

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: Prof. Hugh Gorman to Speak

Mark your calendars: The Friends Annual Membership Meeting will take place Thursday, 24 October 2013 from 4:30-6:00pm in the East Reading Room in the Van Pelt and Opie Library. All members and the public are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served.



Hugh Gorman, Professor of Environmental History and Policy in the Social Sciences department, will be giving a presentation at the Annual Meeting titled *Thinking in Cycles: A Social History of the Nitrogen Cycle and the Challenge of Sustainability*. There will be plenty of time after the presentation for questions and discussion.

Dr. Gorman uses history as a lens through which to examine the interaction of technological innovation, policy choices, and uses of the environment, with the goal being to inform efforts to construct an economy that rewards sustainable practices.

Gorman's presentation will begin after a short business meeting and elections for the Friends of the Van Pelt Library.

Nominated for Board membership are:
Karen Hubbard, Adrienne Minerick, Faith Morrison,
Mary Marchaterre

Nominations for officer positions are:
Amy Hughes, Chairman
Debra Charlesworth, Vice Chairman
Mary Marchaterre, Secretary
Kelly Luck, Treasurer

Big Changes at the Van Pelt and Opie Library: Developments Towards an Information and Learning Commons

Folks returning to campus this month and visiting the Van Pelt and Opie Library cannot fail to notice an enormous change: funky couches and lounge chairs, big display monitors, and computers, computers, computers! The changes are visible upon entrance to the Library, and they penetrate to all corners. It's steps taken towards producing a new *Information and Learning Commons*.

The idea for an *Information and Learning Commons* took shape over the summer of 2013 in Michigan Tech's Information Technology unit and implementation began in Fall 2013. All told, 250 high-power workstations are being installed in the Van Pelt and Opie Library, vastly expanding the computing power available there. This computer space replaces open laboratories that had previously been located across campus. To produce a true *Commons*, skilled assistance, provided by librarians and library staff, and funds to maintain and innovate on the *Commons* idea will be



New furniture and displays give the Van Pelt and Opie Library a hip look that adds to the comfort and welcome of the environment.

necessary. Donor partners are being sought to ensure that the complete vision of the Michigan Tech *Information and Learning Commons* at the Van Pelt and Opie Library takes shape.

The Library and its classic and new resources remain open to all members of the community that have a need for educational or research resources and tools. Each new computer in the Library offers the traditional open and anonymous library login as well as access to the MTU login for students of the university. As the Library opens for students and faculty 24/7, on October 21, the Library will provide expanded hours to members of the community: to midnight each night, opening again at 8:00 a.m. Exceptions are university holidays, winter and spring break.

The change, not without controversy, has caused quite a buzz on campus. To learn more about the project from its leaders, we quote in a subsequent article (see page 2) from the announcement from Michigan Tech's website: www.it.mtu.edu/ilc/announcement.php

In their own Words: The Architects of the Information and Learning Commons

From website: www.it.mtu.edu/ilc/announcement.php

A cooperative effort of the Michigan Tech Library and Information Technology: Initiative to Enhance Computing and Information Access Support for Michigan Tech Students

Changes in Campus Computing Environment

By
Walt Milligan, Chief Information Officer and Professor of Materials Science and Engineering
Dan deBeaubien, Chief Technology Officer
Ellen Marks, University Librarian and Director, Van Pelt and Opie Library
Max Seel, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Executive Summary

Significant changes and enhancements to Michigan Tech's computing environment are occurring to:

- Improve the academic environment, particularly for students.
- Respond to, and plan for the way students use technologies today by building an IT environment that anticipates needs for mobile, cloud and 'bring your own device' computing.

- Make the wisest use of funding for technology, the library's services and the support infrastructure.

First Phases

The first two phases of these plans are affecting what are known as the 'open labs' and subsequent repurposing of these spaces based on positive responses to the distributed wireless lounges established recently. Spaces within Van Pelt and Opie Library will be used for high performance workstations, ergonomically supportive furniture and, as part of the library's plans for its transformation, 24-hour services, collaborative furniture and improved wireless, electrical and network supply. Throughout the campus, computer-based classrooms are being upgraded to enhance teaching and learning. We concentrate here on these phases but commit to improved communication from IT with regards to its developing strategies and from the library with regards to its services and spaces.

Evolving Computing and Use Trends in Academia

Delivering the software, tools and information resources that students need requires a mix of powerful desktop, laptop and mobile devices as they evolve. Our ideal is a 'bring your own device' paradigm for computing, information access and learning – an anywhere, anytime model. Our first phases represent the beginning of this transformation: At Georgia Tech and Virginia Tech, students are required to purchase their own laptops and specialized software is delivered to students free-of-charge. IT has already taken steps to develop a network environment that can support this type of 'plug and play' model. And, just as *Canvas*, our new Learning Management System resides in the cloud, on Amazon's Web Services, an increasing number of software and other programs will be delivered through the cloud, turning all types of devices – from tablets to smartphones - into terminals.

Technological and economic considerations and licensing restrictions are actively being balanced to produce an ideal environment for Michigan Tech.

Repurposing of Labs

The changes that affect the distributed, open labs have not been taken lightly. Our considerations have included economic and support matters and are based on careful review of usage data.

Van Pelt and Opie Library

The library continues to evolve as the intellectual heart of the campus with its spaces largely devoted to student study and collaboration needs as library resources, particularly those supporting STEM fields, are published only in digital formats albeit at higher cost. Collaborating with IT for an improved technology environment enables the library to focus its funds on collections and its variety of services. With the new and

expanded *Jackson Center for Teaching and Learning*, an emerging Experimental Teaching Incubator and the importance of our librarians focus on information literacy education, the library's vision of transforming its physical spaces to an Information and Learning Commons will offer the expertise, technologies and support infrastructure capable of dynamically staying current with student and faculty needs today and tomorrow. A commons represents the collective expertise and services from library staff, IT staff and those of the Center for Teaching and Learning.

For more, see the report in its entirety at this link:
www.it.mtu.edu/ilc/announcement.php

For the report on this change that appeared in the Michigan Tech Lode (the student newspaper), go to issuu.com/michigantechlode/docs/final_100813
The article begins on page 2.

Update on the University Archives

Submitted by University Librarian Ellen Marks

The end of October marks one year since the fire and water damaged the stacks of the University Archives. The majority of the material was saved due to the quick action and dedication of the archives and library staff. Faculty and students of the Social Sciences Department and experts and partners from the Park Service all made it possible to send nearly 800 wet or damp boxes to a freezer facility in Wisconsin on the night of the fire. The next step, sending all materials to be freeze dried and assessed for damage, was delayed due to Hurricane Sandy as such facilities filled up throughout the country.

Since all the boxes were returned, a team of archives staff began the laborious process of re-filing, re-boxing and inventorying the returned materials. The official recovery ended on September 30 and the staff is in the final stages of completing the inventory and returning the materials to the shelves. Students, scholars and visitors can feel confident that the archivists will be able to support their work. A small amount of material was lost to this disaster; the details of the loss will be reported to those interested in November 2013.

The archives is fully back in business under the leadership of Interim University Archivist Julie Blair who is working on, among other projects, the travel to collections grants donated by the Friends of the Library and preparations for the scholarly symposium on the strike to be held in the spring, also supported, in part, by

the Friends. On a light note, Archivist Beth Russell has been invited to New York City to share her wisdom and lessons learned and will be presenting a paper called "Sandy Who?" Congratulations to the dedicated staff of the Archives for their diligence and great humor.

Book Sale will be 1-2 April

The Friends Annual Used Book Sale is scheduled for Tuesday, 1 April (no fooling!) and Wednesday, 2 April 2014 in the Memorial Union Ballroom on Michigan Tech's campus. As a member of the Friends, during the evening pre-sale you will enjoy early shopping, easy (and free!) parking, and the best selection on Tuesday from 5:00-7:00PM. Don't forget to renew your membership!

On Wednesday, the sale continues at 10:00AM with a new selection of withdrawn books from the J.R. Van Pelt and Opie Library, and ends with the bag sale from 3:00-4:00PM. Due to changes in parking regulations on campus, we will no longer be able to provide complimentary parking during hours when parking rules are enforced (7am-4pm). Visitors to campus may park at any metered space for \$0.75/hour or in lot #27 (just west of the Memorial Union) for \$3/day. The book sale uses standardized pricing for the majority of books, with hardback books priced at \$2 and quality paperback books for \$1. Mass market paperbacks (the ones that fit in your back pocket) are a bargain at 50 cents. Antique or special sets are priced separately.

If you cannot wait for the book sale to stock your shelves, stop into the Library during normal operating hours to grab a cup of coffee and check out the book cart where we have books for sale, or visit our mini book sale during Winter Carnival and enjoy complimentary hot cocoa and cookies (Saturday, 8 February 2014).

Book sale revenues have been over \$4,000 for the last five years, generating funds to support numerous projects, including supporting the purchase of the large scanner in the Library, funding of travel study grants, and special funding to support the Archives Symposium about the 1913 Copper Strike.

If your bookshelves are bulging, and you need to make room for new books, please consider donating your used books and media for the book sale. You can drop books off in the foyer of the Library, or contact Dana Richter (dlrichte@mtu.edu, 487-2149) for assistance with picking up larger donations.

Save Econo Receipts for the

Library: There are drop boxes in the Chemical Engineering office (203 Chem Sci), the Chemistry office (607 Chem Sci), at the Library, in the coffee area in the 3rd floor of Citizen's, and they can also be sent by campus mail to Amy Hughes at Lakeshore Center.

Friends of the Van Pelt Library
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Michigan Technological University
1400 Townsend Drive
Houghton, MI 49931-11295
www.lib.mtu.edu/friends/

It's time to renew your membership in the Friends of the Van Pelt Library.

Membership Categories

Friend	\$20-49
Family Member	\$50-99
Benefactor	\$100-249
Book Sponsor	\$250-999
Best Friend	\$1000+

Senior Citizens and Students may join for \$15

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Donation amount: _____

To renew your membership in the Friends, please go to www.lib.mtu.edu/friends or send your contribution with this form 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. **THANK YOU for your support of the Michigan Tech Library.**