

Views

The Newsletter of the
Friends of the Van Pelt Library
Michigan Tech University
1400 Townsend Drive, Houghton, MI 49931
March 2015 Volume 20, Number 1

Friends Annual Used Book Sale: April 7-8 2015

The Friends Annual Used Book Sale is scheduled for Tuesday 7 April and Wednesday 8 April 2015 in the Memorial Union Ballroom on Michigan Tech's campus. As a member of the Friends, during the evening pre-sale on Tuesday from 5:00-7:00PM you will enjoy early shopping, easy (and free!) parking, and the best selection. 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On Wednesday, the sale continues at 10:00AM with a new selection of withdrawn books from the J.R. Van Pelt and Opie Library, and ends with the \$5 bag sale from 3:00-4:00PM. Unfortunately, we are not able to provide complimentary parking during hours when campus 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.

The Friends perpetual book sale, the book cart, was upgraded a year ago to a custom shelving unit displaying an expanded selection of books for sale. Look for it to the left of the Library and Information Technology Service Center in the library. This perpetual book sale works on an "honor system" with payment left in a slot in the shelf.

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.

Report from the Library Director

Ellen Marks, Library Director

The library's most important ingredient contributing to academic success and access is its staff. Two new staff members, **David Zei** and **Kari Sloat Bellin**, are the main reasons why the library can stay open, with knowledgeable and friendly staff, through the late night hours. Working on the Library Service Desk and attending to library patron needs in the building requires a lot of factual knowledge and skill. We are delighted to have Kari and David on the Access Services team. After several years of substantial and interesting experience in Washington, D.C., **Lindsay Hiltunen** has returned to the Copper Country, assuming the position of Senior Archivist in the Michigan Tech University Archives and Historical Collections. Lindsay is applying her experience, creativity, energy, and extensive knowledge of the history of the Copper Country to enhancing the processes and services of the Archives. Among her many recent contributions, Lindsay has updated the *Travel to Collections* grant program, funded generously by the Friends of the Van

Pelt Library, resulting in a greater number of interested applicants. **Annelise Doll** has assumed the position of Digital Initiatives Librarian, a newly conceptualized position to which Annelise brings an array of experience in archives, digitization and project management (rare skills which she has generously shared with her colleagues throughout the library). Annelise



The second floor of the Van Pelt and Opie Library awaits new furniture designed to facilitate student group work. The redesign is funded by a generous donation from John and Ruanne Opie.

is chairing our Digital Commons group, coordinating a committee taking an organization-wide look at metadata to lead the library in the forms of description that improve access to all resources and collections in the library and archives. See her and her colleagues' work at <http://digitalcommons.mtu.edu/>

Through a generous donation from John and Ruanne Opie, the library is able to create new group and collaborative spaces on the 2nd floor that are addressing the most requested need from students that work for long hours in the library. Today's students desire flexible furniture that is easily assembled into ad-hoc formations so that they can work together on assignments and projects or simply sit in close proximity while working alone. This project, to be completed by the end of the semester, includes a wide variety of tables, the chairs students like most, helpful tools such as whiteboards and the addition of over 30 electrical outlets. One of the library's theater-style classrooms has been converted to a state of the art, flexible classroom to support new learning preferences. As part of this project computer workstations that had been on long tables on the 2nd floor hallway will be moved within the library's 24/7 area and placed on furniture that offers both individual or group use. The design of these areas was based on a high level of student input including over 500 responses to a survey crafted by students in Roger Woods' class from the School of Business and Economics.

The Van Pelt and Opie Library is moving away from subscribing to large multi-year package deals with major journal publishers (Elsevier, Wiley, and Springer). The budget allocations necessary for these large package deals are not sustainable long-term. Instead, we aim to subscribe to the journals that meet the current and anticipated research and scholarship needs at Michigan Tech at a reasonable cost per use, while also continuing to improve the speed of access to articles we are financially unable to support via subscription. To achieve these aims, advice and involvement from research faculty is needed and is being solicited. The information provided to us through this process will be important for defining the next steps in journal purchasing and for guiding future decisions.

Not Your Grandparents' Library

(Adapted from the Library's website)

If you are over 50, then "library" connotes books. If you are under 25, the story is quite different. The Van Pelt and Opie Library has kept up with the times and provides books and so much more.

Computers

The library provides more than two hundred Windows workstations and 12 Mac workstations. Each machine features the latest office productivity suite, and many feature advanced graphics and sound editing software.

Productivity Tools

These productivity tools can be borrowed directly from the Library and IT Service Center on a first-come, first-served basis.

| <i>Tools</i> | <i>Loan Period</i> |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| • Laptops | 3 hours |
| • TI-89 Calculators | 4 hours |
| • Digital Cameras | 3 days |
| • Video Cameras | 3 days |
| • Tripods | 3 days |
| • Wacom Tablets | 24 hours |
| • Voice Recorder | 3 days |
| • Headphones | 3 hours |
| • iPhone 5 Charger | 2 hours |
| • Dry-erase Markers | 4 hours |

3D Printing

With our new Type A Machines Series 1 printer, the library offers current faculty, staff, and students at Michigan Tech the opportunity to teach, learn, and explore 3D printing.

Adaptive Technologies

A variety of adaptive technologies are available to assist library users with special needs, including:

- Chroma CCD Magnifier—Used for enlarging small objects and printed books the magnifier is located next to the plotter in the digital studio (second floor).
- Kurzweil 3000—Comprehensive reading, writing and learning software solution for any struggling reader, including individuals with learning difficulties, such as dyslexia, attention deficit disorder, and those who are English language learners, Kurzweil software is installed on two of the three PCs in the digital studio (second floor).

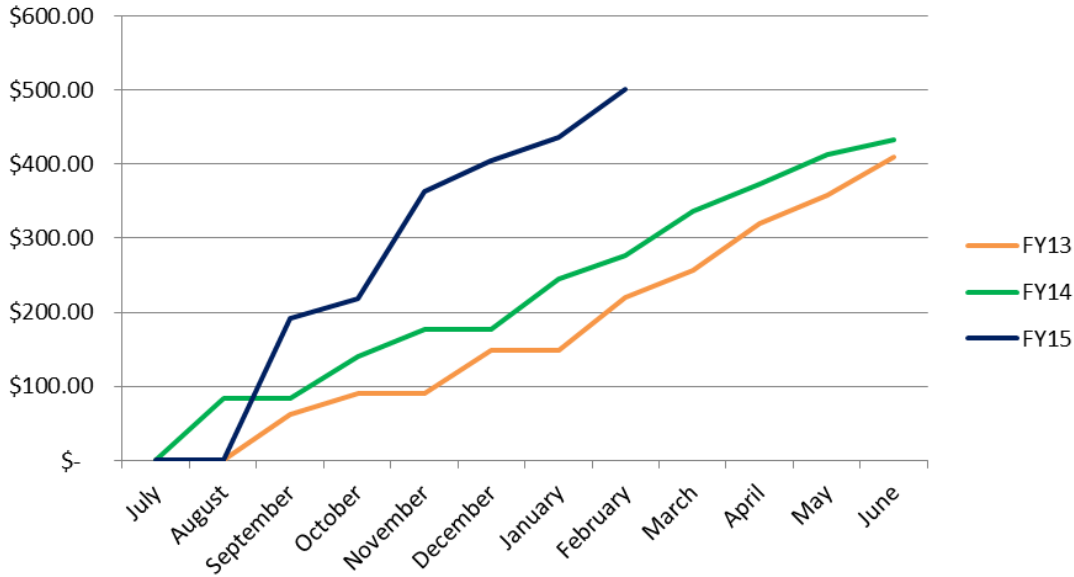
For links to more information, visit the Library's website. www.mtu.edu/library/services/technology-and-computers

Update: Friends Book Shelf

The Friends Book Shelf continues to be a 'treasure trove' of gently-used books, as evidenced by the increased sales in the accompanying graph. Book prices are minimal, with most books costing \$2.00 or less. All sales go to support the Library, including the Archives' *Travel to Collections* grant program, new library equipment and resources, guest speakers, and locally-produced artwork to adorn the Library walls.

Want to know about specific projects and how you can help? Visit our website: www.mtu.edu/library/friends/.

The Book Shelf is located in the main lobby of the Van Pelt and Opie Library just past the Library and IT Service Center, and is restocked with top-notch fiction and nonfiction books weekly. Hope to see you there soon!



The Friends "honor system" book sale provides a significant and reliable revenue stream for Friends projects.

Friends Winter Carnival Hot Chocolate Giveaway Continues to Benefit the Library

Once again the Friends welcomed Winter Carnival visitors this February with free hot chocolate and cookies in the Van Pelt and Opie Library. Business was brisk throughout the event, which was scheduled from 11am until 4pm. On offer were hot chocolate, cookies, and fruit, a healthy choice that was very popular. The Friends received almost \$200 in donations and made nearly \$300 in book sales.

Visit Us Online

You can renew your membership in the Friends online and you can also buy Friends notecards and the beautiful Friends Michigan Tech Blanket. All this with a few clicks beginning here:

www.mtu.edu/library/friends/

The Friends website shows photos of all the notecards, including the popular train in snow (look under announcements). Each pack contains 12 distinct historical cards.

The 4 foot by 5 foot cotton blanket in blue and white features historic buildings from the Michigan Tech campus (design shown on the website) and sells for \$65 plus tax and shipping. All items make great gifts for Michigan Tech alumni and friends. All proceeds benefit the Van Pelt and Opie Library.



FVPL Board Member Karen Hubbard and two helpers make Carnival a warm and sweet experience by offering free hot chocolate and cookies at the Friends' popular Winter Carnival event this year.

Friends of the Van Pelt Library
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Houghton, MI 49931-11295
www.mtu.edu/library/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 www.mtu.edu/library/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.***