

Views

The Newsletter of the
Friends of the Van Pelt Library
Michigan Technological University
1400 Townsend Drive, Houghton, MI 49931
October 2010 Volume 15, Number 2



bonus, she will take you on a journey to the top of the south tower on dedication day.

Dr. Ahlborn, Associate Professor of Civil Engineering at Michigan Tech, has been on the faculty at Michigan Tech for 15 years and is an expert in concrete and concrete design. Dr. Ahlborn recently received the 2010 Distinguished Educator Award from the Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute (PCI). The award recognizes educators who have made significant contributions to the educational mission of the precast concrete structures industry.

As director of the Center for Structural Durability with the Michigan Tech Transportation Institute, Ahlborn researches structural concrete materials and applications related to prestressed concrete bridges. She revitalized the prestressed concrete research program with the Michigan Department of Transportation and worked extensively with MDOT to improve the durability of highway structures.

There will be a brief membership meeting preceding Dr. Ahlborn's talk. Elections will take place. Nominated for Board membership are:

Sue DesRochers
Faith Morrison
Mary Marchaterre
Karen Hubbard

Nominations for officer positions are:

Amy Hughes, Chairman
Don Durfee, Vice Chairman
Mary Marchaterre, Secretary
open, Treasurer

Additional nominations will also be accepted from the floor. Visitors are invited to become Friends through a modest donation.

Friends Annual Membership Meeting: Distinguished Engineer and Educator Tess Ahlborn to Speak

Mark your calendars: The *Friends Annual Membership Meeting* will take place Thursday 21 October 2010 from 4:30-6:00pm in the East Reading Room in the Van Pelt and Opie Library. All members as well as members of the public are welcome to attend. Speaking at the event will be Michigan Tech Associate Professor of Civil Engineering, Teresa Ahlborn. Her talk will be on "The Mighty Mac - an ASCE National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark."

The Mackinac Bridge was recently dedicated as a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark by the American Society of Civil Engineers. Professor Ahlborn will provide a brief history of the Mighty Mac and the events that led to receiving such a prestigious title. As a

A Record Friends Book Sale!

Submitted by Eloise Haller (with very minor help from Terry Reynolds)

The 2010 Friends Annual Book Sale, held 8 & 9 April in the Memorial Union Ballroom on the campus of Michigan Tech, netted over \$5,700 for Library improvement projects and travel study grants for the Archives. As evident in the accompanying graph, the 2010 sale proceeds set a record!

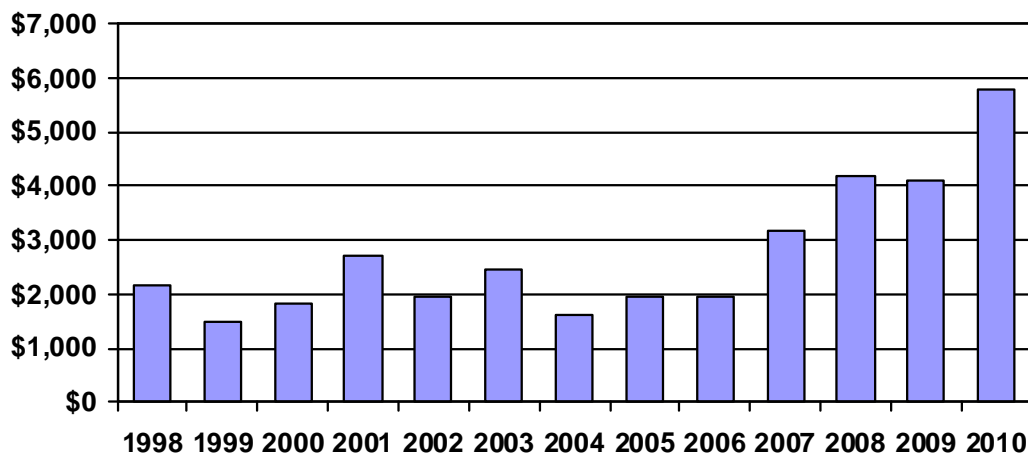


Figure 1: Proceeds from Friends Book Sale since 1998

Increased volume of book donations was one key to the sale's success, but two changes strongly contributed: uniform low book pricing and providing sale-goers a pass to park at any metered location on campus at no cost. These changes will continue for the 2011 sale, so be sure to look for your parking pass in the Spring issue of this newsletter. Deb Charlesworth, who organized the parking pass program, and Patricia Van Pelt, who championed the uniform book pricing policy, will be on the 2011 Friends Book Sale Committee along with Dana Richter, who has always traveled far and wide to pick up boxes of books for the sale. Their actions and ideas helped make the 2010 sale so outstanding.

The success of the Book Sale also depended on the hard work of the many student volunteers and the Friends Board members who classified and boxed the thousands of books donated over the course of the year. We also wish to acknowledge the help of our many student volunteers from Tau Beta Pi and the student chapter of

the AICHE who helped set up the books for the sale, and then happily returned to pack up the unsold books after the sale. Also annual thanks go to the Society of Intellectual Sisters, who were once again cashiers for the sale and who encouraged attendees to donate to cover the MI sales tax, which under the new low pricing scheme this year was absorbed into the price of the book. We also very gratefully acknowledge the assistance of members of Michigan Tech's Facilities Management Department, who helped move the books to and from storage, and the Baraga County Center of the Copper Country Mental Health Services, which provides paid skill-building for people with developmental disabilities. Workers from CCMHS recycled many of our unsold books, which provided a productive alternative to landfilling damaged and otherwise unsellable books.

Mark your calendars for the 2011 Book Sale: the main sale will be Friday, 25 March from 10 AM to 4:30 PM, with the Member-only Pre-Sale Thursday evening, 24 March from 5 to 7 PM.

Those who attend the Pre-Sale enjoy easy parking and the first choice of books, all for only a \$15 donation/ membership (\$10 for seniors and students, and \$25 for families).

Book donations are now being accepted and may be dropped in the collection box in the entry of the Van Pelt and Opie Library or call 906 487-2500 for assistance with larger donations. Larger donations can also be picked up – call or email Dana Richter (906 487-2149 or dlrichte@mtu.edu) to make arrangements.

Library Welcomes New Director Ellen Marks

reprinted from Tech Today

Ellen Marks, past director of the Shiffman Medical Library and Learning Resource Center, part of the Wayne State Library system, has been named University librarian and director of the Van Pelt and Opie Library

by Provost Max Seel. Marks started at Michigan Tech on 1 August 2010.

“The Library provides essential services and resources for research and teaching, core to the University's mission,” said Seel. “Marks’ 15 years experience as a library director in a research university and her proven ability to bring a vision into being will serve this library and the University well.”

While at Shiffman Medical School Library, Marks developed the vision statement for a \$35-million renovation and expansion of the library and information commons. She led a staff redesign of services, initiated a health information outreach program in the Detroit metro area, and taught library administration and management in Wayne State's library and information science graduate degree program.

“I'm thrilled to be joining the Michigan Tech community and specially working with the Library's outstanding staff to offer innovative and effective services to the University's stellar students and faculty,” Marks said.

Marks holds a Bachelor of Arts in English from The Ohio State University and a Master of Science in Library Science from Case Western Reserve University. She has worked at the University of Cincinnati Medical Library, State University of New York at Buffalo and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

While in Ohio, Marks was involved in early library technology projects, including OhioLink - a pioneering statewide effort for resource sharing and collection development. At Wayne State and the University of Cincinnati, she addressed initiatives supported by the National Library of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health.

In 2007-08, Marks served as fellow in the Association of Research Libraries. The prestigious fellowship program is designed to engage participants in a two-year exploration of issues facing research libraries. Her selection enabled her to explore her interest in the library's role in e-science and support for research across the disciplinary spectrum.

Since Phyllis Johnson retired as library director in 2007, Professor Christa Walck (SBE) and Ellen Seidel, head of library collection management, have served as interim directors.

Honor-System Book Cart Sales on Rise

Submitted by Terry Reynolds, outgoing Treasurer

In 2000 Friends Treasurer Terry Reynolds suggested selling donated books on a book cart located at a prominent place in the Library with sales entirely on the honors system. Patrons purchasing books would deposit funds for their purchases in a cash box bolted to the cart. There was some skepticism that the treasurer had gone mad, but the cart was given a trial and has proven successful. A few may take books without putting the requisite payment in the cash box, but the vast majority of cart patrons have honored the system, some even

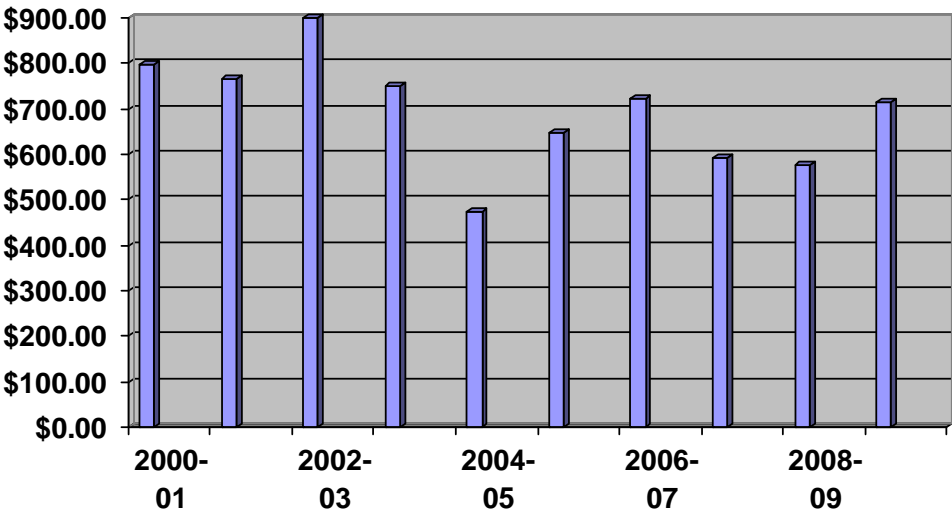


Figure 2: Book Cart Sales by Year, 2000-2010

depositing excess change from their pockets. As a group, readers are pretty honest people!!

Several members of the Friends Board – in recent years Karen Hubbard and Patricia Van Pelt – have taken responsibility for keeping the cart stocked. In its ten years of existence, the sales cart has generated almost \$7000 in support of Library projects. This past year it yielded a bit over \$700, a sum substantially above the past two years and greater than four of the last five years.

So – next time you are in the Library – take a look at the numerous reasonably priced offerings on the Friends book cart and buy several. The cart is located on the main north-south axis of the Library on the first floor near the reference desk, about half-way between the main entrance and the new reading room that faces College Avenue. *Editor's note: Terry Reynolds is serving his last year as Friends Treasurer, and we're sorry to see him go. His crazy ideas have often, improbably, born fruit! His reputation for parsimony is exceeded only by his wit and good humor. Friends interested in serving as treasurer are invited to contact any board member.*

A Sad Goodbye to Friends Board Member Richard M. Rupley,

Submitted by Dana Richter (with help from Tech Today)

Richard M. Rupley, of Chassell, Michigan, who taught military and American history in the Social Sciences Department at Michigan Tech for 13 years, passed away 5 July 2010. He was a valued member of the Friends board since 2003. Dick, as he was known to his friends, was a cordial and generous man, who was quick to joke around and fun to work with. He helped with all aspects of Friends activities, especially the book sale and Winter Carnival library fundraiser. Dick could often be found in the Library Archives searching out long forgotten facts about the Copper Country. He published articles about the Copper Country's contribution to the Civil War in *Michigan History* magazine and other journals and newsletters. History Professor and Friends Treasurer Terry Reynolds says "Dick was outstanding. He had a knack for picking out historical material that grabbed student interest, and his lecture delivery was in a 'down home,' informal style that made you feel less like you were hearing a lecture and more like you were hearing a story." Dick was also involved with the Keweenaw Chapter of the Air Force Association, the Keweenaw Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, Michigan Tech football, the Houghton Lions Club, Houghton and Keweenaw County Historical Societies, and Phi Kappa Theta - the international honor society in history. Dick will be sadly missed by many. The Friends express their

condolences to the family. Mrs. Judith Rupley has generously donated many of Dick's books for the Library used book sale next spring.

Friends Support Four Visiting Scholars

submitted by Julie Blair and Erik Nordberg

The Friends continue to provide funding for the Michigan Tech Archives Travel Grant. During the 2010 award cycle, four scholars used grant dollars to underwrite their travel to Houghton to use material held in the Archives. Each of the visiting scholars made a public presentation on their research projects.

Steven Brisson, Chief Curator for Mackinac State Historic Parks, spoke on April 14 about Frederick Charlton, the first professional architect to reside permanently in the Upper Peninsula. Over four hundred buildings are credited to Charlton, including the Marquette County Court House, the John M. Longyear House in Marquette (moved and rebuilt in Brookline, Massachusetts), and the Upper Peninsula State Hospital for the Insane at Newberry. Charlton also completed numerous projects in the Copper Country, including several buildings on the Michigan Tech campus.

Dr. Eric Nystrom spoke on July 13 with the title "Change of Plans: Blueprint Technology and the Evolution of Engineering Practice." Assistant professor of history at the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester New York, Nystrom is working on a book manuscript about the history of underground mapping and modeling in the American mining industry. His research follows the advent of blueprinting technology in the late years of the 19th century and how it gradually changed the organization, presentation, and use of visual information in the late 19th and early 20th century American industrial enterprise.

The ups and downs of iron mining around Lake Superior was the topic of the July 20 presentation by Dr. Jeff Manuel, assistant professor of history at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. Manuel discussed his research into mining communities and their response to economic challenges in the second half of the twentieth century. The economic fate of Lake Superior mining has long been tied to volatile global markets and residents in the region have experienced a roller coaster of booms

and busts during the last 60 years. Manuel's research examines how politicians, community leaders, and economists have pushed various plans to develop local economies and ensure a stable economic base for the region.

Dr. Jennifer Gunn's September 14 presentation, "Matching the Care to the Place: Medical Provision in Mining Regions, 1900 to 1950," explored her research into rural medicine and its unique manifestations in the Keweenaw Peninsula. Gunn is Associate Professor and Director of the Program in the History of Medicine at the University of Minnesota. In the Copper Country, mining companies employed doctors, built hospitals, and taxed their workers to support that medical infrastructure. Gunn's research follows how residents' expectations of health and medicine were forced to change and how new arrangements emerged for health care in small towns and rural communities to replace the industrial-dominated medicine.

Since 1998, the Friends have helped more than 25 scholars advance their research by supporting travel to the manuscript collections at the Archives. The program is intended to encourage research using the Archives' lesser known collections or to promote new methodological approaches to well-known collections. With support from the Friends of the Van Pelt Library, these scholars have published their research in the form of graduate theses and dissertations, journal articles and book publications.

Archives blog site: <http://blogs.mtu.edu/archives/>

Save Your Receipts: Econo Foods

Time to collect your receipts from Econo to benefit the Van Pelt and Opie Library at Michigan Tech. 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 2009-2010, the Friends of the Van Pelt Library collected Econo receipts that totaled \$48,302.23. As a result, Econo Foods donated \$483.02 to the Friends.

Many thanks to those who participated last year, and a big "keep it up" to all who are collecting receipts for this year. Every little bit helps.

Friends Blankets Available!

The beautiful Michigan Tech 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 Terry Reynolds (treynold@mtu.edu) to order your blanket. All proceeds benefit the Van Pelt and Opie Library.



It's time to renew your membership in the Friends of the Van Pelt Library. An envelope has been supplied for your convenience.

Membership Categories

Friend	\$15-24
Family Member	\$25-49
Benefactor	\$50-249
Book Sponsor	\$250-999
Best Friend	\$1000+

Senior Citizens and Students may join for \$10

To pay by Visa/Mastercard fill in below:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Visa/MC #: _____

expiration date: _____

Donation amount: _____

Signature: _____

To renew your membership in the Friends, please send your contribution (filled in form above or check) to:

Friends of the Van Pelt Library
c/o the Michigan Tech Fund
Michigan Technological University
1400 Townsend Drive
Houghton, MI 49931-1295

Please make all checks payable to the Michigan Tech Fund-FVPL. All contributions to the FVPL are Federal tax deductible. ***THANKS for your support of the Michigan Tech Van Pelt and Opie Library.***

Michigan residents benefit in addition from the Michigan Tax Credit. The State of Michigan allows a portion of contributions made directly to Michigan universities to be credited against state income tax. The allowable credit is 50% of the gift, but may not exceed \$200 for a joint return and \$100 for a single return.

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<http://www.lib.mtu.edu/friends/friends.htm>