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# Founders'

A Newsletter of the Friends  
of Northern Illinois University Libraries



# Type

Issue No. 40  
Summer 2006



## ***Dean's Column for Founders Type***

I will retire on June 1, 2006, as Dean of University Libraries for past the 13 years. Unable to stop the biological clock, and with 37 years in the library profession and 25 continuous years as a library director, the time seems right for retirement and new challenges. A number of milestones and activities come to mind as particular highlights: establishing a rapid response document delivery program to secure articles from anywhere in the world for students, faculty, and staff; installation of our 750,000-volume compact shelving facility in the basement; launching our digital projects center, which has produced world-class websites on Abraham Lincoln, Mark Twain, and Illinois history, among others; major additions to our American popular literature collection, especially Horatio Alger, Edward Stratemeyer, and thousands of dime novels; and the honor of presiding over the University's two millionth volume celebration.



## ***Friends of the Library Summer 2006 Programs***

**Ice Cream Social/  
Annual Business Meeting**  
Wednesday, July 12, 2006  
3:30-5:00 pm  
Staff Lounge, Lower Level

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All of these highlights reflect collaborative effort throughout the library and the community. The NIU Library faculty and staff are a first-rate group, and they have responded magnificently to the various challenges facing libraries today. Perhaps the most encompassing challenge has been the movement of the library toward the electronic resources. This migration, now an overlay to our continuing print collection, brought new levels of access to NIU students, staff, and faculty throughout the campus and beyond. The successful migration involved many decisions, fiscal commitments, and new approaches to cataloging materials. The cooperative spirit and willingness to try new approaches has been a very gratifying part of my experience in the NIU Libraries.

The Friends of the NIU Libraries has been an important force in the Libraries' development over the past three decades. The Friends endowment is now \$250,000, and there are a wide range of speakers and programs offered throughout the year. Our former once-a-year book sale has been supplanted with an "around-the-clock" book sale, which has doubled our revenues over years past. There are several individuals that have been associated with the Friends for many years who deserve special mention. During the first half of my time at NIU,

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Sam Huang did a wonderful job of increasing the number of Friends and initiating a number of new collection endowments. Glen Gildemeister has done a great job with the daily book sale operation. And no one has been as loyal a supporter of the Friends over the years as Ron Klein, local area lawyer and fellow book collector.

As I take leave, please accept my special appreciation for your enduring commitment and financial support of Founders Memorial Library. It is your generosity which enables us to purchase materials that provide that extra margin of excellence. My time at NIU has been happy and rewarding, and I hope to see many of you again in the coming years.

## ***Justice John Roberts and the Future of the U.S. Supreme Court Artemus Ward***

January 19, 2006

The Bush administration's number one concern in the appointment of a Supreme Court justice is that the appointee be someone who has a minimal differential to upholding executive authority, that is, the person upholds the authority of the executive branch of government. This idea framed the discussion by Dr. Artemus Ward, assistant professor in the NIU Department of Political Science. Ward went on to dissect the makeup of the Supreme Court and offered several scenarios for its future based on retirements, appointments, and politics.

At 50 years of age, John Roberts, Jr. is the youngest Chief Justice since John Marshall, who at age 45 was appointed Chief Justice in 1801. Robert is also the first new member of the Supreme Court in over eleven years, the longest stretch since 1823. In relation to the rest of the bench, he is viewed as a moderate conservative.

With Sandra Day O'Connor retiring, the court will have a vacancy. As of the date of Ward's presentation, there was strong reason to believe that a solid conservative, Samuel Alito, Jr., would be appointed. Playing out this appointment, Ward surmised that Alito would be in line with the court's other two staunch conservatives, Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas. This block combined with the two moderate/conservative justices, Roberts and Anthony Kennedy, would give the court a potential five to four vote, favoring the conservatives. Missing will be O'Connor's swing vote status which tended to swing to the left on certain issues, such as abortion. However, as Ward cautioned, one can never be certain or assume how a Supreme Court Justice will vote on a matter.

The next Presidential election will be a decisive issue in the court's makeup. The court's oldest member, John Paul Stevens, will be 89 in 2008. His retirement in 2009 seems imminent. The process for his replacement will see liberals and conservatives pitted against each other in committee hearings, each forecasting a dooms-day scenario if the candidate does not line up with their political thinking. If another conservative is appointed, the court's makeup up will be assuredly conservative and a lot less concerned about swing votes. If a liberal is appointed, then the court's 2008 liberal/conservative make up will likely continue.

Ward also discussed another pending retirement, Ruth Ginsberg, the court's second oldest member. Like Stevens she is considered a liberal. In 2008 she will be 75 years old, an age in which she could possibly delay departing until the 2012 election. However, if the

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democrats win the White House, she may step down after the 2008 election because the president would have the bully pulpit to promote his or her candidate. Ironically, regardless of the liberal or conservative makeup of the executive branch of the government, a difference to executive authority may still be a priority. In other words, liberals too may want it.

Ward holds a Ph.D. from the Maxwell School of Syracuse University in political science. He is author of *Deciding to Leave: The Politics of Retirement from the United States Supreme Court* (State University of New York Press, 2003).

Byron Anderson

## ***What You Really Need to Know About Oil in the Middle East***

March 22, 2006

How did the Middle East get all that oil? How did we come to depend so heavily on fossil fuels for our energy needs? Mark Fischer, faculty member in the Department of Geology and Environmental Geosciences, addressed these questions and more in his Friends-sponsored presentation. The geology of oil may sound like a dismal science, but Fischer turned it into a fascinating history lesson about how the once abundant supply of oil cannot meet today's demand.

The world's energy supply is derived from a number of sources, but oil is the largest at approximately 38 percent. How much oil is there? Proven reserves equal about 1.7 trillion barrels (a barrel equals 42 gallons), and "undiscovered" oil, that is, oil that should be present in certain rock formations equal about 900 million barrels. In 1956, geophysicist M. King Hubbard introduced the concept of oil production peak. Petroleum for any oil field flows to a peak and then declines. Hubbard predicted that oil pumped from U.S. mainland fields would peak around 1970, and it did. Applying Hubbard's formula to world oil production, the peak of global oil production will occur sometime around 2030.

Oil takes a long time to generate, migrate and accumulate, but once accumulated it can be preserved for millions of years. Some areas accumulate oil and others don't depending on the presence of geologic traps. Faults in the earth make excellent traps. The first oil concessions were discovered in the 1900s in Persia. Early discoveries could be made simply by looking for crude oil that had worked its way up to the surface. This is not unlike Jed Clampet, the poor mountaineer who barely kept his family fed, in the Beverly Hillbillies television series, where "up through the ground came a bubblin' crude. Oil that is." These days are gone. Petroleum reserves are far more difficult to find and are now located by a seismic profile.

The Middle East currently controls more than 60 percent of the world's petroleum reserves and five countries dominate: Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates. This can be contrasted with North America, including Mexico, which controls 5 percent. Conservative estimates place U.S. mainland reserves at 7 billion barrels. Should the U.S. sacrifice part of the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to extract a new known reserve of oil? This is a political question and a lively environmental debate. Conservatively, ANWR is estimated to have 6 billion barrels of oil, an eighteen month supply for the U.S.

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Why can't we resolve to meet this demand? There are a number of reasons, for example, our modes of transportation cannot and will not change over night. We're not easily inclined to give up certain things or do with less. Also, other products in high demand are derived from oil, for example, nylon and plastics. Rising costs and the market economy will likely lessen some of our reliance on oil, but overall demand for more energy will likely continue into the foreseeable future. Alternate energy sources are developing and will provide some relief. Particularly noteworthy is more reliance on coal, an energy source is great supply. Also, alternate fuels such as ethanol and hydrogen are becoming more common. Finally, technology is beginning to harness alternative energy sources in more productive ways, including nuclear, solar, wind, geothermal, and hydroelectric.

Byron Anderson

***Iris, You and Me***  
**Mary-Glynn Boies**  
April 19, 2006

On Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, Mary-Glynn Boies presented an artist's talk and slide show, entitled "Iris, You, and Me, or, How Dame Iris Murdoch's Literature and Philosophy Influenced My Art" chronicling the influence of British novelist Iris Murdoch's works on Boies' paintings. A long time Sycamore resident, Boies holds an MFA from NIU and taught in the Art department here for nearly 10 years, after working as an elementary school art teacher for several years. Mary-Glynn currently works as a free-lance graphic designer. She has been heavily involved as a board member with the Chicago Women's Caucus for Art and the Illinois Committee for the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington DC in recent years. Her work has been nationally and internationally exhibited in multiple venues.

Opening with the Murdoch quote, "All art is a struggle to be, in a particular sort of way, virtuous," Mary-Glynn provided a short biography of Murdoch, and chronicled a trip to England that included a one-person gallery show at the Freud Gallery in Oxford, England, and the opportunity to meet Murdoch's widower.

Mary-Glynn discussed how particular imagery from Murdoch's work appears in her paintings again and again, especially in her depictions of children, animals, and Murdochian landscapes, as well as the character motif of "the Guardian" which appears in Murdoch's novels. She closed her talk with an additional quote from Murdoch: "Art is the final cunning of the human soul which would rather do anything than face the gods." Additional information about Boies' work can be found on her website.

—Lynne Thomas

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## ***One of the Best at NIU: Meet Jennifer McCoy***

Jennifer McCoy is among the truly exceptional students at NIU. She possesses all the characteristics of a student who will be a success. She is articulate, honest, dedicated, caring, and passionate about helping people. She is the 2006 – 2007 winner of the Katherine Walker Library Work Scholar Award, a unique scholarship program at NIU which provides the recipient with a higher salary.

Jennifer currently works for the Circulation Department in Founders Memorial Library. Her responsibilities include charging and discharging books and helping patrons with courtesy cards (for non-NIU affiliated patrons), and several other duties. Prior to NIU, she worked at the bookstore at Lakeland Community College in Mattoon. Originally, she came into the position at the library because she commutes to campus from an hour away and she just wanted something to fill in the gaps between her classes. Little did she know her position at the library would direct her future career choice, which will eventually carry her to graduate school. She is currently majoring in English, coupled with the teacher certification program. Through her work at the library, she discovered her love of literature and instruction could be combined.



Coming from a small town in southern Illinois in a rural area, Jennifer felt lost at NIU at the beginning. Now, she says she enjoys “helping students do research in an environment that can be intimidating.” When other students discover that she works in Circulation, they often ask her for help on checking out books. They seem embarrassed to ask, they usually give her a little tap on the shoulder, and whisper, “How can I check out a book?” Working at the library also gives her the opportunity to help students who may have vision or hearing problems. They have “just as much of a right to learning and knowledge as the rest of us do,” according to Jennifer. She also enjoys learning about other cultures and gaining knowledge about diversity through her co-workers. Growing up in rural area, Jennifer did not have as much exposure to other cultures until she came to NIU.

Upon finishing NIU, Jennifer plans to enroll in a master’s degree program in library science and earn the library media specialist certification for K-12. She would like to “help them [younger students] prepare for college or wherever their future career paths will be.” From reading as a young child, she understands that reading “becomes a part of you” and she would like to work where she can give future students “access to literature.” Lastly, besides the importance of reading, Jennifer understands that using the library exposes students to technology. The goal with technology, Jennifer says, should be to “keep future students competitive in our technological society.”

Kay Shelton

Secretary, Walker Library Work Scholar Award Committee

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Announcements:

We are pleased to announce the Friends of the Library purchases for this year. These items, which benefit the entire NIU Libraries community, were purchased through this year's proceeds from the Friends endowment, which has, thanks to your continuing generosity, now reached the impressive milestone of \$250,000.

The first edition of James Weldon Johnson's *Fifty Years & Other Poems*, (1917), autographed by Johnson. This title, a nice addition to the African American Collection by the civil rights activist and poet, commemorates the Emancipation Proclamation, and is *\*very\** scarce (there were only 110 copies printed of this signed, limited edition).

*The Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics* (14 vols); Elsevier; will be added to the main reference collection. This encyclopedia was requested by the English, Foreign Languages, Communications, Communicative Disorders, and Anthropology Departments.

We are saddened to announce the passing of Dr. Martin Kallich, professor emeritus of the English department at NIU, and a Life Member of the Friends. Dr. Kallich passed away on March 30, 2006, at the age of 88. Rare books and special collections were his passion, and he was responsible for the establishment of the Martin Kallich Endowment for Rare Books.

The Annual Meeting of the Friends, which will include a brief business meeting and an ice cream social, will be held on Wednesday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, from 3:30 to 5:00 pm in the Staff Lounge on the Lower Level of Founders' Memorial Library.

Are you interested in becoming more active in the Friends of the NIU Libraries? Would you like to help plan programming, or work on fundraising projects? The Executive Board of the Friends has decided to expand their numbers, and is currently seeking members. Previous experience is not necessary, but former Board members are also more than welcome to return! If you are interested in serving, please contact the Friends at [libraryfriend@niu.edu](mailto:libraryfriend@niu.edu), or call 753-9838.

Paying membership dues is easy! If you are faculty, SPS or civil service at NIU, you can simply fill out the payroll deduction form on page 7 of this newsletter or visit the NIU Human Resource Services forms page. Questions can be directed to [libraryfriend@niu.edu](mailto:libraryfriend@niu.edu), or Angie at 753-8091.

If you would like to read about new services and resources within Founders Memorial Library, and keep up on current events, visit our blog at <http://foundersupdate.blogspot.com/>.

**START**     **CHANGE**     **STOP**

Friends of NIU Libraries

Deduction Name (see below)

Employee ID	Date	
Employee Type <input type="checkbox"/> Salaried <input type="checkbox"/> Hourly		
Last Name	First Name	Middle Name or MI
Total (Goal) Amount to be Deducted *	Amount to Deduct each Pay Period	

**Starting or Changing a Deduction:**

Please deduct from my warrant each pay period the amount shown above and turn over same to the Organization indicated for my credit. This deduction is to be in accordance with established State of Illinois rules governing payroll deductions for the named organization.

NOTE: Any authorization to withhold from the salary or wages of an employee shall terminate and such withholding shall cease upon the happening of any of the following events:

1. Termination of employment
2. Written notice by the employee of cancellation of such former authorization
- \* 3. Predetermined goal amount is reached. A goal amount is not required for all deductions.

**Stopping a Deduction:**

Please discontinue the following deduction which is now being made from my paycheck. This revocation is to be effective after the date on this form.

**Deductions:**

American Cancer Society Kishwaukee United Way Fraternal Order of Police Dues IL Women Fund Foundation KV Habitat for Humanity Public Interest Fund of IL United Negro College Fund	Americas Charities Earth Share Fraternal Order of Police Trust Independant Charities of America Little City Fund Special Olympics Veterans Protection League	Community Health Charities of IL Environmental Fund of IL IL Black United Fund International Service Agency Metropolitan Alliance of Police
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Note: Deductions for the NIU Credit Union, NIU Foundation, Campus Recreation Center and the NIU Fine Arts Series should be started or stopped by contacting those offices directly

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Signature

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## Life Members

*Adra Baker-Gallagher*

*Paul and Jean Burtness*

*Glen and Dawn Ericksen*

*Deborah Eriksen*

*Glen and Jamie Gildemeister*

*Deanne Holzberlein*

*E. Nelson and Marilyn S. James*

*Barbara and David Johnson-Wint*

*Yvonne Johnson*

*Ron and Karen Klein*

*Martin and Harriet Kallich*

*John Jefferson and Judith M. Looney*

*Scott and Kathy Miller*

*William and Josephine Monat*

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*Larry and Judy Sill*

*Sally Stevens*

*Peggy Sullivan*

*Rebekah Wilson*

*Russell and Betty Wood*

*Arthur and Pat Young*

*Jerrold and Carol Zar*

*Life Members have generously donated \$1000 or more to the  
Friends of the NIU Libraries.*

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