

# 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 2023 Volume 28, Number 1**

## ***Round 3: 2022 Friends Annual Meeting Held on Zoom; Next time in person!***

The Friends of the Michigan Tech Library held their 2022 Annual Meeting on Thursday, 27 October 2022 from 5:00–5:30 p.m. on Zoom.

The meeting included a recap of the Friends' fiscal year 2022 sales, grants, and fundraising, the approval of renewing and new board members, and the approval of officers to serve for the coming year. We welcomed Puti Ceniza Akbar and Allison Neely as new board members. Our student members are Isobel Bowker (USG) and Brilynn Janckila (GSG).

Some of the highlights of our 2022 fundraising were

- Generous donations from friends and alumni
- Winter Carnival book sale with additional sales from the bookshelf
- The Annual book sale, and
- Our Fall book sale

Plans are underway for a face-to-face annual meeting in October 2023. We're considering speakers, reserving the East Reading Room of the library, and collecting spiders, spiderwebs, and everything orange and black (our meeting is always around Halloween, and we really like Halloween). Look for an announcement of the date soon!

## ***Winter Carnival Book Sale 2023 Report***

The annual Friends Winter Carnival Book Sale was held in the lobby of the Van Pelt and Opie Library of Michigan Technological University on Saturday, 11 February 2023. The crowds were impressive even before we were finished setting up and continued unabated into the early afternoon. We had to restock the tables at least twice during the day. This year, we had a plethora of old Michigan Tech yearbooks for sale (we still have more: contact us if you're interested in purchasing any for a mere dollar each; most years available). As in years past, free cookies, clementines, and hot chocolate were provided, and they were gratefully gobbled up by alumni, students, and their parents. The alumni reception taking place simultaneously in the Opie reading room (see also the



*The 2023 Winter Carnival Sale was our best attended ever! (Actually, that's a guess, but it sure seemed that way.) There were many happy customers and library supporters.*

Archives Report in this Newsletter) also brought traffic right through the middle of our book sale, contributing to sales of about \$1,166 that directly benefit the Van Pelt and Opie Library. Thanks to all our volunteers for the day but also to the buying public for generously supporting the library.

## ***Students Have a Voice on the Board of the Friends***

The board of directors of the Friends of the Michigan Tech Library includes university faculty and staff members, community members, and students. We are lucky each year to have members appointed by the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) and the Graduate Student Government (GSG). This year our student members are:

Isobel Bowker (USG): Hello! I'm Isobel Bowker, a second year Mechanical Engineering major. I serve as the USG Secretary and am very happy to join the Friends of the Library and help provide the undergraduate student perspective.

Brilynn Janckila (GSG): Hi, I'm Brilynn, a 3<sup>rd</sup> year Ph.D. student in the Rhetoric, Theory, and Culture program. As a graduate student, I have spent countless hours in the library so when the opportunity to be the GSG liaison arose, I was happy to volunteer. It's been really fun to learn about how FMTL supports the library and help where I can!

Thank you student colleagues, for your time, input, and hard work!

## ***Library Hosts Book Release Event for Laura Fiss***

On 3 February 2023, the library and the Humanities Department cohosted a book release celebration in the East Reading Room. At this well-attended celebration, author Laura Kasson Fiss gave a presentation about her book, *The Idler's Club, Humour and Mass Readership from Jerome K. Jerome to P.G. Wodehouse*, which was released on 31 January 2023 by Edinburgh University Press. Dr. Fiss is an Associate Teaching Professor of Humanities and the Assistant Director of the Honors Pathway Program at Michigan Tech. A copy of this book is available for library checkout and is featured in the Michigan Tech Authored Collection of the Van Pelt and Opie Library.

## ***Update from the Archives***

*by Lindsay Hiltunen, University Archivist*

The Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections are staying on track in the New Year and making a big impact campus-wide. Archives instruction has been working with a variety of students this semester, including the Automobile in America class, Humanities graduate students in a seminar on the history of the book, and the Social Science Research class to name a few. In addition to course-integrated instruction, the Archives also co-sponsors the local Michigan History Day competition,

which meant dozens of students were on campus on February 27. Special events during the contest included a tour of the archives and exploration with the Keweenaw Time Traveler team.

This year the Archives has been expanding its relationship with the Office of Alumni Engagement, which included trying a new format for the Alumni Social during Winter Carnival. Alumni board members and staff were present in the library during the 3-hour social offering donuts, coffee, and conversation while the Archives hosted an exhibit called "Queens of Carnivals' Past." The event took place in the Opie Reading Room on Saturday, February 11 and welcomed over 350 guests.

The Archives is grateful to have funding once again from the Friends to welcome an intern to our team this summer. We are wrapping up the hiring process this month and will have an intern join us in mid- to late May. The Friends of the Michigan Tech Library internship offers a great opportunity for a current graduate student or recent graduate of a library science program to gain real world experience in collections handling, processing, and description. Our past interns have gone on to advanced study as well as professional archival jobs all over the country.

There is always something new to discover in the Archives, as our team found recently while working on the barcoding project, which finds us assessing the state of current collections as well as uncovering cool items we did not know we had. A recent find included an early motion picture projector called a cinematograph, which was found in the James Fisher Collection (MTU-203). The camera was produced by Ernst Plank, a German manufacturer, likely pre-1920s, and appears to have held 35mm film. A lantern of some kind would have been used to illuminate the image onto a screen. What a fascinating find! Thanks to Resource Access and Discovery Services in the library, which is helping with the barcoding project.

If you want to do research in the Archives, appointments are available from 1-5 p.m. Monday through Thursday. 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/>. 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](mailto:copper@mtu.edu). The Michigan Tech Archives can also be found on Twitter: @mtuarchives, Instagram: michigantecharchives, and Facebook.

## ***Programs Supported Financially by the Friends***

An important purpose of the Friends is to support library programs. Some long-standing library programs supported by the Friends include:

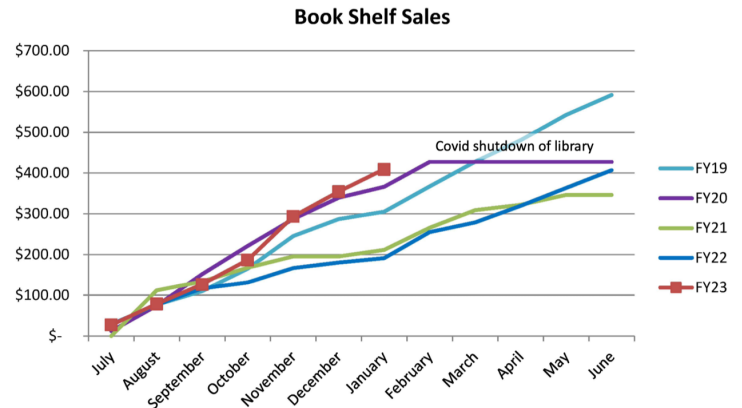
1. *Leisure Book Collection*—When the library decided to supply leisure books to patrons many years ago, the Friends stepped up and contributed to the program that buys current books for leisure reading. The books are located on the first floor of the library on the left next to the stairwell doors to the left, just before the Library Café.
2. *Productivity Tools*—Our users let us know that they sometimes need white board markers and computers and other tools to make best use of the library. So we supply them. We even have Go-Pro cameras! To check out the list of tools available to borrow, ask at the Circulation Desk or see the list on the library website under [Services/Computers and Technology](#).
3. *Archive Travel Grants*—We have a jewel of a collection in the Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections on the garden level. To better share this resource with the world, the Friends support the Archives program that brings in researchers to use the collections and share what they learn with us.
4. *Archive Interns*—There is so much that comes into the Michigan Tech Archives that it strains the budget to keep up with cataloging and organizing donations and the collections. When this issue was brought to the Friends, we stepped up to fund the Archives' intern program. We are so happy with the high quality of professional expertise that this provides to our Archives and with the educational mission that the internships provide to the interns themselves.

Also new this year:

5. *Featured Reads Cart* in the main lobby, which contains a rotating display of library books based on a monthly theme. The library collaborates with student groups who select a theme and recommend approximately five new books for purchase for our collections each month to be included in the monthly display. This is proving to be a great outreach opportunity for the library allowing us to work directly with student groups while giving them a say in what books are added to our collection.

## ***Bookshelf Consistently Generates Funds for Library***

Our library bookshelf sales (located near the circulation desk) have accelerated compared to even pre-pandemic levels as the library continues to increase in popularity with students. There is rarely a time between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. that the library is not bustling with students studying, socializing, or just hanging out. Faculty, too, are finding that the Library Café is both a convenient and preferable place to meet students for office hours. It is also worth noting that this increase in sales is not due to any increase in prices: the current 25% increase over FY 2019 sales at the same time is really a 25% increase in the number of books flying out to avid readers! Kudos to our bookshelf manager, Holly Nemiroff, for keeping the



shelves stocked with things that people want to read. When you are on campus, drop in and grab something new to you for \$2 or less.

## ***Friends of the Library Seeks Board Members***

How does the magic get done? Well, in so many settings, the magic happens when a great group of people step forward and say “I’ll help!”

For more than 25 years the Friends of the Michigan Tech Library have put on book sales, sponsored readings and events, and financed special materials, hardware, interns, and travel grants to benefit the Michigan Tech community. The group is led by a board of about 10 volunteers, and we’re looking to add a few members. Would you join us?

We support the heart of the campus – the Van Pelt and Opie Library at Michigan Tech – through fundraising book sales and other projects. We interact with the professionals who run the library to make their great ideas come to life for our library.

We meet monthly (currently on the first Wednesday) for an hour. If you’re interested please email our chair, Amy Hughes ([alhughes@mtu.edu](mailto:alhughes@mtu.edu)) or one of the other board members (<https://lib.sites.mtu.edu/friends/about/board/>) for more information. We’re looking forward to meeting you!

## ***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 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 silver drop box in the library front vestibule or bring larger quantities to the loading dock (follow instructions posted there).

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*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/](http://lib.sites.mtu.edu/friends/) or send your contribution with this form to:

**Friends of the Michigan Tech Library**  
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Send us your email and receive our newsletter electronically. Email [fmorriso@mtu.edu](mailto: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.***