



Founders' Type

A Newsletter of the Friends of the Northern
Illinois University Libraries

Issue no. 30
Summer 2002

Upcoming Programs

Collecting George Eliot

**Presented by:
William Baker**

**Tuesday, Sept. 10th
7:30 pm**

**Library Staff Lounge
(Lower Level)**

**For more information,
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**Please visit the Friends Web
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From the President ...

Greetings and best summer wishes to all from the President of the Friends of the NIU Libraries.

This summer passed quite quickly it seems to me. Many pages have turned and exciting events have been documented. It is with eager anticipation I turn my attention to this upcoming year with the Friends of the NIU Libraries. You will see in this newsletter, the program schedule of events promises to be very interesting. I sincerely encourage all of you to attend these fine programs. These are good opportunities to show one another our personal commitments to the development of our strong Friends program.

The funds provided to the NIU Libraries each year through the efforts of this organization are quite substantial. These purchases and services are greatly appreciated by the library staff, the faculty, and the students. This is an important work that this great Friends group does. Your participation is valued. I continue to encourage each of you to get and keep involved in whatever ways you can. Many members donate books to our sales, willingly give of their time in volunteer services at various events as well as behind the scenes, and serve as board members and officers. These board members are the structure that keeps this Friends group thriving. Please consider how you may encourage or even join this generous group of members and contribute to the continued health and growth of the Friends of the NIU Libraries.

Thank you all for your support. I look forward to seeing you at this season's activities and events.

--Ralph Crafton
President

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Friends Program

April 10, 2002

There are individuals in our midst whose occupation and experience equip them with interesting stories. One such person is Sycamore resident Dirk Johnson, Chicago Bureau Chief and Senior Writer for Newsweek magazine. Johnson was the final speaker in the current Friends program series. Johnson majored in journalism at the University of Wisconsin, interned at the Chicago Sun Times, and worked several positions including the New York Times before ending up at Newsweek. He has covered many newsworthy events, but prefers human-interest stories, that is, stories of individuals, of people just making it, struggling to survive.

One detailed story he related involved a thirteen-year-old girl living with her family in a trailer park. The story was on our affluent economy as seen through the eyes of this young girl who did not share in the affluence. Other media picked up on this story and created quite a storm. The girl appeared on several talk shows, was visited by Hillary Clinton, received a new wardrobe from Ralph Lauren, and was given a scholarship to Eureka College. All the attention and gifts did not improve the girl as a person, nor improve the family's situation. Johnson's postscript to this story is that he did the girl no favor. The moral for the story was when it comes to the press you have to be careful what you write.

As a writer, Johnson admires journalists such as Mike Royko, Abe Rosenthal, Evan Thomas, and Anna Quinlan. What these writers do well, and the central role of journalism, is to bring some of the joy of life to readers. This role was greatly challenged for months following the 9/11 attack. Johnson has seen a number of changes to the field of journalism over the years. Today's journalists are expected to tell a story as a story. To simply restate the facts is not enough. Johnson is also concerned about the media consolidation that has occurred over the past decade or more. Consolidation distinguishes the family-owned from the non-family-owned firms. Family-owned firms, such as the Graham family who owns the Washington Post and Newsweek, have the integrity that pushes them to put out the best product possible.

Most of Johnson's writing is in newspapers, but he does have one book: Biting the Dust: The Wild Ride and Dark Romance of the Rodeo Cowboy and the American West (Simon & Schuster, 1994). He hopes to try his hand at another book someday.

--Byron Anderson
Friends Secretary

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.

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2002-2003 Walker Scholarship Winner Announced

David Kooi has been named the Katherine Walker Library Work Scholar for the 2002-2003 academic year. David was selected on the basis of his outstanding academic record, and his exemplary work in the university libraries Microforms Department. He is pursuing a degree in Computer Science, and is also enrolled in the Honors Program. David is a native of Morrison, Illinois.

--Jim Millhorn
Head of Acquisitions

Libraries Receive Major Grants

The Northern Illinois University Libraries are participating in a very exciting project. Library systems are designed to acquire material and help patrons to find this material. They have not traditionally been designed as systems to evaluate these collections. In years past, librarians have gathered information to evaluate the collection by hand in a long and drawn out process. Now there is a new system, ICAS, from OCLC, the online library bibliographic catalog, which also produces World Cat, to make this process very much easier. When I came to Illinois, I had been principal investigator in a statewide use of the ICAS system. The members of the Illinois Cooperative Collection Management Program (ICCM) asked me to chair a committee to design a similar project in Illinois and to attempt to raise money to fund it. Over the last two years, the committee has used a combination of grants and contributions from Illinois academic libraries to find the funding for the project. That project has now become a reality.

The ICAS project uses OCLC records from the libraries to count the number of titles that each library owns in various subject areas, including 24 large divisions (history and auxiliary sciences, chemistry, psychology, etc.) and some 500 categories (history of Southeast Asia, organic chemistry, child psychology, etc.). Each library has received a CD-

ROM that includes not only their own data, but also data from each of the academic libraries, which participated in the study. There are also analyzed by date, which allows the library to determine the age of the collection, an important factor in these times of stringent budgets. Another portion of the study examines how many of the titles overlap with other libraries and how many titles are unique, important factors in preservation and a guide as we consider last copy preservation efforts. Libraries can compare themselves to other libraries of similar size and can look at relative strengths and weaknesses within their own collection.

Although the study will be wonderful for individual libraries, the purpose of the study was to examine the statewide meta-collection to determine where the strengths and weaknesses of Illinois libraries lie and to guide the ICCMP in managing its grant funds. The study is limited to monographic collections in Illinois, and therefore, data from usage studies of electronic resources and data from serial collections would need to be added to the data on the CD-ROM to get a complete picture. Together this data offers the promise of enhancing the value of library collections in Illinois to the students, faculty, staff and general public who use our collections. It will also be a guide as we work toward cooperative collection development throughout the state. Once libraries understand their areas of strength and weakness, we can join together to fill the gaps that exist and to maintain the strength of our flagship subject areas.

The process of analysis of the data has begun with a workshop, conducted by Glenda Lins of the OCLC Lacey Product Center, for representatives from the participating libraries. Other workshops in analysis of the data and in use of the data are planned for the fall. A working group to do the meta-collection work is being formed. And we are trying to raise money to extend the analysis to an even more detailed level, the 5,000 subjects. The project has been exhausting, thrilling, exciting, frustrating, and satisfying, and the result will be wonderful both for individual libraries and for the state.

---Mary Munroe
Associate Dean

From the Dean's Office



Founders' Notes
Dean's Column

With this fall message, I begin my tenth year as Dean of University Libraries. There is much to report about the collections, facility, funding, and electronic outreach. The compact shelving project in the basement of FML is essentially complete, and we have started to move some of the older and lesser used materials into that location. During late spring, we moved the Regional History Center from Swen Parson to an office location on the fourth floor, and relocated its major archive into the compact storage facility. Glen Gildemeister and his staff deserve kudos for the smooth execution of a very complex and demanding move. Our decision to initiate a continuous Friends book sale in the lobby of the library has been very well received, and proceeds to date have doubled those from the annual, one-time book sale.

We received spectacular news about grant funding in late spring. The American Archives Digitization Project received a grant, and funds were also secured for a planning grant for a Mark Twain's America website, both awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). On that same day, the Henry David Thoreau Editorial Project announced a third NEH grant in support of that project, and an additional grant to assist in the preparation of the Thoreau volumes. All together, four grants in one day totaling \$440,000. Combining these three NEH grants with a research scholar grant received earlier this spring by William Baker, the Northern Illinois University Libraries received four NEH grants this spring. I am quite confident that this achievement may be a national record. Congratulations to all for the magnificent effort and for the great credit they have brought to Northern Illinois University.

The University Libraries has migrated to a new computer system operated by the 44-member ILCSO consortium. Searching the online catalog will be easier and more rewarding than ever before. I encourage you to try it out and to benefit from the new features and flexibility. At nearly the same time, we launched a new home page for the library, a move designed to ensure that faculty, students, and staff can more efficiently locate those sections of the home page that are needed for their teaching and research.

Finally, I would like to mention that our two principal leaders, President John Peters and Provost Ivan Legg, have protected the library to the maximum extent possible from the serious budget cuts which have visited every public institution in the state of Illinois. They deserve our congratulations for preserving the core academic importance of information resources. Thank them when you get a chance.

A rectangular advertisement with a black border. On the left is a cartoon drawing of a man with wild, spiky hair and a wide, toothy grin, wearing a suit and tie. To the right of the drawing is the text: "Lonn E. Brander, D.D.S. GENERAL DENTISTRY 'We Cater to Cowards!' Evening & Saturday Appointments Friends' Members receive a \$5.00 discount on initial dental exams". At the bottom of the ad, the address "203 North Second Street, DeKalb" and phone number "756-2295" are listed.

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Evening & Saturday
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Friends' Members receive a
\$5.00 discount on initial
dental exams
203 North Second Street, DeKalb
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--Arthur P. Young
Dean of the NIU Libraries

2002 Friends Book Sale

In the winter issue of *Founders Type* we called for book donations and volunteers for the annual spring sale and noted that both had been declining in recent years. This year we had ten members volunteer time to help with the sale and received only fourteen boxes of books. Thanks to a backlog of prior donations and many hours of help from library staff we did hold the sale for three days in April. The Friends benefited by raising over \$3,000 during that sale but we raised even more during the rest of the year through the sale book truck kept in the main entrance of the library.

The good news is that this year the sale of used books raised a record high of \$7,084 and all of that money has been deposited to our endowment fund. This year we will emphasize fund raising through the sale truck in the main lobby and we ask all members to please donate books the year round rather than saving them for the spring. With the loading dock at the south end of the building once again open we hope you will help out by bringing sale books to the dock. The success of this means of sale coupled with the lack of volunteers for the annual sale will mean the end of the spring sale, at least for a year or two. Since the book sale is our major fundraiser we need to keep it going all year round and will depend on your generosity to do that. Thanks to all our members who did donate books and their time to the sale this year. It was much appreciated and our endowment is now at a record high and growing.

-- Glen Gildemeister
Faculty Liaison

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Library Exhibits

Founders Memorial Library Lobby:

Title: *What's New at the Library*

This exhibit shows the construction of the additional shelving in the basement of the library.

July/August 2002

Southeast Asia Collection:

Titles: *Children's Books of Southeast Asia*

New Exhibit in Fourth Floor Hallways

Art of Burma, from Burma Collections

Fourth Floor

Rare Books & Special Collections:

Titles: *Books of the African American Special Collection*, Rare Book Room

A Historical Look at Chicago,

Continuing Exhibit in Fourth Floor Hallway



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