



Founders' Type

A Newsletter of the Friends of the Northern
Illinois University Libraries

Issue no. 28
Fall 2001

Upcoming Programs

History of NIU Libraries

Presented by: David Hamilton

Wednesday,

October 17, 2001

7:30 pm

Founders Library Staff Lounge

(Lower Level)

Thirsting After Righteousness: What We Did and Didn't Learn From Prohibition

Presented by: David Kyvig

Date To Be Announced

Founders Library Staff Lounge

For more information, call: 753-9838

or e-mail: libraryfriend@niu.edu

The Friends' Web site:

<http://libws66.lib.niu.edu/friends/>

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From the President

Greetings, from the President of the Friends of the NIU Libraries.

Our 2001 - 2002 season has begun. The schedule of events has been delayed a few weeks due to some staff changes within the Rare Books and Special Collections Department. This delayed start up has provided the staff and officers an opportunity to reflect on the recent tragic events that have befallen our nation. Our prayers go out for those victims, their families, and our country's leaders as they all face a multitude of challenges.

This season has several very special activities planned. These you will find outlined within this newsletter. You will want to note these event dates on your calendar right away. This will help to avoid schedule burdens later. As always, we cordially invite each and every one of you to attend and participate in these interesting programs. Please feel free to invite a friend or colleague to accompany you. These programs offer something special to everyone in the community.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer special thanks to those gracious officers who have served our organization through the previous year. The efforts of these many volunteers are invaluable in keeping this library support organization functioning as smoothly as it does. The many considerate individuals who are serving this year are named in this publication. I would encourage you the reader to take the opportunity to express a word of thanks and support to those members listed. Additionally, there are many generous volunteers who contribute their time and efforts to making our annual book sale such a great success. I would like to express my personal thanks for these kind efforts. The membership has many such opportunities to serve within this wonderful group of Friends of the NIU Libraries. I would extend the invitation to all members to give thoughtful consideration as to how you may be able to serve in some way to extend the successes so firmly established.

Membership and member participation is part of the life-blood of the Friends of the NIU Libraries. Your willingness to be a part of our cause is greatly

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Submissions for the NEXT edition of *Founders' Type* are welcome. All submissions will be considered and printed as space allows. Please direct any such materials to: Kay Shelton, Northern Illinois University Libraries, DeKalb, IL 60115. All unsigned items are contributed by the editors.

Dalkey Archive Press

At the April 30, 2001 meeting of the Board of Directors of the Friends of NIU Libraries, the Board of Directors made a motion based on a recommendation to purchase all of the book titles from Dalkey Archive Press, more than 225 titles total. What is Dalkey Archive Press and why would such a recommendation be made?

In 1975, John O'Brien received his Ph.D. in English from Northern Illinois University. His dissertation was entitled, "The Aesthetics of Black Literature." In the early eighties, he was a Chicago literary critic and professor of English at Illinois Benedictine College. He soon realized that just about every contemporary fiction writer he cared about was either unknown, neglected, or out of print. He was referring to literary writers like Gilbert Sorrentino, Paul Metcalf, and William Eastlake. O'Brien decided to do something about it. He started by launching the *Review of Contemporary Fiction*, a literary journal that devoted each issue to one or two neglected authors. (Founders Memorial Library has every issue of the magazine from volume 1, number 1, Spring 1981 to the present.) The magazine operation had office space provided by Illinois Benedictine College. No salaries were paid in relation to the magazine. The main expense was the printing itself. Because of the low overhead and a good subscriber base, the magazine started making money. With this money, O'Brien decided it would be nice to reprint a few books, ones that didn't have much of a chance of ever getting back into print through a commercial house and ones that were examples of the kind of fiction that the *Review* was championing. Dalkey Archive Press started in 1984. The name was borrowed from a title of a novel by the Irish writer Flann O'Brien.

Within the first two years of the press's operation, John O'Brien realized that there were many more little-known serious writers that deserved to be published. O'Brien also wanted to get some review attention for the books, issue bibliographies to help critics write about his authors, and to always have these books available. From the beginning, the press has kept all of its titles in print regardless of sales. James Laughlin of New Directions press called Dalkey's publishing program "a form of cultural heroism." In 1992, O'Brien and the press moved to Illinois State University. The university offered office and warehouse space for the press, benefits for the staff, and O'Brien was offered a full, tenured professorship in the Department of English with complete release time to run the operation.

The press had been identified with the adjectives of avant-garde, experimental, and innovative. O'Brien prefers "subversive," though he admits it's useless to pigeonhole what the press publishes. Authors range from such modernists as Gertrude Stein, Raymond

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Queneau, and Ford Maddox Ford, to such contemporaries as John Barth, Carole Maso, Ishmael Reed, and Camilo Jose Cela, who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1989. Subject coverage ranges from English literature, literature in translation, African American literature, American Jewish literature, literature by women, women's studies, themes in fiction (from adolescence/coming-of-age to World War II), poetry, anthologies and collections, literary criticism, nonfiction, and bibliography. The press's greatest strength has been its uncompromising editorial vision, providing a serious audience of readers with high quality modern and contemporary literature.

In addition to the *Review* and Dalkey Archive Press, there is another magazine, *CONTEXT: A Forum for Literary Arts and Culture*. *CONTEXT* started in 1999 and was meant to create a context for reading modern and contemporary literature and cultural issues. *CONTEXT* makes the case for writers in essays such as "Reading Jacques Roubard," and "Reading Claude Simon." The publication has a particular focus on those 18 to 24 years of age. To help these readers and to reach readers of all kinds, the publication was and still is distributed free of charge. How could the press afford to do this? Besides the support of Illinois State University, the press is dependent on grant monies and donations. Grants have been received from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Illinois Arts Council, and private foundations, for example, the Lila Wallace Reader's Digest Foundation and the Lannan Foundation.

The Lannan Foundation grant serves as a model for how nonprofit publishers and foundations can work together to ensure that important works of world literature remain available for present and future generations. In addition to the publication of books, the program provides for 500 copies of each title to be distributed free to under-funded schools and libraries throughout the country so that books will reach as many readers as possible. Another part of the effort to reach as many readers as possible is the offer, mentioned at the start of this article, that all Dalkey Archive books are available for a one-time donation of \$1,000. This unusual offer averages out at about \$4.50 per title, a bargain-basement price in today's publishing world. Offers like this and the Lannan grant helps the editors realize their mission of both preserving important works of literature and

cultivating an audience for them. These books should strengthen the University Libraries collection in modern and contemporary literature. To date, only thirteen titles from Dalkey Archive are held in Founders Memorial Library. Small presses typically lack the resources to promote their works and are therefore less commonly held by libraries.

Over the years, those affiliated with the press have maintained close ties with Chicago, and in July 2000 an office was opened in the downtown area in order to become more directly involved with that city's literary community. The office was called the Center for Book Culture, an effort to bring all of the publishing programs together in one organization. For a more detailed look at the Center for Book Culture and its publication programs go to their Web site, <http://www.centerforbookculture.org>. For more detail on all of the books go to <http://www.centerforbookculture.org/dalkey/index.html>.

-Byron Anderson

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appreciated. Thank you for your continued renewal of this vital project support. Keep in mind also that membership growth is important and can be developed easily through sharing with friends and acquaintances. Thank you.


-Ralph Crafton
President

From the Dean's Office

The past year at Northern Illinois University has been one of extraordinary change. We have a new president, Dr. John Peters, who is committed to outreach and making sure that NIU is well positioned politically to ensure adequate fiscal support. Our new provost, Dr. Ivan Legg, has been here for several months, and is already demonstrating his considerable experience with all aspects of academic policy. The compact shelving project in the basement of Founders, the subject of a report elsewhere in this issue, is currently in full construction phase and should be completed next spring. Our outstanding web site devoted to Abraham Lincoln continues to win accolades and recognition for the university. This web site receives approximately 250,000 hits annually. Another facilities project is the opening of a new technologically sophisticated smart classroom. It is a three-room suite with a total of 52 computers, and associated state-of-the-art sound and video equipment. It is the best such installation on the NIU campus.

Of very special interest to the Friends of the NIU Libraries was the receipt of an anonymous donation this past spring of \$50,000. This donation was earmarked for the Friends endowment, a permanent fund which is available only for the purchase of library materials. This splendid gift is the largest one-time gift in the Libraries' history, and a major addition to our endowment holdings. The endowment currently stands at approximately \$200,000. Only three years ago, the endowment was at the \$75,000 level. This donation clearly represents a leadership gift which we hope will inspire others, anonymous or named, to contribute to the long-term fiscal health of the University Libraries.

This year it is my honor to serve as the president of the Illinois Library Association, a hundred-year-old organization with a membership of more than 3,000. The position is a



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demanding one with many meetings and various projects and activities to coordinate. The experience also reinforces for me the good work that all types of librarians and staff are doing around

the state. There are many more commonalities than differences between types of libraries.

Your continuing support is a source of great pride for all of us in the library.

A collective thank you from all of us.



--Arthur P. Young
Dean of the NIU Libraries

Transitions...

One of Founders Memorial Library's greatest assets is its staff. This past year has seen a number of long time and key people move into retirement or accept promotions at other places. Three of our faculty took with them nearly one hundred years of service and experience when they moved into well-earned retirement. Joe Parot, Head of Social Sciences and Humanities; Bill Studwell, Senior Cataloguer; and Lee Dutton, Southeast Asian Collection, were among the few who can remember working in Swen Parson Library and moving to the new building in 1977. May they all enjoy a hard earned retirement. Associate Dean for Public Services, Lorraine Harricomb, also left us this year to become the Dean of Libraries at Bowling Green State University in Ohio. We wish her well in her new position! Mark Williams, long the mainstay of the Friends' day to day operations in Founders, completed a second master's degree in library science at the University of Illinois and has moved on to take a position with the Hines Veterans Administration Hospital in Chicago. He is director of a web based consortial research project which utilizes his considerable skills in technology and information systems. All of us in the Friends know of the contributions Mark made to the Friends over the past six years and we owe him a "Thank You and Well Done!" Mark is excited about the challenges of his new position and would be happy to hear from all of his many old friends here in DeKalb. His email address is: mawllms1@alexia.lis.uiuc.edu.

With a very tight job market nationally and locally Founders' search committees have been hard at work seeking replacements. It is a difficult task. And, of course, no one can come in with the hundred plus years of local experience that we have lost. So if you see a new face on your next visit to the library, please smile, introduce yourself, and take the time to get to know a new Friend.

--Glen Gildemeister

Smart Classroom Complex



In August 2001, a project spanning three years came to fruition when the University Libraries brought online two smart classrooms and a consultation room. This project provides the Libraries and the campus with a complex of rooms steeped in technology but with a focus on instruction.

The Libraries first proposed a "smart classroom" be located in Founders Memorial Library in 1998. The proposal went beyond the standard smart classroom found on the NIU campus of an Internet-connected podium with multi-media capabilities to include a room full of student workstations.

During the summer of 2000, the administrative group identified an area on the second floor along the west wall, where a small lab already existed, as space for the smart classroom. As the group looked and thought about the space, a new vision of the Libraries smart classroom evolved into the complex of three rooms designed to meet a wide range of instructor needs and class sizes.

Plans were drawn and construction began in the fall of 2000. The three rooms consist of a 6 computer workstation consultation room, and two classrooms, one with 10 computer workstations the other with 36 computer workstations. All workstations have Microsoft Office 2000 loaded. Each computer workstation is connected to a network printer housed in the large classroom.

Smart Classroom in Founders Library



The largest classroom is equipped with a blend of new technology and older technology to create a flexible instructional environment. The room includes a Smartboard (akin to a touch screen monitor so that a user can interact with the image); classroom management software called Synchroneyes, CD-ROM, DVD, VCR, cassette players, and a document camera (a new version of an overhead projector, but it can display transparencies, a sheet of paper, and show objects in 3-D). A satellite downlink is also available in this room. Two projection screens were added to the front of the room to ensure all the students in the room can see the image being displayed on the Smartboard or an instructor can display two different images to be displayed on the outer screens at any given time. A wireless mouse, a microphone, and speaker system rounds out the equipment in the room. At some point in the future, we hope to add videoconferencing capabilities.

The smaller instruction room has fewer technology features than the larger room. Like the larger room, this room is equipped with a Smartboard; classroom management software, Synchroneyes, CD-ROM player, and a document camera. Classes such as the online catalog and index and abstract searching the Libraries offer at the start of each semester will be scheduled for this room.

The consultation room with its 6 computer workstations is perfect for those occasions when an instructor needs to do one-on-one teaching in a quiet environment. In addition to the computers, a whiteboard is provided.

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Library Exhibits

Founders Memorial Library Lobby:

Title: *International Libraries*

International Week, Sept. 21-28

Now through September 28, 2001

Title: *History of Technology at NIU*

October, 2001

Title: *Amazing Maize: Corn and Religion,*

History, Science, Cuisine

November, 2001

Southeast Asia Collection:

Title: *Food for Thought: Cuisine of Southeast Asia*

Continuing Exhibit

Rare Books & Special Collections:

Title: *Books Throughout History;* and

An Historical Look at Chicago

Continuing Exhibit

ensure equity, any single class section may use the lab one time per month, not to exceed three times per semester. Groups' external to NIU may schedule use of the lab in conjunction with NIU faculty or staff, and are subject to the same restrictions.

In case of scheduling conflicts, classes conducted by library faculty and staff will have precedence over classes conducted by faculty and staff outside the library. The library reserves the right to place limited blocks on the scheduling process at the beginning of the semester for the purpose of ensuring that classes in the library's instruction programs may be accommodated." From the Libraries Use of Classroom Facilities Policy.

If you are interested in an introduction to the rooms, contact TJ Lusher (tlusher@niu.edu or 753-9806). If you would like to schedule a class in one of the rooms talk with your subject liaison or contact Karen Hovde (khovde@niu.edu or 753-1770).

--T.J. Lusher

Basement Buildout

The University Libraries is in the midst of a very exciting project. What we call the "Basement Buildout" finally began construction this May after nearly five years of planning and requesting funding. The renovation of 124,047 square feet in the basement of Founders Memorial Library will provide special climate controlled storage for some 600,000 volumes in compact shelving.

While the library is suffering the temporary loss of our loading dock, some noise, dust, and smells, we are all excited about what the space will do for the library. The entire Regional History Center collection, which has been housed in Swen

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As the heart of the university, the Libraries understands that the demand for classrooms equipped with technology will experience exponential growth for the foreseeable future. With this understanding, the Libraries will make the classrooms and the consultation room available to the campus. To ensure equitable access to the rooms, the Libraries have created a policy outlining usage--a portion of

which is quoted here:

"These labs may be scheduled for use by any instructor or division at Northern Illinois University. To

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Parson will move to the space, and the Regional History Center Reading Room will be relocated to the fourth floor of Founders.

From the present collections of Founders, some 250,000 low-use volumes are being selected for a move to the basement storage area. Most materials that are now in the Closed Stacks area will go down. Subject specialists in consultation with faculty are individually selecting other materials. The stacks in Founders are beginning to bloom with white stickers with "Storage" in red on them. Because the materials are individually chosen, some areas are more targeted than others are. Criteria for selection may include, depending on the subject area, low use, obsolescence, superseded editions, multiple copies, little used runs of ceased or older serials, and materials that would benefit from climate controlled storage.

After the initial move of materials to the basement, materials will be moved as space becomes tight in the main stacks. The same criteria will apply, and materials will be selected individually. The University Libraries estimated that there will be storage space available for some fifteen to twenty years of growth in the University Libraries collections.

A great benefit of the storage space will be the gain of seating spaces for students. Libraries in academic institutions are required to provide seating space for a certain percentage of their student population. For some years, Founders has had to sacrifice student seating for collections and computer space. This renovation will provide more than 300 student seating spaces.

Materials will be retrieved several times a day on a regular schedule. In addition to request forms at service desks, including Southeast Asia, Government Publications, the Map Library, the Periodicals Service Desk, and the Main

Circulation Desk, online forms will be available so that patrons can request that materials be retrieved and available for them when they arrive at the library. Only workers will be routinely in the basement,

although a researcher who has a special need will be able to work in the basement with the assistance of a staff member.

It has been interesting to watch the building progress. All 124,047 square feet have been prepared and a substantial floor of concrete has been poured. Later, when the rails for the compact shelving have been installed, there will be a smaller pour of concrete. Fireproofing, lights that will swing down and turn on when a person opens a particular shelf, bathrooms for workers who are on the floor to retrieve materials, two small processing rooms for staff working on the floor, and a multitude of electrical and plumbing tasks have been completed or are underway. One noisy but necessary project included putting a hole in the floor of one of the stairwells as the beginning of another stairway to connect the basement to the other floors in the library. The dark gravel "pit" that many library staff saw on a tour at the beginning of the project has changed into a sizeable room with many lights and solid flooring.

So when do we all get to see this wonderful new facility? The tentative date for completion of the construction is now the end of February 2002. We will be updating you often as our plans progress. It will be some time before the move is completed, but we will be celebrating the completion of the construction this spring and hope to offer a time for our patrons and friends to view our new facility.

--Mary Munroe
Associate Dean of the NIU Libraries



One of dozens of cement trucks involved in the basement buildout project.

***** Book Donations *****

Until the construction equipment clears the area, book donations may be dropped off by the double doors on the east side of the library, near the book drop on Normal Rd.



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MEMBERSHIP

The Friends of the Northern Illinois University Libraries provide support to the libraries in many ways. Membership dues are placed in an endowment fund, the interest income from which is used for the purchase of books and materials the libraries could not otherwise afford. The Friends hold a program series every academic year with a variety of speakers on interesting topics. These programs are free to members and their guests. Every April, the Friends hold their Annual Book Sale. Books that are donated to the library for the book sale are sold to the public. Proceeds from this event are placed in the endowment fund. We are very proud of our Friends group because their activities benefit and strengthen our libraries and the University. If you are already a Friend, please share this newsletter with a friend or colleague, or consider giving a membership in the Friends as a gift.



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- Preview the Annual Book Sale.
- Interlibrary Loan Services.
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- Four issues of *Founders' Type*.
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