

# Views

The Newsletter of the  
**Friends of the Van Pelt Library**  
Michigan Tech University  
1400 Townsend Drive, Houghton, MI 49931  
*October 2006 Volume 11, Number 2*

## ***Friends Annual Meeting 5-6:30 24 October 06***

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Van Pelt Library will take place in the Archives of the Library (ground floor) from 5-6:30pm on Tuesday 24 October 2006. The speaker at the meeting will be Art Weaver, retired MTU Mechanical Engineering Professor, who will present a slide show program on local birds that is sure to please the audience. Prof. Weaver has studied birds of the Keweenaw and their habitats for the past 4 decades.

The business of the meeting is to elect board members and officers. The candidates for board membership are: Mark Griep, Eloise Haller, George Love, Dana Richter, Dick Rupley, and Patricia Van Pelt.

For the officer positions, the candidates are:

Chairman – Dee Vincent  
Vice-Chairman – Don Durfee  
Secretary – Amy Hughes  
Treasurer – Terry Reynolds

Refreshments will be served. Please come and enjoy the event.

## ***Update on Friend-Sponsored Archives Travel Grant Program***

By University Archivist Erik Nordberg

I am pleased to provide a couple of updates on the FVPL-sponsored "Research Travel Award" program here at the MTU Archives.

1) Steven LeDuc, a 2003 award recipient, was awarded the 2006 "John Townley Award" from the Mining History Association for his article about ethnic employment practices at the Calumet & Hecla Mining Company. This award is given to the outstanding article in the Association's annual journal. The article clearly referenced the support LeDuc received from the Friends of the Van Pelt Library. Steve is currently pursuing a PhD in forestry at Michigan State University.

2) We just received a copy of Matthew Liesch's master's thesis, "Early Days on the Gogebic Iron Range: Reputation, Riches, and Rowdiness, 1884-1890" (MS Geography, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2006). Liesch was the first of three recipients in the current year's cycle and visited us in early February to research some of the last pieces needed to finish this project. He acknowledges the FVPL travel grant in his introduction. In addition to our copy (which will be cataloged and added to the Archives' book collection), his thesis will also be cataloged and available through the UW library system. During my conversation with Matthew, he indicated that he has submitted articles to the Wisconsin Historical Review and another peer-reviewed journal in geography and is considering submitting an article to Michigan History Magazine. He will begin his doctoral work in geography at UW-Madison in the fall and said we may see him again.

3) Eric Nystrom, the second recipient during the 2006 cycle of awards, gave a presentation on his research on July 18. Nystrom is a doctoral candidate in the history of technology at Johns Hopkins University and is examining ways that mining companies used maps, photos, and mine models to represent and understand the otherwise unseen underground workings of their enterprise.

Once again, proof positive that your dollars have a significant impact on the archives, its researchers and ongoing scholarship about the Upper Peninsula.

Thanks so much to the Friends for your ongoing support.

## ***Friends Purchase Art for the Library***

The Friends authorized \$3,000 for the purchase of art for the Library, which was installed in July 2006. The four pieces are by local artists Joyce Koskenmaki from Hancock, Fredi Taddeucci from Houghton, John Hubbard from Gwinn, and Meegan Flannery from Marquette, and form the basis of a collection of Upper Peninsula-inspired art. Three other pieces in the collection are by Mary Ann Beckwith and were purchased by the Library. Prof. Beckwith is on the faculty at Michigan Tech. University Librarian Phyllis Johnson says, "The art helps give the library a homey, warm feel. Many thanks to the Friends for getting this collection started." On 14 Sept. 2006, the Library hosted a reception for the artists and the Friends which was well attended.

## ***Heavy Rains affect MTU Archives***

On 18 July 2006 heavy rains over the weekend caused flooding in the MTU Archives and Copper Country Collections, located on the ground floor of the J. R. Van Pelt Library. None of the collection was damaged, according to University Librarian Phyllis Johnson, but the reading room was affected. The carpet was drenched, a large hole had to be cut in the wall for access to the drain pipe, and some of the area requires repainting. The reading room was closed for a week to dry out. This flood was the third time water had come into the Archives from the drain pipe. University Facilities has repaired the pipe and is in the process of completing

repairs to the Archives reading room. "I have every confidence the problem with the drain pipe has been resolved," said Ms. Johnson.

## ***Econo Foods "Computers for Kids" Program Benefits VP Library***

by Mary Marchaterre

Time to collect your receipts from Econo to benefit the Van Pelt Library at MTU. Through its Computers for Kids program, Econo Foods donates to the Friends 1% of the sum of all Econo receipts collected. These funds are used to pay for computer systems in the Library. In 2005/2006, the Friends of the Van Pelt Library collected Econo receipts that totaled \$27,647.86. As a result, Econo Foods donated 1% of that total, or \$276.47, to the Friends.

Many thanks to those who participated last year, and a big "keep it up" to all collecting receipts for 2004-2005.

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 only receipts dated August 30th, 2006, through June 3rd, 2007. Please send your receipts by intercampus mail to either Mary Marchaterre (IT - 209 Admin) or Faith Morrison (Chemical Engineering - 304A Chem Sci). Want to help more? Put out a collection box in your area and encourage your coworkers to bring in their receipts for our Library. There are drop boxes in the chemical engineering office (203 Chem Sci), the chemistry office (607 Chem Sci), at the Library circulation desk, in the coffee room on the 2nd floor of the admin building, and in the basement of the EERC. Every little bit helps.

## *Blankets and Note Cards Available*

As always, Friends blankets and note cards are available for sale. Check out the designs on the web at the following addresses:

[www.chem.mtu.edu/~fmorriso/fvpl/note\\_cards.html](http://www.chem.mtu.edu/~fmorriso/fvpl/note_cards.html)

[www.chem.mtu.edu/~fmorriso/fvpl/blanket.htm](http://www.chem.mtu.edu/~fmorriso/fvpl/blanket.htm)

We will ship them anywhere if you have a visa/master card. To order your MTU blanket (100% cotton; \$65 plus tax/shipping) or Keweenaw historical note cards (\$12 plus tax/shipping per set of 12) contact Terry Reynolds, (906-487-2113, [treynold@mtu.edu](mailto:treynold@mtu.edu)) or visit the web pages above. We're considering a new design for a gold and black version of the blanket. The new design will feature the Opie addition to the Van Pelt Library. We'll keep you posted; meanwhile, get the current version while supplies last!

## *Honor-System Book Cart Sales Rebound*

FVPL Treasurer Terry Reynolds reports that receipts from the Friends' honor-system used book cart have begun to rebound from the disastrous 2004-2005 fiscal year, when sales plummeted.

After averaging nearly \$800 a year from its initiation as an auxiliary money-making project of the Friends, cart sales declined to under \$500 in 2004-2005 as the cart was shifted from location to location during remodeling. Those accustomed to browsing the bargain-priced used books on the cart at its old convenient and obvious location often lost track of it.

With the restoration of stability during the past year, however, sales have jumped 37 percent over 2004-2005 totals to around \$650. Reynolds notes that this is not up to the previous average, but it is a step in the right direction. While the cart's location is not a central as it was before remodeling, patrons

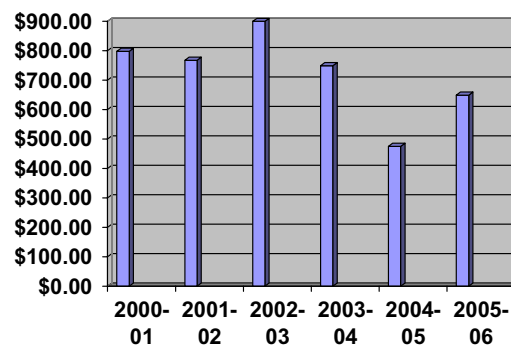


Figure 1: Book cart sales since 1998 have been steady, except for during library construction.

accustomed to browsing it for bargains have begun to rediscover the cart and to adjust to its new locale.

Currently the book cart is stocked monthly by FVPL board member Karen Hubbard; the cash box is attended to by Reynolds. In its six-year history the sale cart has raised more than \$4300 for library improvement projects.

## *Book Sale Report*

[April 18-19, 2006]

To the Membership:

The 2006 book sale report is given below. Bottom line -- between memberships and sales receipts (less the sales tax), we made right at \$2000, but were about \$100 below last year's total. Report includes data from all sales 1998 to present.

Respectfully submitted, Terry Reynolds, Treasurer

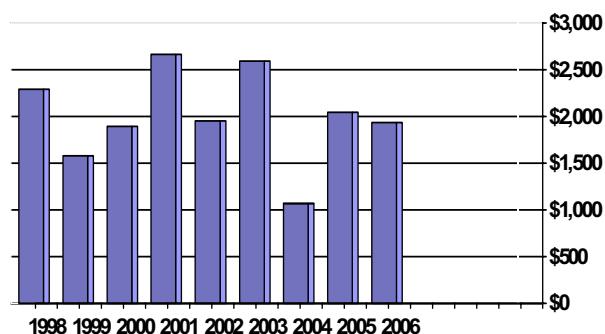


Figure 2: The Friends Annual Book Sale is our biggest revenue stream after donations. Book Sale revenues were also affected by the construction but have rebounded.