

# Founders'

A Newsletter of the Friends  
of Northern Illinois University Libraries



# Type

Issue No. 34  
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## *President's Column*

Winter to me always seems like the time to go to the library. It's too cold to stay outside, especially here in Illinois. The library's warmth is inviting in the midst to the cold harsh reality outside, and the prospect of becoming immersed in reading and research puts aside thoughts of our temporarily gray city.

This winter, my thoughts of libraries in general as institutions caused me to reflect the value of having so many wonderful libraries accessible to so many people.

To me, libraries are the underpinning of our knowledge society on at least two levels.

At a basic level, libraries make information more accessible to everyone. I wonder if any economists have ever calculated the direct value of the access of that information on our economy.

But on a higher level, the existence of libraries in our communities, cultural, institutions, schools, and universities, sends a message of course that the facts, figures, and research housed there constitutes an important part of our world and the investigation of that information is a worthy goal. Libraries trumpet the intrinsic value of knowledge in our otherwise capitalistic and materialistic milieu, thus enriching the human experience of our citizens, even those who pass by the library without entering.

We are lucky we need not learn what it would be like without the freely accessible access to information, data, and research our collections and staff provide. But no doubt American society would be poorer if there were fewer libraries, if libraries were foreboding, inaccessible or poorly run, and especially for us if institutions of higher learning did not invest properly in their libraries, collections, and staff. As friends, patrons, and supporters of the libraries, we help ensure that no one realizes how poorer everyone would be without them. Thank you for your support of the libraries.

**--Lawrence A. Stein  
President, Friends of NIU Libraries**



### *Programs at Founders*

#### *Therapeutic Cloning and Public Policy*

**Prof. Andrea Bonnicksen**  
**PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE**  
**Wed., Feb. 18th, 2004, 7:30 pm**  
**Founders Library Staff Lounge,**  
**Lower Level**

#### *From DeKalb to the Moon and Beyond*

**Emil Schiesser, Presenter**  
**Wed., Mar. 3rd, 2004, 7:30 pm**  
**Engineering Bldg. Auditorium, EB 101**  
**PLEASE NOTE:**  
**Annual Meeting Following Lecture**

**For More Information:**  
**Telephone: (815) 753-9838**  
**e-mail: libraryfriend@niu.edu**



*Photo by Glen Gildemeister. Gregory is sitting in front of a replica: The Inscription of King Ramkamhaeng the Great created by Chulalongkorn University, Thailand on the occasion of the 700th anniversary of the Thai alphabet.*





*Photo by Glen Gildemeister. Lynne is standing in front of NIU's own replica of a common printing press can be seen in Rare Books (4th floor) anytime the library is open.*



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**There will be a short annual Friends meeting following directly after the March 3rd lecture by Emil Schiesser**

**By-Laws Of The Friends of the N.I.U.Libraries**

(Adopted April 25, 1983)

(Revised March 3, 2004)

Article I

**Name.**

The name of this organization shall be “The Friends of the Northern Illinois University Libraries.”

Article II

**Purpose.**

The purpose of the Friends shall be to maintain an organization of persons interested in books and other library materials; to assist in bringing to the libraries of Northern Illinois University funds for special needs beyond the command of the Libraries’ budget; to encourage gifts of books and other library materials; and to cooperate with the Libraries and the Libraries Advisory Committee in the development of the resources of the Libraries.

Article III

**Membership.**

Any person, business firm, or other organization interested in the objects of the Friends of the N.I.U. Libraries may become a member on application duly approved, or on invitation by the Executive Committee.

Article IV

**Membership.**

- A. The Executive Committee establishes levels for membership dues and establishes levels of donation for recognition.
- B. Honorary memberships may be awarded in recognition of significant contributions or services to the University Libraries as determined by the Executive Committee.

Article V

**Officers and Committees.**

- A. In addition to the President, the officers of the Friends shall be the Vice President/President-elect, Secretary, and Treasurer, each of whom shall be elected for one-year terms by majority vote of the members present at the annual meeting. Officers other than the President and the Vice President/President-elect may succeed themselves.
- B. There shall be an Executive Committee consisting of the above officers, the immediate past President, the Dean of the University Libraries, and six members at large each to be elected for a term of three years by a majority of the members present at the annual meeting. One third of the members at large shall be elected each year. Also, at that time, a member shall be elected to complete the remaining term of a member at large who served less than three years.

The Executive Committee shall have the power to conduct the affairs of the Friends at times other than the annual meeting, including the filling of vacancies until the next annual meeting. Seven members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.

The President shall act as the chairperson of the Executive Committee, and he or she shall appoint additional committees as directed by the Friends or by the Executive Committee. The Dean of the University Libraries, or the Dean’s designee, shall be a member, *ex officio*, of all committees.

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Article VI  
**Meetings.**

The meetings of the Friends shall consist of an annual business meeting to be held at such time and place as shall be determined by the President, and other such meetings as the Executive Committee shall determine. Adequate notice, by mail, of fourteen days having been given, members present shall constitute a quorum sufficient for the transaction of business at any annual meeting.

Article VII  
**Amendments.**

Changes in by-laws must first be approved by the Executive Committee and finalized by a two-thirds vote of those present at the annual meeting of the Friends of NIU Libraries. Notice of such proposed amendments shall have been mailed to all members at least ten days prior to the annual meeting.

## Reference Consolidation

Recent cuts to the library's budget led the library's three reference floors. Certain advantages have resulted. During the 2003 fall semester, with minimal disruption to service, three reference collections were merged into one. Approximately 40 percent of the third floor Science, Engineering, Technology and Business reference collection and the second floor Social Sciences and Humanities collection were relocated to an expanded first floor reference collection. The first floor reference area is now called Reference, not General Reference. The remaining books in the second and third floor reference collections are to be transferred to the regular book stacks.

The service desks for the second and third floor reference areas have been eliminated. Librarians at those desks now work at the first floor reference desk open 72 hours per week with 47 of these double-staffed. Consolidation means that reference service is being provided all times by librarians and will no longer make use of paraprofessionals or graduate assistants. This should result in better service by providing more subject expertise. Desk scheduling is such that in a double staffed situation, librarians are available from two different areas of subject expertise, for example, engineering and art. Referrals, as needed, to subject specialists not at the desk, will continue as in the past.

The book stacks in the former second and third floor reference areas are to be dismantled and replaced with seating, with one exception. Enough shelving will be retained on the second floor for a new bibliographic collection. This collection will be composed of materials encompassing national bibliographies, such as the *National Union Catalog*, *British Museum Catalogue*, and a number of other similar works. These works entail sizable runs often extending to hundreds of volumes, and in general are lesser-used items.

The library is retaining its other reference services, notably in the Government Publications and Southeast Asian areas. We look forward to the next opportunity to serve you.

--Byron Anderson  
Head of Reference

### Exhibits

#### Founders Library First Floor

**February:** *African American History*

**March:** *Women's History Exhibit*

**April:** *U.S. Secret Treaties in  
Government Documents*

**May:** *Horatio Alger*

**June:** *200th Anniversary of Lewis and  
Clark*

**July/August:** *150th Anniversary of  
Thoreau's Walden Pond*

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## Life Members

*Adra Baker-Gallagher*  
*Glen and Dawn Ericksen*  
*Deanne Holzberlein*  
*Barbara and David Johnson-Wint*  
*Ron and Karen Klein*  
*William and Josephine Monat*  
*James Block Pick*  
*Gordon Rasmussen*  
*Peggy Sullivan*  
*Russell and Betty Wood*  
*Jerrold and Carol Zar*

*Paul and Jean Burtness*  
*Glen and Jamie Gildemeister*  
*E. Nelson and Marilyn S. James*  
*Martin and Harriet Kallich*  
*John Jefferson and Judith M. Looney*  
*Todd and Joanne Nebel*  
*Mark Richard and Alice Priebe*  
*Lawrence Rast*  
*Rebekah Wilson*  
*Arthur and Pat Young*



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