

Views

The Newsletter of the
Friends of the Van Pelt Library
Michigan Tech University
1400 Townsend Drive, Houghton, MI 49931
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Friends Annual Membership Meeting: Unveiling the Friends' Art Commission!

Mark your calendars: The *Friends Annual Membership Meeting* will take place Thursday 30 October 2008 from 4:30-6:00 in the Opie Reading Room (where the big window is) in the Van Pelt Library. All members and the public are welcome to attend.

The speaker for the annual meeting will be Professor and artist Phyllis Fredendall of Finlandia University, who has completed a fiber-art piece that as of 21 October will occupy pride-of-place in the Opie Reading Room of the Van Pelt Library. The Fredendall commission was sought and funded by the Friends (see accompanying article).

The business meeting of the Friends will precede the talk. Nominated for Board membership are:

Don Durfee, Board member
Amy Hughes, Board member
Terry Reynolds, Board member

Nominations for officer positions are:

Open, Chairman
Don Durfee, Vice Chairman
Terry Reynolds, Treasurer
Amy Hughes, Secretary

Additional nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

Art Commission for the Van Pelt/Opie Library

Submitted by Patricia Van Pelt

For the last three years the Friends of the Van Pelt Library have been buying art for the enlarged new Van Pelt/Opie library. Works from local artists such as Joyce Koskenmaki, MaryAnn Beckwith, John Hubbard and Joe Kirkish now hang throughout the Library.

However, because of its scale, the beautiful Opie Reading Room posed a special challenge. The Friends of the Van Pelt Library therefore commissioned a large felt piece from Phyllis Fredendall, Associate Professor, Art & Design (Fiber/Fashion Design) at Finlandia University in neighboring Hancock, MI.

Phyllis had never made such a large piece. It is approximately 11' long and 5' wide. A special structure had to be designed to enable it to hang due to the weight of the piece. This brilliantly colored felt work will hang in the Opie Reading Room on the south wall, next to the large curved window and facing the front entrance to the library. This work was inspired by photographs of the old mining shafts and shaft maps that are such a part of our Keweenaw mining heritage.

Phyllis will be present at our Annual Meeting, Thursday October 30th, to talk about the process of creating this work and to answer questions.

All Are Welcome!

2008 Friends Book Sale Breaks All Records

Submitted by Eloise Haller and Terry Reynolds

The Annual Friends Book Sale, held 3-4 April 2008 in the Memorial Union Ballroom, set a new record for receipts. Between membership renewals and book sales, the event netted over \$4000 for use in Library improvement projects. Proceeds exceeded those of last year's sale by over 30%. When added to the book cart sales, it was a banner year in fundraising for the Friends.

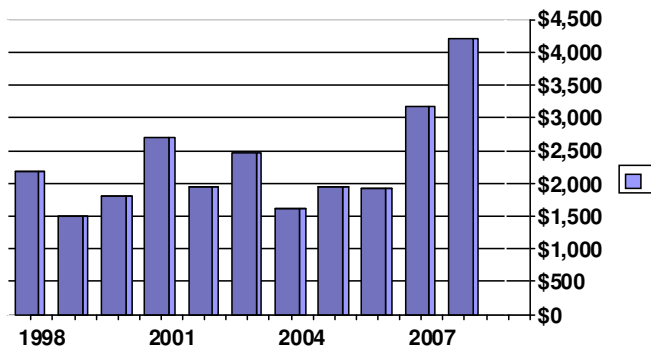


Figure 1: Proceeds from Friends Book Sale since 1998

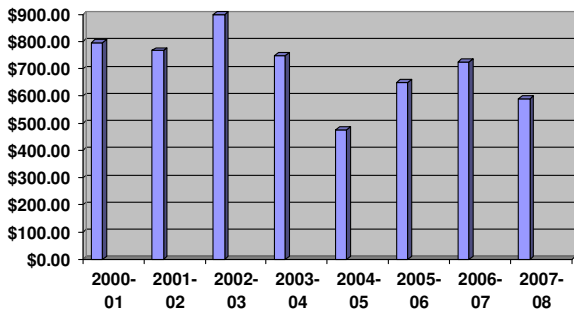


Figure 2: Proceeds from Friends Book Cart since 2000

As usual, the success of the sale depended on the hard work of Friends in classifying, pricing, and boxing the thousands of books donated and the help of our co-sponsoring student groups, Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society and the Society of Intellectual Sisters, on the days of the sale. We also very gratefully acknowledge the assistance of MTU's Facilities Management Department, who

helped move the books to and from storage, and the MTU Recycling Group, who helped us properly dispose of dated and damaged items.

Mark your calendars for the 2009 Book Sale: **the main sale will be Friday, 27 March 2009, with the Member-only Pre-Sale Thursday evening, 26 March.** Those who attend the Pre-Sale enjoy easy parking and the first choice of books, all for only a \$15 donation (\$10 for seniors and \$25 for families).

Book donations may be dropped in the collection box in the entry of the Van Pelt Library or at the Circulation Desk. Larger donations will be picked up – call or email Dana Richter (487-2149 or dlrichte@mtu.edu) to arrange for pick-up.

MTU Van Pelt Library Welcomes Interim Library Director Christa Walck

The retirement of University Librarian Phyllis Johnson in spring 2008 marks the start of a new era at the Van Pelt Library. Professor Christa Walck, outgoing Dean of the School of Business, has agreed to lead the Library for the next year as the vision is shaped for the Library of the future.

Walck met with the Friends Board in September and shared with them some of the things that have been happening in the Library and ideas that are being considered for the Library. One of the key ideas is service at the point of need, meaning that the Library is going to reach out to its constituencies to maintain and improve library services. To that end the information technology services of the Library have been outsourced. It is hoped that this will ease the burden of maintaining the electronic infrastructure in the Library.

The MTU Center for Teaching and Learning and Faculty Development under Bill Kennedy is moving

to the Library building, bringing an additional faculty resource under the same roof with the essential resources provided by the Library. In addition, distance learning programs under Patti Lins has also moved in to the building.

Other changes being pursued in the Library are some physical changes to expand the 24-hour space that is available in the Library. Walck also said that the Library is looking into using some of the twenty-two study rooms as special purpose rooms. One might be used as a student leadership learning center and another might be used for the honors institute.

Finally, Dave Brule, MTU Board of Control member, generously donated funds to purchase a fancy coffee machine for the Library. A coffee bar area will be built to house the coffee machine – perhaps on the first floor of the Library in the windowed corner. The coffee bar would serve coffee as well as some snack items. It would be managed and staffed by the Memorial Union.

These and other changes represent the beginning of exciting things at the Library. The Friends welcome Walck to the Van Pelt Library and look forward to an ongoing positive relationship with her and her Library staff.

Econo Foods “Computers for Kids” Program Starts Up for 2008

Submitted by Mary Marchaterre

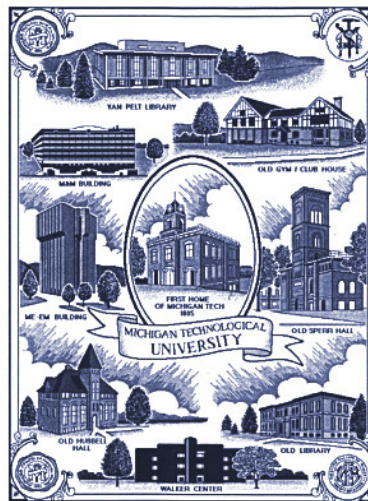
Time to collect your receipts from Econo to benefit the Van Pelt Library at MTU. Through its *Computers for Kids* program, Econo Foods donates to the Friends one percent of the sum of all Econo receipts collected. These funds are used to pay for computer systems in the library. In 2007-08, the

Friends of the Van Pelt Library collected Econo receipts that totaled \$44,639.21. As a result, Econo Foods donated \$446.39 to the Friends.

Many thanks to those who participated last year, and a big "keep it up" to all collecting receipts for 2008-09. 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 2008, through the beginning of June 2009. Please send your receipts by intercampus mail to either Mary Marchaterre (Admin 209) or Faith Morrison (Chemical Engineering - 304A Chem Sci). Every little bit helps.

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 to order your blanket. All proceeds benefit the Van Pelt Library.



www.lib.mtu.edu/friends/friends.htm