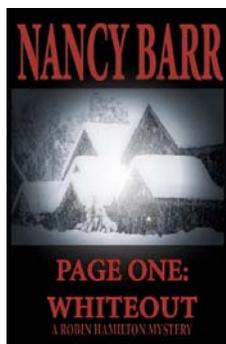


Views

The Newsletter of the
Friends of the Van Pelt Library
Michigan Technological University
1400 Townsend Drive, Houghton, MI 49931
October 2014 Volume 19, Number 2

Annual Meeting of the Friends: Local Mystery Writer, Nancy Barr

Mystery and intrigue is on the agenda for the Annual membership meeting of the Friends of the Van Pelt Library at Michigan Tech. Please join us Thursday, October 23rd, 4:30-6:00pm, Van Pelt and Opie Library, East Reading room for a brief meeting, refreshments, and a presentation from local mystery writer, Nancy Barr. All members and the public are welcome to attend.



Now an employee in the Mechanical Engineering-Engineering Mechanics Department at Michigan Technological University, Barr worked as an award-winning newspaper reporter and editor for 10 years, drawing upon that experience for her books, which are all set in the U.P. and explore the realm of small town journalism, community and crime.

Barr's presentation will begin after a short business meeting and elections for the Friends of the Van Pelt Library. Three candidates are nominated to the board: Don Durfee, Amy Hughes, and Holly Nemiroff. Nominations for officer positions are:

Amy Hughes, Chairman
Susan Martin, Vice Chairman
Mary Marchaterre, Secretary
Kelly Luck, Treasurer

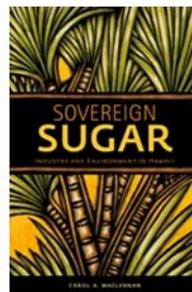
Yes, Take Us to Hawai'i Professor MacLennan!

Susan Martin, FVPL Board Member

On September 30, Dr. Carol A. MacLennan (Professor of Anthropology-Social Sciences) opened the fall FVPL lecture series with an absorbing account of the research behind her recent book *Sovereign Sugar: Industry and Environment in Hawai'i* (2014, University of Hawai'i Press). Her research



approach connects local cases of historic industrial and environmental processes with globally important topics such as landscape formation and change, political/economic sovereignty struggles, and deindustrialization.



The Hawaiian case is important for several reasons. MacLennan pointed out that much of the physical appearance of the Hawaiian Islands is the direct result of long-term intensifying agricultural practices including indigenous horticulture,

If you're a fan of the likes of Lord Peter Wimsey, Kinsey Millhone or Miss Marple, you may have wondered what goes on in the author's imagination when she creates characters such as these. Using examples from her own work and some classic mysteries, novelist Nancy Barr will discuss how

authors develop characters and plots in a talk titled "Vixens, Villains and Red Herrings: The Art of Crafting Mystery." Barr is the author of *Page One: Hit and Run*, *Page One: Vanished* and the last in the trilogy, *Page One: Whiteout*. The series has received nationwide acclaim from publications such as "Library Journal", the "Green Bay Press Gazette", and the "Lansing State Journal."



"I'm often asked about the origin of my ideas and certain characters," Barr said. "Since the novels are set in real places, readers often assume the characters are based on real people. The reality is that my characters are an amalgamation of traits, inspired by any number of experiences I've had or people I've met."

animal ranching, and plantation monoculture of sugar and pineapples. Secondly, insular physical geographies are by continental standards rather fragile, so impacts of environmental change can be particularly severe in island settings. Finally, the ownership patterns and practices of recent Hawaiian economic development, dominated by the U.S. Department of Defense and the tourism industry, have their roots in the sugar industry's land and water ownership patterns. The sugar industry, though derelict, has shaped the contemporary Hawaiian landscape.

To understand the evolution of the contemporary Hawaiian landscape, MacLennan used traditional anthropological research methods while "studying up," focusing her investigations in part upon the families and institutions of power that controlled 19th century Hawaii. She found that a mere four families and five companies were key to the development of the Hawaiian plantation economy. Moreover, the 'memberships' of these families and companies were interlocked, so extreme concentration of economic power was the result. Her book tells the story of the environmental outcomes of the historic expansion of the sugar industry and the remnant environmental and social impacts of its rise and demise. MacLennan's lecture added to our understanding of how and why Michigan Tech researchers become engaged with their work; her research results yielded a more complete understanding of the landscape and economy of 21st century Hawai'i.

Friends Art Collection Grows

The Friends of the Van Pelt Library supports and grows the Library's collection of local and local-influenced art. Pieces may be found throughout the Library.

Three new pieces have joined the collection. The first was a donation from Patricia Van Pelt and Peter Van Pelt, both former board members and always supporters of the Friends. The piece is a photograph by Jean-Paul Bourdier, called "LMDB," and it won "Best in Show" at the 1998 Copper Country Gallery Exhibition. Long on display at their Eagle Harbor home, Bourdier's work was donated to the Friends collection at the time of their move to Massachusetts in the



"LMDB" (1998) by Jean-Paul Bourdier, recently joined the Friends Art collection. Image with permission of the artist.

summer of 2014. Bourdier is currently Professor of Design, Drawing and Photography in the Department of Architecture at University of California, Berkeley. Initially this piece will be displayed on the first floor, over the book return station. Many thanks to Patricia and Peter for this delightful way to mark their association with the Library and the Friends.

In addition to the Van Pelt donation, the Friends purchased two new paintings for the collection. "Patterns," is a realistic acrylic painting of Lake Superior stones in a frame the color of driftwood. This painting, by local artist Susan Robinson, graces a south-facing wall just to the right as one passes through the main library entrance.

The second new painting is "Lake's Edge," a watercolor by Michigan Tech professor emerita Mary Ann Beckwith. This lovely piece is a silhouette of trees and water and is displayed on the second floor, in the central region, near the QC5's of the reference collection (ask a librarian to help you find this!).

The purpose of the art collection is to support local artists and to share these splendid pieces with the community. "The Friends Art Collection is just stunning," says Professor Anne Beffel, Chair, Department of Visual and Performing Arts at Michigan Tech. "I think it's one of the best library collections I've ever seen. The presence of this work, much of it by our community members, is transformative." For Library hours, see www.mtu.edu/library/about/hours/.

Michigan Tech University Archives Seminar

Michigan Tech Archives and Copper Country Collection Press Release

Please join us for a presentation by visiting scholar Camden Burd at 4:00 pm on Tuesday, October 14 in the East Reading Room of the Van Pelt and Opie Library on the Michigan Technological University campus. This event is free of charge and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

In this presentation, Burd will address an environmental approach to the history of natural resource extraction in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Where once the Upper Peninsula was a booming industrial region, it is now a draw for vacationers to experience its sprawling forests and apparent wilderness. Between this era of environmental degradation and natural appreciation, there were disputes over the future of the U.P.'s environments. In the midst of the environmental movement of the 1960s and 1970s many voices attempted to understand, define, and direct how the Upper Peninsula would be perceived by future generations. This talk examines the different voices of the environmental movement and show the complexities behind today's UP environmental identity.

Camden Burd is a Ph.D. student at the University of Rochester where he studies American Environmental History. He earned

his MA in History from Central Michigan University and BA of History from the University of Utah. He has received numerous travel funds from Central Michigan University and was the recipient of the Grace H. Magnaghi Visiting Research Grant at Northern Michigan University to study the environmental perceptions of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Originally from Grand Rapids, Michigan he is especially interested in the environments of the Great Lakes Region and the connection between people and place.

Burd's research visit and presentation are supported by a travel grant from the Friends of the Van Pelt Library. Since 1988, the Michigan Technological University Archives Travel Grant program has helped scholars advance their research by supporting travel to the manuscript collections at the Archives.

For more information, feel free to call the Michigan Tech Archives at 906-487-2505, email at copper@mtu.edu, or visit on the web at www.lib.mtu.edu/mtuarchives/.

Updates from the Library

Ellen Marks, Library Director

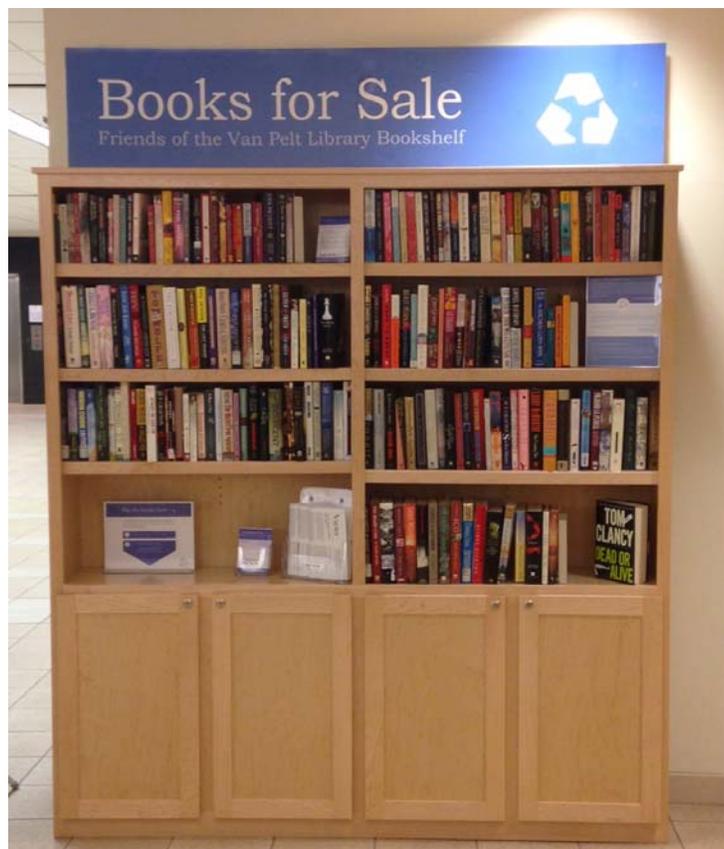
Continued improvements for a student-centered library. A generous gift from John and Ruanne Opie is making it possible for the library to transform its second floor into a learning commons supporting discovery-based learning, student collaboration and group work. The importance of confident, productive student teamwork is a hallmark of John Opie's vision. The learning commons added to the other improvements made within the library enables us to come close to realizing the vision Provost Seel had nearly a decade ago for the entire library. The most important change will be the addition of a variety of flexible furniture and tools to support student collaboration and creativity, capable of ad-hoc arrangement and re-arrangement in ways that support student learning styles and preferences. A new home for the Patent and Trademark Resource Center that will also serve as a consultation area and better arrangement of our existing equipment is being planned. One of the library's instruction rooms has been designed to support active and blended learning and this state-of-the-art learning environment adds to the Experimental Education Environment, the place for faculty to test different technology-enhanced pedagogical ideas. The redesign of one group study room to serve as a model for students to test prior to making significant changes in other study rooms is also planned.

Library Hours. Modifications to the library hours have been made based on in-depth data collection from October 2013 through August 2014. For members of the community, the library hours have increased by an additional hour Monday through Thursday. Evening hours on Friday and

Saturday are slightly reduced from last year. Our hours and exceptions may be found at www.mtu.edu/library

Books are flying off the shelves

The Friends new Bookshelf, that is. The Bookshelf, located in the Van Pelt and Opie Library near the Library and IT Service Center, has gently-used books for sale, and it is restocked regularly with popular fiction and nonfiction books that have been donated to the Friends. Sales have doubled over the summer, and all proceeds go to support the Library. The Bookshelf is operated on the honor system, and all books are clearly marked with our super-low prices. There is a slot on the lower shelf for payment and change is available from the Circulation side of the Service Center. Econo Foods receipts can also be placed in the payment slot. Stop by the Bookshelf soon to stock up with books for the winter ahead!



The Friends *Always Open* Book Sale has a new home in this lovely piece of furniture purchased by the Friends. The new signage is courtesy of the Library (Many thanks to Randy Harrison for graphical design work).

Friends Membership, Blankets, and Notecards
Available Online www.lib.mtu.edu/friends

Friends of the Van Pelt Library
Van Pelt and Opie Library
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.***