Friends Annual Book Sale 26-27 March 2009

Next week! The popular Friends of the Van Pelt Library Book Sale will once again take place at Michigan Tech. The main sale will be Friday March 27 from 10:00 until 4:30pm, while the Members-only Pre-Sale will be the day before, Thursday March 26 from 5-7pm. The sale as usual will be in the Ballroom of the Memorial Union Building on Michigan Tech’s campus, and memberships will be available at the door, $15 for individuals, $25 for families, and $10 for students and seniors.

The sale is brought to you by the hard work of the Friends of the Van Pelt Library and our co-sponsoring student group the Society of Intellectual Sisters. We also gratefully acknowledge the help of MTU’s Library staff, who work with us year round as we solicit, sort, and store the books, MTU’s Facilities Management Department, who move the books to and from storage, and the Michigan Tech Recycling Group, who help us properly dispose of dated and damaged items. In addition, numerous other volunteers help to setup and take down the sale.

Book donations are still actively being sought for the sale and may be dropped off at any time, year round. The Friends accept books on any subject, software, CDs, DVDs, maps, and videos. We do not accept Readers Digest Condensed, vinyl records, or magazines, since these do not sell well and are very cumbersome to move and store. Email Dana Richter (drichte@mtu.edu) to arrange for pick-up of donations.

The 2008 Book Sale netted over $4,000 for the Van Pelt and Opie Library - and this year’s sale

Commissioned Artwork Joins Friends-Sponsored Library Art Collection

As reported in the March 2008 newsletter, a new, magnificent work of art has now joined the Friends Art Collection housed in the J. Robert Van Pelt and Opie Library.

In 2008 the Friends board, with the support of then Library Director Phyllis Johnson, commissioned a
fiber art piece for the beautiful Opie Reading Room of the library. The piece was envisioned to be a signature element in this grand room, which faces Townsend Drive, and the commission was awarded to artist Phyllis Fredendall, Associate Professor, Art & Design (Fiber/Fashion Design) at Finlandia University in neighboring Hancock, MI.

Fredendall’s piece, called “Miners’ Ascent” is 133” long and 58” wide, and a special structure had to be designed to enable it to hang properly. This brilliantly colored felt work hangs on the south wall of the Opie Reading Room, next to the large curved window and facing toward the front entrance to the Library.

“Miners’ Ascent” was inspired by photographs of the old mining shafts and shaft maps that are such a part of our Keweenaw mining heritage. Fredendall spoke briefly at the dedication, which took place on Thursday October 30th 2008. The event also included remarks by acting Library Director Christa Walck and Michigan Tech President Glenn Mroz, with Finlandia University Provost Jeanne Rellahan representing our sister institution.

Those wishing to view the piece or any of the items in the Library art collection may do so at any time; inquire at the reference desk for more information about this piece, about the artist Phyllis Fredendall, or for information about any of the art in our collection.

**Recipients of Friends-Sponsored Travel Awards Announced**

*Submitted by Julie Blair, MTU Archives*

The Michigan Tech Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections has selected two recipients for the 2009 Research Travel Award. This year’s grant recipients take a fresh approach to the rich array of material housed in the Archives.

Peter Krats, assistant professor at University of Western Ontario, will look at the effects of an international border on ethnic identity in industrial communities as part of his ongoing research into the evolution of mining regions in the US and Canada. University of Toledo doctoral candidate James Seelye comes to the Archives for an in-depth look at Slovenian life in Michigan, including the long-term impact of Slovenian missionaries on 19th century Native American communities.

Since its inception over ten years ago, the grant has enabled more than twenty researchers to travel to Houghton from the United States, Canada, and Europe, to examine the unique social and cultural resources in the Archives collections. Past grant recipients have studied a wide variety of topics, such as the use of images and models by mining engineers to manage complex work sites above and below ground; the role that fraternal orders have played in Lake Superior mining communities; and the adoption of the English language by European transplants to Michigan’s Copper Country. This year’s awards continue a tradition of supported research using the manuscript collections curated by the Michigan Tech Archives.

The grant program is financially supported by the Friends of the Van Pelt Library. This year’s award committee included Larry Lankton from the Michigan Tech Department of Social Sciences,
Terry Reynolds of the Friends of the Van Pelt Library, and Erik Nordberg and Julie Blair, representing the Michigan Tech Archives. For further information about the awards program or about the collections of the Michigan Tech Archives, call 906-487-2505.

**Winter Carnival Hot-Chocolate Event Brings Hundreds of Visitors to the Library**

The Friends of the Van Pelt Library’s annual hot-chocolate giveaway for Winter Carnival was again a great success in 2009. The Friends served over 300 hot chocolates and gave away dozens of home-baked cookies. The giveaway is a thank-you from the Friends of the Van Pelt Library to the entire Michigan Tech community.

In parallel with the hot chocolate and treats, the Friends had an expanded book cart operating, offering used books for sale. Sales from the book cart along with donations netted almost $300 for the Library.

The man behind the hot chocolate event is Friends board member Don Durfee. “We had a very steady stream of visitors throughout the time, and our visitors all seemed to have a smile on their faces,” says Durfee. Many other board members, Library staff members and Friends helped to make this event a success.

**Econo Foods “Computers for Kids” Program Ongoing**

Through its *Computers for Kids* program, Econo Foods donates to the Friends one percent of the sum of all Econo receipts collected. Many thanks to those who have been participating in this program. Want to help? Please collect your receipts from Econo Foods and send them to us or drop them in the collection box at the circulation desk of the Library. Econo will accept receipts dated end of August 2008 through the beginning of June 2009. You may also send your receipts by intercampus mail to either Mary Marchaterre (Admin 212) or Faith Morrison (Chemical Engineering).

**Friends Blankets Available!**

The beautiful Michigan Tech blanket is available from the Friends of the Van Pelt Library (http://www.chem.mtu.edu/~fmorriso/fvpl/blanket.htm). The 4 ft by 5 ft cotton blanket in blue and white features historic buildings from the Michigan Tech campus (design shown below) and sells for $65 plus tax and shipping. Email treynold@mtu.edu to order your blanket. All proceeds benefit the Van Pelt and Opie Library.