



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/>—
March 2022 Volume 27, Number 1

Round 2: Friends Annual Meeting Held on Zoom

The Friends of the Michigan Tech Library held their 2021 Annual Meeting on Tuesday, 21 October 2021 from 4:30–5:30 p.m. on Zoom. There was a short business meeting and then the assembled were introduced to the speaker, Faith Morrison, by board member Steven Walton. Morrison, an emeritus faculty member in the chemical engineering department, is a specialist in polymer rheology, which is a word that is unfamiliar to most. Walton took this opportunity to share his own research on the word *rheology*: the science of the deformation and flow of matter. With great humor, Walton connected rheology, Play-Doh™, and ancient Greek. And Halloween.

Morrison’s talk introduced her third book, *Uncertainty Analysis for Engineers and Scientists* (Cambridge, 2021) and was well received. For the nonscientist, the takeaway is that all numbers arrived at from measurements have uncertainty, and we need good estimates of uncertainty limits to make good decisions. The talk is available on Morrison’s YouTube channel (<https://youtu.be/6FYjHQgMr70>). The full recording of the talk (introduction included) is available via the [Friends website](#).

We hope to return to having a face-to-face annual meeting in October 2022.

Friends Book Sales in 2022

The Friends Annual Winter Carnival book sale was held in the lobby of the Van Pelt and Opie Library of Michigan Technological University on Saturday, 12 February 2022. This event, like last year’s, was modified to be “pandemic friendly.” Volunteers and patrons wore their masks and browsed book carts set up for the event. Cookies (wrapped for hygiene) and hot chocolate were provided for free. The sale’s proceeds and all donations (over \$800 this year) benefit the Van Pelt and Opie Library.

Our annual Spring book sale is scheduled for 1 April 2022 (10am-4pm), with a Friends-only presale the day before (March 31, 5-7pm). The sale will take place provided that health and safety measures may be followed. The popular \$5 bag sale returns Friday from 3-4pm



Some of the volunteers for the Friends Winter Carnival sale included Pat Martin, Steve Walton, and Dana Richter. Behind these Friends is the Library’s Black History Month display. See page 3 for more photos.

Update from the Archives

by Lindsay Hiltunen, University Archivist

The Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections are pleased to welcome our Friends of the Michigan Tech Library intern, Samuel Ora. Samuel was selected after a competitive national call for applicants. While in Houghton, he will be assisting in the arrangement, cleaning, description, and promotion of a significant bank records collection in the Michigan Tech Archives. Sam is from Midland, Michigan with a Bachelor’s in Computer Science from Central Michigan University and just finished his Master’s in Library and Information Science from University of Kentucky. When not working in the archives, you can find him with a good book in hand, particularly history, literature, or religion, or helping out at St. Albert’s church. He’s excited to explore the Copper Country and really get to know what winter in the U.P. is all about!

In addition to our busy reading room, which remains open by appointment, the department has also been active on collaborative projects. The entire staff has been helping with the *Bad Info* initiative, which is a Michigan Humanities Council grant-funded project through the Tech Department of Humanities that provides programming and workshops to help

people identify bad and misinformation as well as discover tools and methods for critically engaging with information. The Archives hosted a free event in the Archives Reading Room on February 24th, “Archives and Questions of Truth,” as part of *Bad Info* programming.

Other recent collaborations with the College of Engineering and the University’s Wikipedian-in-Residence, Cynthia Hodges have led to several programs and some new donations of material. Our university archivist recently broke the attendance record for her January 24th Husky Bites presentation on the history of Winter Carnival, with almost 300 people attending. A Wikipedia Edit-a-Thon on January 29th to tie in with the Winter Carnival theme was also a success, with a dozen students and staff updating university Wikipedia pages.

If you have any questions regarding archives services and collections, please reach out to (906) 487-2505 or e-mail us at copper@mtu.edu. The Michigan Tech Archives can also be found on Twitter: @mtuarchives, Instagram: michigantecharchives, and Facebook.

Donor Hall of Fame (March 2022 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, with the list below indicating those whose books were donated since the last newsletter. (If we missed you, we’re sorry! We’d like to make amends; please let us know.) For the many, **many** donors of years past, thank you too for your generosity and for your support of the library.

Cathy Essenmacher
Peg & Jim Hertel
Travis Howard
Shiela Kaipio
Kelly & Rudy Luck
Faith Morrison & Tom Co
Robin & Blair Orr
Sarah Scarlett
Bruce Seely
Martha Sloan

Navigating through COVID at the Library

by Pattie Luokkanen, Associate Director VP&O Library

Beginning in March 2020, our library faced unprecedented upheavals due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was a unique and challenging time as rapid changes in the world, in our state, and on the Michigan Tech campus tossed us into a time of uncertainty. Fortunately, we were in a position technologically to adapt quickly and strategize to continue to offer library services to our campus community.

The library was closed from 16 March to 14 June 2020. For the first week we were closed but staff could still work in the building. By March 24th, everyone had to shelter in place. Library staff had to quickly transition to working remotely. It created a bit of a scramble as we quickly determined what items from our offices we would need to successfully work from home. We were able to stay in communication thanks to our messaging app, Slack, and quickly learned to adapt to virtual meetings using Zoom.

The library system was updated to extend due dates and turn off overdue notifications to patrons. To assist faculty and staff across campus that did not have access to a laptop, all library laptops were sent to the Information Technology Department (IT). IT created a shared spreadsheet with the library so the laptops could be tracked in the library system. Only a few people were allowed to enter the building after the shut-down began. Book returns were emptied weekly, and books sat waiting to be shelved. The library mail was picked up weekly and stacked on shelves in an office until we were allowed to work in the building again.

The Resources Access and Discovery Services team learned that many publishers were opening up their electronic collections of books and journals. They took on this extra workload to make them available as collections discoverable through our library catalog. Additionally, they transitioned formerly physical processes to fully electronic such as processing invoices and acquiring electronic signatures.

The Technology and Innovation Team worked on a special project during the library shutdown, and beyond, creating thousands of face shields for community health workers using 3D printers in the library. Collaborating with Mechanical Engineering and the Physics departments, they also created a design for faculty to use in the classrooms and created hundreds of shields for campus use.

Reference and Research Services were offered by phone, text, chat, email, and Zoom consultations. A Libguide was created on our library website to keep our patrons informed of the changes to library services, complete with an FAQ. Library staff worked with instructors to promote and ease access to eBooks and electronic course reserves to minimize disruptions to student learning. Library instruction activities moved entirely online during this time. Librarians collaborated with instructors to develop a combination of Zoom sessions, recordings, and tutorials that focused on information literacy skills and remote access to library resources. The Archives also expanded remote research capacity during this time to accommodate requests while the reading room was closed.

Upon returning to the library in June 2021, the first order of business was to prepare the library to be open again in a safe way. Plastic shields were placed at service points. Half of the chairs were removed from the public spaces in the library to ensure social distancing. Custodial care of the building was limited due to reduced staffing on campus, so library staff volunteered to help with sanitizing library spaces daily. Self-serve sanitizing stations were installed throughout the library

and signs were placed to remind our visitors to clean spaces before and after use.

A new curbside service was set up to allow patrons to pick up their library books without entering the building. Books and productivity tools were quarantined for four days upon return to ensure the safety of our library staff and patrons. Loan terms were lengthened for some of our frequently used productivity tools such as headphones to reduce handling. Collections prioritized acquiring eBooks to support the university's online instruction needs.

We slowly opened back up. Initially we limited use to the first floor and closed off the third floor and garden level collections to maintain compliance with indoor gathering restrictions. In June 2021, library seating and computers were restored to their pre-pandemic state, and we stopped the quarantine of books. The Archives reading room opened as by-appointment only, which allowed the staff to set capacity while also providing more personalized service. Appointment hours have expanded as health and safety levels allowed.

While we are continuing to navigate through COVID times, our services are back, fully in place and in person. We continue to wear masks (in compliance with university policy) and hand them out freely at the Circulation Desk. The library has a great team that works together well. The pandemic has shown us how flexible, adaptable, and creative we can be.

Looking for a Good Book? Come Check out the Bargains!

In addition to our Winter Carnival and spring book sales, the Friends of the Michigan Tech Library maintain an honor-system sale shelf, near the service desk in the library. The shelf is stocked with many high-quality books, most of which are priced at \$1 (paperback) or \$2 (hardback). All proceeds benefit the Michigan Tech Library. Check out the shelf when

you are in the library—books are added regularly, and you will be sure to find something you would like. Many thanks to Friends board member Holly Nemiroff, who keeps the shelf in order and stocked.

Book Donations Welcome Year Round

The Friends of the Michigan Tech Library are always seeking donations for our used book sales. There is a need for gently used books, paperbacks, CDs and DVDs. Make room for new books by donating your old books to the Friends. All proceeds go to help the Library. Bring your donations to the drop box in the library front vestibule or bring larger quantities to the loading dock (follow instructions posted there).

Do you see yourself as a Library Friend? We need you on the Board!

The Friends of the Michigan Tech Library organization is governed by a friendly group of volunteers who are staff, faculty, students, and community members. What we have in common is a love of books and for libraries—and for this library in particular, the Michigan Tech Van Pelt and Opie Library (aka the Michigan Tech Library).

There are openings on the board of the Friends, and we invite interested persons to contact us and check out board service. We meet one hour a month during the academic year, usually in person in the library director's board room. Participation by Zoom is also possible. Board members are also *super*-volunteers, but you will not be asked to do more than you can or wish. If this sounds attractive to you, please drop an email to any board member (for example board chair Amy Hughes, alhughes@mtu.edu) or come to a meeting to see what it's like. Thanks for considering it!

The 2022 version of the Friends Winter Carnival book sale netted approximately \$570 in sales and \$240 in donations. As shown in these photos, the set-up was similar to pre-pandemic years. Many thanks to our volunteers (Dana Richter (left), Susan Martin, and Pat Martin (right), and many not shown) and patrons for making this sale a success.



Friends of the Michigan Tech Library
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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.**