



VIEWS

The Newsletter of the
Friends of the Michigan Tech Library
Michigan Tech University
1400 Townsend Drive, Houghton, MI 49931
—<http://lib.sites.mtu.edu/friends/>—
October 2020 Volume 25, Number 2

Friends Annual Meeting: 27 October 2020 on Zoom

The Friends of the Michigan Tech Library will hold their 2020 Annual Meeting on Tuesday, 27 October 2020 from 5:00-6:00 p.m. on Zoom. All members and the public are invited to attend. There will be a short business meeting, and then participants are welcome to ask questions about what the Friends are up to in this time of pandemic concerns.

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android:
<https://michigantech.zoom.us/j/88235898240>

Or Telephone: Dial: US: +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799
or +1 646 876 9923 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799
or +1 669 900 6833 (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location). Please join us!

Friends Celebrate 25 Years

by the Collective Memory of the Friends

The Friends of the Michigan Tech Library was formed in 1995 so are celebrating our 25th year of supporting the Library in its role as the heart of our community.

The original idea of forming a Michigan Tech Friends of the Library group came from Library Director, Phyllis Johnson (see obituary this issue). The idea of establishing “Friends groups” was well established for public libraries at the time, but the idea of a Friends group for an academic library was less well known. Johnson rounded up a group of like-minded individuals who loved books and libraries and who recognized the essential role that libraries play in a well-informed community. She brought to the meeting some best practices and tricks-of-the-trade elucidated in materials from the Friends of Libraries U.S.A. (FOLUSA), a group that is now part of the American Library Association’s organization, United for Libraries.

The group gathered by Johnson readily agreed to the value of forming a Friends organization at the University and immediately set to drafting the mission and bylaws of the Friends. The organization was able to take advantage of the tax-exempt status of the University, which greatly simplified the paperwork needed to create the Friends. Membership level and dues were established with the promise that all proceeds from the Friends would be used solely to benefit the University Library and its patrons, especially the students. When formed, the group was known as the Friends of the J.

Robert Van Pelt Library, Van Pelt having been president of the university from 1956 to 1964.

The first VIEWS Newsletter of the Friends was published March 1996 and reported on the inaugural annual meeting of the Friends, which was held November 30, 1995. The meeting was held at the home of University President Curt and Mrs. Kathy Tompkins. Board members were appointed and officers were elected: Faith Morrison, Chair and Newsletter editor; June Hawthorne, vice Chair; Edward Yarbrough, Secretary; Nancy Fisher, Treasurer; and members A. Kim Hoagland, George Love, Betzabe Praeger, Terry Reynolds, Peter Van Pelt, Raymond Yarbrough, Phyllis Johnson, University Librarian (ex officio) and Fred Dobney, Provost (ex officio). Board members came from within the library and other departments on campus and included numerous interested community members.

The library has had two names, initially the J. Robert Van Pelt Library, named for the former Michigan Tech president, as noted above. One of the founding members of the Friends is Peter Van Pelt, son of J. R. Van Pelt. Patricia Van Pelt, Dr. Van Pelt’s daughter-in-law, also served on the Friends’ board some years later and was instrumental in the establishing the Library’s art collection and display. A donation from the Opie family made possible the doubling of the library’s space and also funded the complete renovation of the facility in 2006. In recognition of this substantial contribution, the name of the library was changed to the J. Robert Van Pelt and John and Ruanne Opie Library. The large library addition that now fronts Townsend Drive is known as the Opie Library, and serves as 24-hour space. The wide expanse of windows in the Opie Library creates a kind of living room of the University, used for study, relaxation, and it is also a popular location for celebrations and receptions. As a result of these changes at the library, the Friends were renamed simply the “Friends of the Michigan Tech Library” in 2016.

One of the first Friends’ fundraising projects was to adopt the Library’s “sometimes annual” book sale, an every-year-or-so event at which library discards and used book donations were sold to the public. The Friends took on the sale and increased the number of used books solicited from the faculty, staff, students, and the public to create a substantial fundraiser. The book sales have been very successful, allowing the Friends to support a wide variety of library needs over the last 25 years. The book sales also attract local book lovers as patrons, supplying their “fix” for books and other media in our otherwise rather sparse region in terms of used bookstores.

Book sellers from as far away as Chicago have become regulars at the spring book sales.

The annual book sale is the largest fundraiser of the year for the Friends, but there are many other activities. Nancy Fisher was responsible for the design and production of our Michigan Tech Blanket, a blue and white afghan featuring historical university buildings that has been a popular graduation present (see the Friends website to purchase one yourself!). Fisher also chose images from the Michigan Tech Archives and Copper Country Historical Collection to make the Friends' notecards, another popular fundraiser. Terry Reynolds contributed significant local historical expertise to both the afghan and notecard projects, as well as serving for many years as our treasurer (with a reputation for being very "pennywise," if you get my drift!). In addition to the spring book sale, there is also a smaller book sale and cookie giveaway (where we solicit donations for the library as well) at Winter Carnival time and an ongoing honor-system book sale in the library in the form of the Friends' bookshelf.

We thank our many members, volunteers, library staffers, and board members who have been part of the Friends of the Michigan Tech Library over all these years. They have helped make the Friends the vibrant and effective organization that it is today, one that has benefitted the library financially (\$110,000 and counting), and in ways that can't be measured in dollars alone. We look forward to the next 25 years.

Accomplished with the support of the Friends:

J. R. Van Pelt Library

- Refitted and equipped at least six group study rooms at a time when group study rooms were a very rare commodity on this campus
- Provided the library with furniture for student lounge
- Provided library furniture in reference area
- Provided counters for public access computers

Opie and Van Pelt Library

- Purchased six laptop computers for student use
- Purchased extensive artwork for library walls
- Purchased iPad and Kindle readers and some eBooks to acquaint library staff with the new technology
- Helped fund development of instructional videos for library use
- Helped fund photo display near the Archives

Continuing projects

- Help library purchase paperback book collection
- Fund popular book collection – hardbacks of year's leading fiction and non-fiction sellers
- Fund Archives Travel Awards – bring in scholars to use the Michigan Tech Archives and benefit the community more generally by providing speakers on local history subjects (one of our leading contributions)

The Friends have also,

- Purchased picture frames
- Purchased specialized book purchases in specialized areas (e.g., Native American studies)

- Purchased microfilm of the *Marquette Mining Journal* newspaper from 1868-1896 for Archives
- Provided mini-grants through the Archives to local groups doing projects using Archives
- Funded internships both in the Library and the Archives for specific projects
- Funded books to boost the start of new academic programs
- Funded books based on faculty/staff recommendations promoted online (Michigan Tech Reads)

Friends Book Sales planned in 2021

The Friends annual Winter Carnival book sale and free hot chocolate and cookies event is scheduled to be held in the lobby of the Van Pelt and Opie Library of Michigan Technological University on Saturday, 6 February 2021. This event is likely to be modified to be "pandemic friendly."

Our annual Spring book sale is scheduled to be held in the Ballroom of the Memorial Union Building the evening of Thursday, 25 March 2021 for members of the Friends of the Michigan Tech Library. The sale is open to everyone on Friday, 26 March 2021.

All campus health and safety practices will be followed for the book sales and all Friends events.

Please check the Friends web site for news on these events:

<http://lib.sites.mtu.edu/friends/news/>.

New Library Director Announced

The search for a new director of the J. Robert Van Pelt and John and Ruanne Opie Library is finally complete. Erin Matas, previously the faculty engagement and research support librarian in the Van Pelt and Opie Library, has accepted the library director position effective 23 August 2020.

Matas completed her master's degree at the University of Michigan School of Information in 2006, and since then has built a diverse professional record in academic, legal, and corporate libraries and archives in the United States and Belgium.

Matas's work at Michigan Tech over the last six years has primarily focused on developing and promoting a library research support program that meets the full range of research needs of Michigan Tech students, faculty, and staff.

In her new position as director, Matas will be the representative of the library within and outside of the University. She will guide the development of a clear strategic direction that helps ensure that the library is prepared to serve the University well into the future. Welcome Director Matas!

Update from the Archives

by Lindsay Hiltunen, University Archivist

Despite the many changes brought on by the pandemic, there are still great things happening on the Garden Level of the Van Pelt and Opie Library! The Michigan Tech Archives has been busy moving forward with collections work and has provided remote research assistance throughout the summer. In August, the reading room was reopened, on an appointment-only basis, from 1-5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Appointments may be requested by calling (906) 487-2505 or by filling out the request form on the archives website: <https://www.mtu.edu/library/archives/>.

The Archives is excited to announce progress on several recent grant projects. Last year the department was awarded a National Film Preservation Foundation grant to digitize two Winter Carnival film reels. The project work was recently completed by Colorlab in Rockville, Maryland, and we hope to find a way to debut the digitized films at Winter Carnival 2021. The Archives was also recently awarded a grant from the Michigan Humanities Council for \$12,000 to conduct an exhibit, oral history, and community scanning event around the centennial anniversary of the Huskies varsity hockey program. Stay tuned for more details later this year or in early 2021.

While many programs and initiatives have been full steam ahead, the annual archives Travel Grant program, which is supported generously by the FMTL, has been postponed for this year. All applicants have been informed and were instructed to reapply in the new cycle next year.

Don't forget, October is American Archives Month, so be sure to celebrate the archives or do a kindness for your favorite archives staffers! You can join in the fun by participating in our virtual event, #AskAnArchivist day on October 7, by tweeting us with the hashtag or posting a question on our Facebook page. You can find us on Twitter at @mtuarchives and on Facebook by searching Michigan Tech Archives.

For more information about archives collections or services, please reach us at copper@mtu.edu.

In Memoriam: Phyllis Johnson, Former Library Director

by Faith Morrison, FMTL

Phyllis Hunt Johnson, former library director of the Van Pelt and Opie Library, passed away on 10 August 2020 following a short illness. Phyllis was an indefatigable library supporter, including being the organizer of the original 1995 meeting that resulted in the founding of the Friends of the Michigan Tech Library (then the Friends of the Van Pelt Library).

Phyllis Johnson was born in San Francisco and grew up in a military family that moved often in her youth. She held a bachelor's degree from Western Kentucky University (Bowling Green) and a master's degree in library science from Farleigh Dickinson University (New Jersey). Johnson joined Michigan Tech as library director in 1989. At Michigan Tech, in addition to her role in founding the Friends, Johnson oversaw the library expansion project that resulted in the building of the 2006 Opie addition and the complete renovation of the original library building. Her tenure as director also coincided with a period of significant expansion of online library resources.

Phyllis retired from Michigan Tech in 2008 and lived on the water in Chassell and traveled a bit. She was an avid participant in the Canal Run, where she and her friends formed a colorful group that proved that fitness and community know no age boundaries. Additional details may be found in her obituary in the 12 August 2020 *Daily Mining Gazette*. Phyllis Johnson leaves a legacy at Tech of the love of libraries and books, a legacy that is carried forward by the Michigan Tech Library staff and patrons and by its Friends.

Meet the Graduate Student FMTL Board Member

My name is Adam Pringle and I am a fourth year graduate student completing my PhD in MSE (Materials Science and Engineering). I am the GSG (Graduate Student Government) representative for the MSE department as well as the GSG liaison to the FMTL (Friends of the Michigan Tech Library) group. I am a part of the ARC (Alloy Research Central) group working under Dr. Paul Sanders, and also the MOST (Michigan Tech's Open Sustainability Technology Lab) group under Dr. Joshua Pearce. My research focuses on utilizing 3D-printing for traditionally manufactured aluminum alloys. I have great academic and personal interest in any form of 3D printing. I also enjoy snowboarding, hiking, gaming, reading, and learning.

Friends Donor Hall of Fame (2020 October Edition)

The books for the Friends book sale come from generous donors, and we are grateful for their contributions. We seek to thank them by name, beginning with the list below of donors whose books were donated since the last newsletter. For the many, **many** donors of years past, thank you too for your generosity and for your support of the library.

Lynn Artman	Nancy & Bruce Seely
Kathy Halvorsen	Michelle Seguin
Peg & Jim Hertel	Martha Sloan
A. Kim Hoagland	Kim & Gary Tunstall
Travis Howard	

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Website: lib.sites.mtu.edu/friends/

It is time to renew your membership in the Friends of the Michigan Tech Library.

Membership Categories

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

Senior Citizens (65+) and Students may join for \$15

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Donation Amount: _____

To renew your membership in the Friends, please go to lib.sites.mtu.edu/friends/ or send your contribution with this form to:

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

Send us your email and receive our newsletter electronically. Email fmorriso@mtu.edu.

Please make all checks payable to the Michigan Tech Fund-FMTL. All contributions to the FMTL are tax deductible on your federal return. **THANK YOU for your support of the Michigan Tech Library.**