition of the Opie Library in 2006, and the collection has grown and changed over the years to include a substantial electronic collection. "The library at Michigan Tech has always had a strong collection and provided excellent services. The new facility and the availability of so much information online has truly made the J.R. Van Pelt and Opie Library a "show-off" place for the university," says Johnson.

Johnson has big plans for retirement. "I plan to spend more time with my grandchildren and with my husband at our place in Montana. I also want to do some traveling--a visit to India is on my list," she says. The University community will congratulate Johnson on her contributions to MTU at an ice cream social on Thursday, 22 May 2008 from 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm in the Library Reading

Room (the lovely room with all the windows that faces US41). Everyone is invited to attend.

## ***Recipients of Friends-Sponsored Travel Awards Announced***

*Submitted by Julie Blair, MTU Archives*

The MTU Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections announced the winners of the 2008 Research Travel Award, making a total of twenty researchers that have been funded through the program since its start a decade ago.

This year, researchers will make use of the Archives collections in some innovative ways. Thomas Beach, an independent filmmaker, plans a visit to the Archives this spring to work on a 90-minute video documentary of the 1913 copper miners strike, using the rich array of cultural and historical resources available at the Archives.

Michelle Hamilton, from the University of Guelph, plans to research archaeological issues related to prehistoric Native American mines as sites; she also will study early mineral exploration by white settlers. Hamilton will give a talk on artifact collecting during her visit to MTU later this spring.

The third award goes to a collaborative team of ethnographic and genealogical researchers, Cecile Jensen, director of Michigan Polonia, and Brother Joseph Martin, Assistant to the President of Lewis University. They will look at the early Polish immigrant community in Calumet and their ties to the Posen District of Poland. Martin and Jensen will share their experiences researching in American and Polish repositories in a public presentation at MTU in June.

The Friends of the Van Pelt Library provides financial sponsorship for the Michigan Tech Archives Travel Award program and makes it possible for researchers from outside the area to

explore the Archives' unique collections. For further information about the award program or the collections at the MTU Archives, call 906-487-2505.

## ***Winter Carnival Hot-Chocolate Give-away Brings Visitors to the Library***

The Friends of the Van Pelt Library's annual hot-chocolate giveaway for Winter Carnival was a tremendous success in 2008. The Friends served over 300 hot chocolates and gave away dozens of home-baked cookies. The giveaway is a thank-you from the Friends of the Van Pelt Library to all the MTU community.

In parallel with the hot chocolate, the Friends had an expanded book cart operating, offering used books for sale. Sales from the book cart were \$171.39 and donations of \$112.67 were received.

The response from Carnival visitors was extremely positive. Families stopped in and once again cleared the sale racks of children's books. Many thanks to the volunteers that made this event such a success, especially to organizer Don Durfee!

## ***New Art Joins Library Collection Thanks to the Friends***

The Friends have voted to purchase "Home on the Hill," a new pastel by local artist jd slack. Slack is a pastel painter who is also Professor of Communication and Cultural Studies at Michigan Tech. She often paints the ruins, dwellings, and landscape of the Copper Country. She also recently has been Artist in Residence on Isle Royale, a stay that resulted in many beautiful artworks. A

biography of jd slack may be found on the web page of the Copper Country Community Arts Center, [www.coppercountryarts.com](http://www.coppercountryarts.com).

The new painting joins the Library's collection of the work of many local artists, among them Joe Kirkish, Clyde Mikkola, and Edith Marshall. Information about all the Library Art can be found in the Art Collection Binder. It includes several of the Monographs in the series *Artists of the Keweenaw*, published by the Vertin Gallery, Calumet. The Art Collection Binder is available at the Library reference desk on the second floor.

## ***Econo Foods*** ***"Computers for Kids"*** ***Program Ongoing***

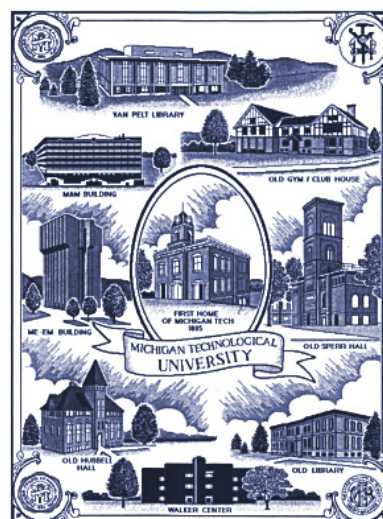
Submitted by Mary Marchaterre

Time to collect your receipts from Econo Foods to benefit the Van Pelt Library at MTU. Through its *Computers for Kids* program, Econo Foods donates to the Friends one percent of the sum of all Econo receipts collected. These funds are used to pay for computer systems in the library. In 2006-07, the Friends of the Van Pelt Library collected Econo receipts that totaled \$33,552.38. As a result, Econo Foods donated \$355.23 to the Friends. Thus far this year the Friends have collected \$16,524.09 worth of receipts, so a push is needed to catch up to our usual level.

Many thanks to those who have been participating. Want to help? Please collect your receipts from Econo Foods and send them to us or drop them in the collection box at the circulation desk of the Library. Econo will accept receipts dated end of August 2007 through the beginning of June 2008. You may also send your receipts by intercampus mail to either Mary Marchaterre (Admin 209) or Faith Morrison (Chemical Engineering).

## ***Friends Blankets Available!***

The beautiful MTU blanket is available once again from the Friends of the Van Pelt Library (<http://www.chem.mtu.edu/~fmorriso/fvpl/blanket.htm>). The 4 ft by 5 ft cotton blanket in blue and white features historic buildings from the Michigan Tech campus (design shown below) and sells for \$65 plus tax and shipping. Email [treynold@mtu.edu](mailto:treynold@mtu.edu) to order your blanket. All proceeds benefit the Van Pelt Library.



### **Board of Directors (2007-2008)** **Friends of the Van Pelt Library**

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