

VIEWS

The Newsletter of the

Friends of the Michigan Tech Library

Michigan Tech University

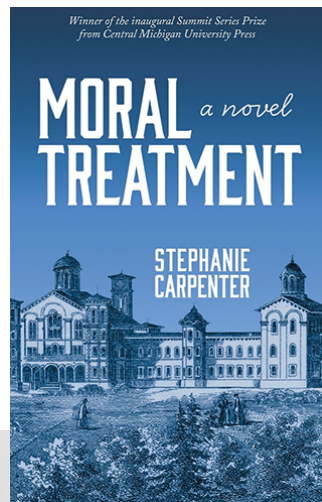
1400 Townsend Drive, Houghton, MI 49931

—<http://lib.sites.mtu.edu/friends/>—

October 2025 Vol 30, Number 2

The 2025 Annual Meeting is October 23

The Friends of the Michigan Tech Library will hold their 30th annual meeting at 4:30 pm on October 23, 2025, in the East Reading Room of the Van Pelt and Opie Library. The meeting will include a recap of the Friends' fiscal year 2025 sales, grants, and fundraising, the approval of renewing and new board members, and the approval of officers to serve for the coming year.



Our guest speaker this year will be Stephanie Carpenter, Assistant Professor of Creative Writing in the Humanities Department at Michigan Tech. Earlier this year she published *Moral Treatment* (Central Mich. Univ. Press) to considerable acclaim—noted as “Thrilling, Lush New Historical Fiction,” in the NY Times Book Review (4/13/2025). Central Michigan University selected Carpenter’s book to receive the Summit Series Prize.

Please join us for discussion of both her work and her research process. Refreshments will be served. All are encouraged to attend.

Date: October 23, 2025

Time: 4:30 – 6:00 pm

Location: Van Pelt and Opie Library East Reading Room

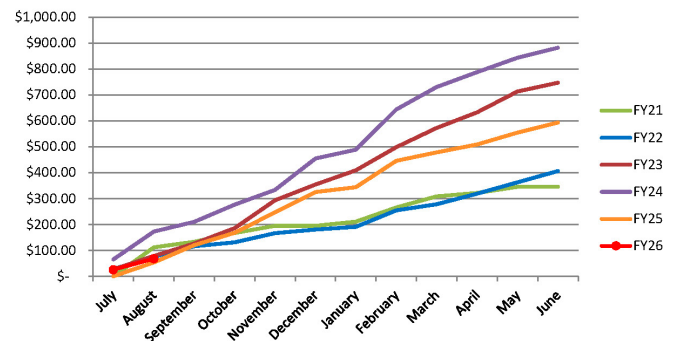
What: Friends of the Michigan Tech Library Annual Meeting

Upcoming Events & Reports

The Friends are laser-focused on supporting the Van Pelt and Opie Library at Michigan Tech, and we do this through fundraising and advocacy. We report here, in reverse chronological order, on our various sales and activities.

Why reverse chronological order, you may ask? So that you will not miss our **Friends Fall Book Sale for 2025**, which is coming up on **November 1, 2025!** The sale takes place in the main lobby of the Van Pelt and Opie Library, and on offer are books newly donated to the Friends or decommisioned from the collection. As in the past, we are very happy to have the cooperation of the Van Pelt Circulation Desk and the ready use of charge-card technology there, which boosts our sales and is so convenient for our customers. Cash donations are also accepted. Drop by on this day after Halloween to pick up new treasures for your Fall reading.

What else? Year round, we stock the Friends’ Library Bookshelf, the self-service book sale that is located just south of the circulation desk in the library. The bookshelf is popular with students and other library visitors and is a great source for inexpensive reads whenever the mood strikes. A summary chart of Bookshelf revenue over the years is included in this newsletter. Later this October the bookshelf will get a complete refresh at the hands of our bookshelf manger, Susan Martin, who is the engine behind this endeavor. When you are on campus, please drop in and grab something new to you for \$2 or less! Donations also welcome in the payment slot.



Book Sales from the year-round, self-serve bookshelf, are an important source of revenue for the Friends of the Michigan Tech Library. The proceeds vary from year to year, but they are always benefiting the library.

Going backwards in time, last March the Friends had another successful *Spring Book Sale*, attracting an impressive number of students taking advantage of the new policy that students join for free. We were admittedly low on science and engineering books, but these are always welcome at our sale so please consider donating your gently used texts to the Friends (instructions later in the newsletter).

Skipping to the future, early in 2026 don't miss our **Winter Carnival Book Sale** with **FREE** hot chocolate and cookies. That sale is Saturday, February 7, 2026, in the main lobby of the library. The biggest Friends' project, our *2026 Spring Book Sale*, will follow on Wednesday and Thursday (note new days this year!) March 25–26 in the MUB Ballroom. As always, the bargain bag sale is the last hour of the sale on Thursday. The Wednesday sale, from 5–7pm, is the Members Pre-Sale – memberships will be available at the door. Parking is easy at the Pre-Sale, so you can zip in and take a first chance look at the treasures we will have on sale.

The Friends of the Michigan Tech Library do not pre-sell our best books online or anywhere other than at the sales in this article, so come for the good stuff at any of our sale events.

Update from the Archives

by Lindsay Hiltunen, University Archivist

Fall is a time of transition, and there are certainly some big transitions happening at the Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections. First and foremost, the team bid farewell to longtime colleague and Archivist Emily Schwiebert who stepped down in June 2025. Her final farewell was celebrated at the Upper Peninsula History Conference, which the Archives co-hosted June 27–29 in the Memorial Union Building, in partnership with the Historical Society of Michigan (HSM). Her talk on Big Annie saw record attendance and was well-received. She is deeply missed but we know she will continue to be involved in Copper Country history on her own accord!

As we say goodbye to Emily, we also say hello to a new colleague! Cory Davis, an early career archivist joins our team from recent stints at various archives in the Midwest and California. Cory will be with us on a two-year term to last until late summer 2027. To learn more about Cory, please be sure to see his welcome blog post on the Archives website: <https://blogs.mtu.edu/archives/2025/09/05/welcome-to-our-new-archivist-2/>.

In other exciting news, the Michigan Tech Archives and Library Technology Team have been honored with a *State History Award* in the website category for recent upgrades to the Copper Country Historical Images database. GIS Librarian Bob Cowling and Manager of Technology and Innovation David Holden are the key personnel for this award, and we are so proud to cheer them on. The honor was officially bestowed upon the team at the State History Awards Banquet which

took place in Alpena, as part of the State History Conference hosted by HSM. Bob Cowling, GIS Librarian, accepted the award for all his hard work on the project.

Earlier this year, the FMTL generously funded our Travel Grant Program for 2025. Lynn Domina, a Professor of Literature at Northern Michigan University, was with us researching this summer. Lynn will conduct a poetry workshop at 5:00 pm on Wednesday, October 8 at the Portage Lake District Library. The Portage Lake District Library is cohosting Lynn's workshop.

Fall promises to be busy, as instruction requests and class visits ramp up and the team also has some offsite collections visits shaping up for October. If you want to 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: www.mtu.edu/library/archives/. If you have any questions regarding archives services and collections, please reach out by phone or e-mail us at copper@mtu.edu. The Michigan Tech Archives can also be found on Facebook, Instagram: [michigantecharchives](https://www.instagram.com/michigantecharchives), and X: [@mtuarchives](https://twitter.com/mtuarchives).

Special Feature: The Oldest Book at Michigan Tech

Steven Walton, Friends of the Michigan Tech Library

As friends of the Michigan Tech Library, perhaps you found yourself wondering, "What's the oldest book at Michigan Tech?" While not a question that the archivists get on a regular basis, they do happen to know the answer! The honor goes to the Italian translation of Georgius Agricola's *De Re Metallica* (Basel, Switzerland: Hieronymo Frobenius and Nicolo Episcopio, 1563). It is bound in vellum and reads on its spine, "AGRICOLA D[E] METAL TR DAL FLORIO", suggesting that it is an original sixteenth-century Italian binding.

This copy was once owned by a famous 19th-century Florentine book and manuscript collector, Gustavo Camillo Galetti, and seems to have made its way to Frederic Warner Denton, general manager of the Copper Range consolidated mining companies—or at least his son appears to have donated it to Michigan Tech after his father's death in 1942 (Interestingly, we know that in 1906 the Michigan College of Mines library held "100 rare technical works from the 16th to the 18th century," so it is possible that we once had even older works, but tracing these has proved impossible).

Agricola's work is the most famous Renaissance treatise on mining, having appeared first in Latin in 1556; a German edition followed in 1557, reprinted in Latin in 1561, and then this Italian edition in 1563. It was expanded in a 1569 Spanish edition, finally appeared in French in 1743, and was translated into English only in 1912 by none other than mining engineer and future president Herbert Hoover and his wife Lou Henry

Hoover, who was the better Latinist. The work with its lavish illustrations is exceedingly well known, but our Italian edition is additionally interesting because of the translator and dedicatee.

The translator was Michelangelo Florio, a slightly heretical priest who converted to Protestantism and escaped to England in 1550. There he was an Italian tutor to Lady Jane Grey, and possibly to the young princess Elizabeth. When he finished his translation (while shepherding an Italian Protestant community in the mountains of Lombardy), he dedicated it to the now Queen Elizabeth I, in hopes that she would support humanist work like his—and, as it turns out, she did, as his young son, John Florio, moved back to England and became an important humanist educator under Elizabeth and King James.

Florio's dedication (1200+ words!) opens, "Whosoever would say, most Serene and Powerful Queen, that the ancient and modern writers, who have left so many of their writings on various things pertaining to various sciences in the vernacular, do not deserve to be praised by all, would certainly be deviating from the truth, from reason, and from what is just." He later argues that, "the most learned Giorgio Agricola, a most diligent and discerning researcher of the most hidden secrets of the most intimate knowledge of the earth," did not wish "to reveal them except in the Latin language, which is held in great esteem by the wise and learned," and in so doing, "benefited all the scholars of Latin by publishing the beautiful offspring of his long and honorable labors." Florio, however, wanted to translate the work into his "native Florentine language: not so much to see the beautiful genius of this man, as that I may benefit those who understand my language but not Latin, and at the same time inspire the beautiful talents of every other nation to do the same with this and many other works, no less useful than beautiful, and especially the divine and sacred ones."

Then, in the shorter preface to the reader (just under 900 words), Florio asks them not to chastise him for not using the flowery language of Dante or Boccaccio, nor for retaining Agricola's German/Latin technical terminology (that is, not asking Italian miners what they called such-and-such a machine or process). Rather, Florio was trying to make his "language so accessible (where the author's obscurity and profound learning have not prevented [him] from doing so) that even simple folk can understand it." Thus, whether in 1556 or 1563 or today, in that—educating technical students—Agricola, Florio, and Michigan Tech have much in common.

While this book does not directly offer a great deal for modern mining engineering students, it does offer an ornate and

fascinating glimpse at the past of that field, as well as the world of early modern technical communication, translation, and printing history.

Another Good Cause!

The Elaine Bacon Literacy Program (elainebaconliteracyprogram.org) will have an upcoming Keweenaw International Children's Festival that will be held at the Portage Lake District Library on November 22, 2025, a date that also aligns with Universal Children's Day from the United Nations. The spirit of the event will be like the Parade of Nations, but this one is more family-oriented with the involvement of family members and a target audience of children age 2-8 years + youth volunteers. They are looking for donors to cover some expenses (they received small grants from the Keweenaw Community Foundation and Copper Shores). All Library Friends are encouraged to donate to this good cause!

To donate, please contact Denise Heikinen (deniseheikinen@icloud.com) or 906- 231-7089.

Thanks to Donors!

The Friends would like to extend our hearty thanks to the people who donate books to the Friends; our sales could not happen without you. Since our last newsletter, we have received donations from the following:

Jimmy Diehl
Patricia Heiden
Nancy Langston
Larry and Rachel Lankton
Karen Foltz (items from Barbara Lide estate)
Susan and Pat Martin
Julie Sweitz

We also received significant donations from the estates of Hugh Boyer and Gene Ortner (via Empty Nest Sales). If you have books to donate, please contact Steve Walton sawalton@mtu.edu. Many thanks!

Friends' Blankets Make Great Gifts

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 at lib.sites.mtu.edu/friends/. Each pack of Friends notecards contains 12 distinct historical cards. The 4 ft. by 5 ft. cotton blanket in navy and white features historic buildings from the Michigan Tech campus and sells for \$65 plus tax and shipping/handling. This price has not increased EVER, making it a particular bargain. It is also made in the USA. All items make great gifts for Michigan Tech graduating seniors (*hint, hint*), alumni, and friends. All proceeds of items for sale benefit the Michigan Tech Library.

Renew online:
lib.sites.mtu.edu/friends/join/

*It's 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 (60+) may join for \$15
Michigan Tech Students are free!

To pay by Visa/Mastercard fill in below:

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Visa/MC #: _____
expiration date: _____
Donation amount: _____
Signature: _____

To renew your membership in the Friends, please send your contribution (filled in form above or check) to:

Friends of the Michigan Tech 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-FMTL. All contributions to the FMTL are Federal tax deductible. ***THANKS for your support of the Michigan Tech Van Pelt and Opie Library.***

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