

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 2026 Volume 31, Number 1

Stephanie Carpenter Featured Speaker at the 2025 Friends Annual Meeting

by Amy Hughes

Michigan Tech's Associate Professor of Creative Writing Stephanie Carpenter presented at the 2025 Friends Annual Meeting, discussing her novel *Moral Treatment* (Central Mich. Univ. Press). Her novel received the Summit Series Prize from Central Michigan University.

The meeting took place on Thursday October 23, 2025 in the East Reading Room of the Van Pelt and Opie Library. Friends Chair Amy Hughes recapped the Friends' fiscal year 2025 sales, grants, and fundraising, board members voted to approve renewing board members, and officers were elected for the coming year.

Moral Treatment is a historical novel set in an 1889 Michigan psychiatric hospital, exploring the philosophy of "moral treatment" through the dual perspectives of a young, institutionalized patient named Amy Underwood and the hospital's superintendent. The book examines the era's mental healthcare, contrasting the superintendent's idealistic, humane approach (good food, rest, wholesome influences) with the harsh realities and growing pressures on the institution from local wealthy trustees and Victorian society. All while Amy navigates her confinement and questions her future. The story is heavily influenced by the history of the state hospital in Traverse City Michigan, where the author grew up.

Plans are underway for our next annual meeting in October 2026. Look for an announcement of the date soon!



Professor Stephanie Carpenter discussed her new book with the Friends at the 2025 FMTL Annual Meeting in October 2025.

Friends' Annual Book Sale 25-26 March 2026

Don't miss our upcoming big sale of the year, lasting two days, to be held in the Memorial Union Ballroom on Wednesday and Thursday March 25-26, 2026. Members of the Friends as well as students can shop at the Early Bird opener on March 25 from 5 to 7pm (you can join or renew at the door), with the sale then open to the wider public on March 26 from 10am to 4pm. As usual, the last hour of the sale is the bag sale: all you can fit into a brown-paper grocery bag for only \$5. Don't miss this wonderful annual event and keep up that important reading habit! Parking is easy and free (after 4pm) at the Wednesday early-bird sale, so you can zip in and have a first chance to look at the treasures we will have for sale.

Thanks to this year's Book Donors!

Thank you donors! This half-year we received donations from Gene Ortner, Peg & Jim Hertel, Travis Howard, and Martha Sloan. Your gifts will help to maintain quality services at the Van Pelt and Opie Library at Michigan Tech.

**Friends' Annual Book Sale
Michigan Tech
Memorial Union Ballroom
25-26 March 2026**

Yearbooks Donated to Library of Michigan

by Steven Walton

Responding to a call from the Library of Michigan for secondary and post-secondary yearbooks noticed in *Michigan History* magazine, the Friends recently made a donation of nearly four dozen years' copies of yearbooks from Michigan Tech and Finlandia.

A few years ago, several dozen boxes of *Keweenaw* yearbooks were transferred to the Friends from the Michigan Tech Alumni Office after they cleared out their space. This fall, Friends board member Steve Walton filled six boxes with Michigan Tech yearbooks and sent them to Lansing. We sent two copies—one for permanent archiving, and one as a circulating copy—of every year that the state Library did not already have, as well as a second copy for the ~10 years where they only had one. In case our donated copy turns out to be a better copy than the one currently in their collection (and most of ours were *as new*), the Library of Michigan will make those the permanent archival copy. In all, the Friends sent copies from 45 academic years from between 1916 and 2002. We were also able to include copies of the centennial volume (we have lots if you want one), a single copy of a rather rarer 1965 MTU Soo *Obelisk* from the old Sault Ste. Marie campus (now Lake Superior State Univ.), as well as a handful of Houghton High and one Hancock Central High school yearbooks.

In addition, because Jonathon Nagel came into possession of a whole pile of Suomi College/Finlandia University yearbooks when he purchased the Lieblein House in Hancock (Finlandia University's old Hoover Center; the blue Queen Anne on the corner of Quincy and Ryan Streets in Hancock), and because he was heading down to the Lansing area for the holidays, he kindly delivered our yearbooks along with the 28 years (49 volumes in total) of Finlandia yearbooks from 1946–1986 in his possession. Thank you, Jonathon for schlepping those books to Lansing for us!

As this newsletter goes to press, we are planning for the Friends' Winter Carnival sale to take place in the Main Library entrance hall on Saturday February 7, 2026 from 10am - 3pm at the height of Winter Carnival festivities. We'll report on that sale in the October newsletter.

Update from the Archives

by Lindsay Hiltunen, University Archivist

Happy New Year from the staff of the Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections! Winter Break is a time of rest and rejuvenation for our team, with everyone taking some much needed time off and gearing up for the year ahead. During early January the reading room remained closed for projects and deep cleaning. Appointments resumed on Monday,

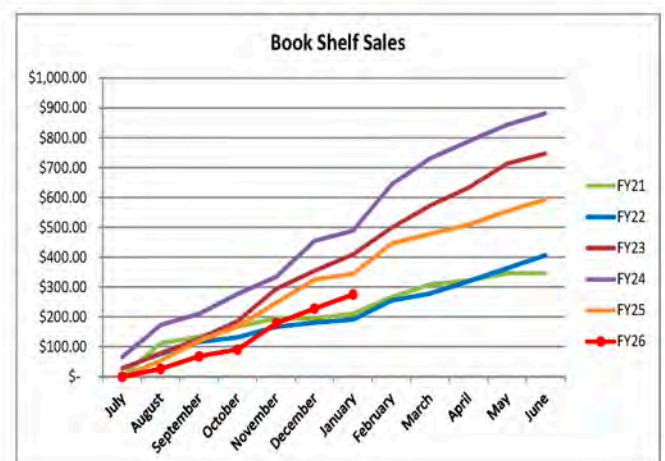
January 19th. We look forward to a busy semester of research, instruction, and outreach.

The Archives is once again teaming up with the Office of Alumni Engagement to cohost a Winter Carnival social on Saturday, February 7 from 10 am to 1 pm. The event will take place in the Opie Reading Room on the first floor, and it is open to the public. Alumni staffers will be serving up warm beverages and pastries, and the University Archivist will be tending to a display from the Archives. This year's display is "Snowy Themes and Festive Scenes: Photos and Memorabilia of Carnivals Gone By," which will feature photographs, memorabilia, and Winter Carnival pictorials. Please stop in for a warm-up if you are out looking at statues on Carnival weekend!

In other exciting news, the Michigan Tech Archives has been working with colleagues across the state to plan for the 2026 Upper Peninsula History Conference, which will take place at Northern Michigan University June 26-28. Please keep an eye on the Historical Society of Michigan website for conference information and registration updates:

www.hsmichigan.org/programs/conferences/upper-peninsula-history-conference.

If you want to research in the archives, appointments are available from 1-5 pm. 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 and Instagram: michigantecharchives.



At the January Friends Board Meeting we heard from Treasurer Kelly Luck about the trends in book shelf sales. The book sale is a significant revenue stream for the Friends, although recently they have slowed.

Fall Book Sale & Heads up for the Winter Carnival Book Sale February 2026

We held our Fall Book Sale on November 1, 2025 in the main lobby of the Van Pelt and Opie Library. We had the cooperation of the Van Pelt Circulation Desk and the use of charge-card technology there, which boosts our sales and is quick and very convenient for our customers. We had many happy customers drop by to pick up new treasures for their Fall reading. We had sales of just over \$600 and \$30 in cash donations.

Farewell to Peter Van Pelt, a Founder of the Friends

By Faith Morrison

Peter Van Pelt, a founder of the Friends of the Michigan Tech Library group, passed away on Christmas Day, 2025. (www.ahearnfuneralhome.com/obituaries/peter-van-pelt).

Back in 1986, Library Director Phyllis Johnson gathered a group of library lovers to see if we could establish a “friends” group for Michigan Tech’s Van Pelt Library. In that room was Peter Van Pelt, the son of J. Robert Van Pelt, the Michigan Tech University president (1956-1964) for whom the library was named. Peter and his family had retired to the Keweenaw in the 1980s and was a library lover and had a soft spot for the institution named after his father.

Peter (who chaired the meeting), I, Phyllis, and several others spent a couple of meetings hashing through the ideas and needs of the library and wrote bylaws to govern the new group. Library staff had been selling “library discards” (books and other materials) in a public sale every couple of years, and the Friends of the Van Pelt Library, as we were called at the time, took over that task and expanded it by soliciting books from the public to add to the sale. The donated books are now the main feature of the event, which benefits the library.

Peter sat on the board for a bit and he or we, I’m not sure which, recruited his wife Patricia to the board some years later. A book and art lover, Patricia Van Pelt was the guiding force behind the library art collection that adorns the walls of the expanded and renamed Van Pelt and Opie Library.

In 2013 Peter and Patricia retired once again, this time to Massachusetts to be closer to family, and they have now both passed on. Many years of donated work and funds from the Van Pelt family are gratefully acknowledged by the Friends of the Michigan Tech Library. Thankfully, we continue to attract book, library, and art lovers to the Friends so that this institution, at the heart of the campus, can be of service to ongoing generations of Michigan Tech students, faculty, and library patrons.

Tadych Marketplace Receipts Program Benefits Library

by Mary Marchaterre

Time to collect your receipts from Tadych Marketplace to benefit the Michigan Tech Library. Through its *Computers for Kids* program, Marketplace Foods donates to the Friends one percent of the sum of all receipts collected.

Want to help? Please collect your receipts from Tadych Marketplace and send them to us at the library or drop them in the slot in the Friends *Books For Sale* display near the Service Desk. Want to help more? Put out a collection box in your office and encourage your coworkers to bring in their receipts for our library. Every little bit helps.

Help Available to Transport Book Sale Donations

The Friends of the Michigan Tech Library are always seeking donations for our used book sales. Make room for new books by donating your old, gently used books and DVDs 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 and follow instructions posted there to call the Service Desk; staff will be out to take your boxes into the building. Need more help? Perhaps with packing and transporting the books to the library? Reach out to the Friends. Contact Steve Walton at sawalton@mtu.edu to arrange a pickup.

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 cards with historical photos of the area. 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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