

# Founders'

A Newsletter of the Friends  
of Northern Illinois University Libraries



# Type

Issue No. 38  
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2005



## *Dean's Column*

Dear Friends,

I am always pleased to report on the many exciting activities associated with the University Libraries. We continue to enjoy forward momentum on many fronts. Statewide, three venerable library consortial groups combined this summer to form the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois, or CARLI for short. Consolidation was undertaken to enhance purchasing power, to improve advocacy efforts, and to undertake more substantial cooperative activities in such areas as digital libraries, preservation, and storage facilities. The Consortium has over 100 member libraries and is headquartered at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. I am delighted to report that the first chair of the CARLI organization is our very own Mary Munroe, Associate Dean for Collections and Technical Services.



*Friends of the Library  
Fall 2005 Programs*

**Jill Thompson and Brian  
Azzarello  
Comic Book Writers and  
Artists**

Date and Time TBA  
(Mid-November)

*A Day at the Newberry*  
Saturday, November 5th  
8am-5pm

Transportation to and from Chicago  
is free to Friends; cost: \$15 for  
non-friends; \$10 for students

**Joan Metzger**  
*Editing History: The Griffith  
Letters and the Civil War*  
Wednesday, Nov. 9th, 7:30pm

Telephone: (815) 753-9838  
e-mail: libraryfriend@niu.edu  
<http://www.niulib.niu.edu/friends/>

This fall we launched the most comprehensive assessment of our library program through a survey instrument known as LIBQUAL. This web-based assessment program comes out of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), and more than 250 libraries have completed the exercise. We will learn much about perceptions of our collections and services, and be able to compare ourselves with the many libraries that have completed the survey. We take pride in periodically examining ourselves, and past surveys are available on our library website.

We continue to have spectacular results generating external funds through our grant submissions. We received the largest grant in the history of the University Libraries this spring, a grant for a Southeast Asia digital project, which was awarded in the amount of \$780,000 over four years by the Department of Education. This grant involves many partners domestically and internationally, and will result in the digitization of important materials of interest to Southeast Asia scholars and students. Among our domestic

*Continued on page 7*

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## Announcements

The University Libraries continues to collect pennies for the Two Million Penny Challenge. The money raised will be used to establish a general endowment in support of the University Libraries' collections. (Of course, all monetary donations of any size are cheerfully accepted!) If you would like to make a donation, or host a penny jar, please contact Library Administration, at (815) 753-9802. University Library employees will be collecting pennies at the Ball State Football game on October 29th; please give generously!

If you are interested in being added to an electronic mailing list of upcoming events and activities for the Friends of the Library, please email [libraryfriend@niu.edu](mailto:libraryfriend@niu.edu), and we will be happy to add your name. Keep up on Friends events and news electronically!

Did you know that NIU employees, both faculty and staff, who are Friends of the Library can have their annual memberships and gifts to Friends endowments deducted directly from their paychecks? NIU employees can designate the Friends of the NIU Libraries for charitable giving using the "Stop/Start Payroll Deduction Authorization" form provided on the Human Resource Services webpage at: <http://www.hr.niu.edu/resources/forms.cfm>. Please contact Lynne Thomas, the Faculty Liaison, for further details, at (815) 753-9838, or at [libraryfriend@niu.edu](mailto:libraryfriend@niu.edu).



*Thank you for your support!*

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## Upcoming Events and Programming

The Friends Program Committee has been hard at work to bring you an exciting array of programming for the next year. In mid-November, in conjunction with an exhibit featuring materials from our Comic Books Collection, we are pleased to announce that Jill Thompson and Brian Azzarello have agreed to give a talk on campus and sign their work. Jill is the writer/artist of *Scary Godmother*, and has illustrated Neil Gaiman's *Sandman*. Brian is best known for his writing on *Hellblazer* and *100 Bullets*. Please watch your mail for details.

For a change of pace, the Friends of the Library will be sponsoring a trip to the Newberry Library on Saturday, November 5th. The Newberry is hosting an exhibition, *Lewis and Clark and the Indian Country*, and will be presenting two free lectures on the 5th. The theme of the lectures is "Indian Country through Photography and Film."

Richard Mack, an Evanston-based photographer, will be speaking on "The Lewis and Clark Trail: American Landscapes" at 11:00 am. At 1:30 pm, Sally Thompson from the University of Montana, the media curator for the exhibit, will be showing her short documentary film, *Contemporary Voices Along the Lewis and Clark Trail*, and will then discuss the film project. For further details about this event, please see the Newberry's webpage: <http://www.newberry.org/programs/L3pcontinuing.html> and click on "Exhibit Programs."

The Friends will provide a bus to and from the Library. Lunch will be on your own. The bus trip is free to Friends; non-Friends and guests will be asked to pay \$15 (\$10 for students) to help defray expenses. Students who pay the \$10 fee automatically gain Friends membership on the spot. Space on the bus is limited. To reserve your seat, please contact Kathy Wright, at 753-5201. The bus will leave at 9:00 am from the Normal Road entrance to the Holmes Student Center, and will return around 5 pm.

Joan Metzger, Assistant University Archivist, will be giving a talk titled "Editing History: The Griffith Letters and the Civil War" on Wednesday, November 9, 2005. Ms. Metzger will be happy to sign copies of her book, *The Griffith letters : The story of Frank Griffith and the 116th New York Volunteer Infantry in the Civil War* after her talk.

In the Spring Semester, we will focus on current events, as well as on the fine arts. Artemus Ward, Assistant Professor of Political Science, will talk to us in January about "Justice John Roberts and the Future of the U.S. Supreme Court". Mark Fischer, an Associate Professor from the Geology department, will talk to us about oil in the Middle East. We are also currently working with a local artist and the Nehring Gallery to provide joint programming, hopefully sometime in April.

Watch this space, and your mail, for continuing news of upcoming events!

Kathy Wright, Program Chair  
and  
Lynne Thomas, Faculty Liaison

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## Treasurer's Report

### Treasurer's Report June 2, 2005

#### Operating Fund:

Balance June 1, 2004

\$15,174.60

#### Revenues:

Book Sale	5,238.24
Memorials	1,700.00
Memberships	<u>6,929.00</u>

Total Revenue

\$13,867.24

Total Available:

\$29,041.84

#### Expenses:

Engravings	367.03
Board Lunch	64.00
Program Expenses	288.46
FOLUSA	<u>65.00</u>

Total Expenses

\$ 784.49

Deposit to Endowment

\$ 14,000.00

Expenses plus deposit

\$14,784.49

Operating Fund Balance May 1, 2004

\$14,257.35

#### Remarks:

As of May 1, 2005 the Friends of NIU Libraries Endowment Fund stood at \$221,491.74, up nineteen percent from the same time last year. Just last year the total of our operating and endowed accounts passed the \$200,000 mark and it appears we will reach the quarter million dollar mark sometime within the next two years. Since 2000 our total funds have almost tripled. One result is that the expendable amount from our endowment fund has also tripled and that allowed us to contribute \$9,956.30 toward the library's purchase of a two millionth volume this past year. Normally our fiscal year runs from June 1 through May 31 so the final report for the operating fund should be even better than is reflected above. We do not yet have the financial data from May from the university's Peoplesoft System. This year again the Friends received substantial in kind support from the University Libraries and the Regional History Center. All in all, the Friends' finances are in excellent condition and my thanks to all who have worked so hard to keep us moving ever forward and upward. Thank You!

Respectfully submitted,  
Glen A. Gildemeister, Treasurer  
June 2, 2005

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## Friends Annual Meeting and Ice Cream Social

June 2nd, 2005

The attendance at the Friends of NIU Libraries Annual Ice Cream Social got a boost with the added presentation by Neil Shalin, author of *Out by a Step: The 100 Best Players NOT in the Baseball Hall of Fame* (Diamond Communications, 2002). Shalin, a Naperville author, free lance writer and sports reporter, co-authored with his brother Mike. Written from a fan's point of view, the book presents 100 biographies of baseball players that are, in the opinion of the authors, too good to forget. The Baseball Hall of Fame, which preserves the memory of the sport, was incorporated into the title because these "would-have-beens" deserve to be remembered. This book will help these players to be remembered.

Shalin considers himself an "observer of the passing scene," and came to believe that there were a number of baseball players who had remarkable baseball careers, but fell short of the statistics necessary for the Hall of Fame. There are a number of reasons a player could come up short of the number needed, for example:

injury: excellent hitting may have been offset by periodic injuries;

inconsistency: a player's passion for the game may have wandered causing some lackluster seasons;

personality: some players were difficult to manage and this affected their performance;

discrimination: race was a particular detriment to players of color in the earlier years;

war: major wars took a lot of players away permanently at an early age.

Shalin started out at an early age as a New York Giants fan, and in producing this book, he got to meet some of his childhood heroes. When compiling the biographies, sixty-two players were interviewed, the rest were deceased. The list of 100 grew from a much larger list. The first fifty to sixty were automatic and the remaining forty came out of approximately 200 examined. The 100 best players included recent stars, such as Don Mattingly and Steve Garvey, prior stars who played during the forties and fifties (and are still household words), such as Gil Hodges and Mickey Mantle, Negro League players, such as Christobal Torrienti, and old timers, such as Carl Mays. The 100 best players are ranked ordered. Who is number one? Dick Allen, former Chicago White Sox and Philadelphia Phillies slugger.

While the book may settle some arguments among diehard fans, it may also provoke arguments, such as who was left out and should be in. Considered, but left out, are, for example, Ron Santo, Ken Boyer, Steve Rogers, and Roger Maris. Shalin hinted at the possibility of a new edition coming out that would divide the players into a group of old timers and a group of more recent players allowing more to be mentioned.

Byron Anderson

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## **Katherine Walker Scholarship Winners**

**2005-2006**



**Brian Prall is a lifelong DeKalb resident. A senior History Education major, Brian has been working in the Circulation Department since his freshman year. In addition to his studies and his work in the Library, Brian has achieved the rank of Eagle Scout.**



**Jessica Stocker is originally from Winnebago, IL. A senior French major, she has been working in the library for over two years. Jessica currently works for the Reference Department, staffing the Information Desk.**

**Congratulations to Brian and Jessica!**

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## Dean's Column, Cont'd

partners are University of California at Berkeley, UCLA, Wisconsin, Michigan, Cornell, Harvard, and Yale. Gregory Green II, curator of the Southeast Asia Collection, and Drew VandeCreek, director of digital projects, are the co-principal investigators. Over the past seven years the University Libraries has obtained \$2.3 million in grant funds, a very substantial amount for an academic library of our size. Congratulations to everyone!

The penny crusade in support of our two millionth volume, launched this past spring, will be reignited this fall with a generous \$10,000 matching challenge from a member of the teaching faculty. We are delighted with this level of generosity. As part of the relaunching, we have been granted a spot at halftime during the Ball State/Huskie football game on October 29 to mention the penny crusade and to ask folks to contribute generously as they leave the stadium. My special thanks to new Athletic Director Jim Phillips for immediately embracing the academic importance of what we do and for allowing us to proceed, with his good wishes, in generating money during this game.

On October 14 the new Barsema Alumni and Visitor Center will hold its first gala opening with an evening dinner. There is a library within the alumni house, the Castle Library, and we have been asked to assist with acquiring some materials for that library. There will be county histories/genealogical sources from 15 major counties in the greater Chicago area, with the potential for including other counties over time. There will also be representative works from the Northern Illinois University Press, and a unique web page that will give the library its own character. The completion of this facility will add greatly to the strength and coherence of the university and its connection with the alumni. We are pleased to play a small part in its formation.

Thanks to everyone for their continuing support of the University Libraries and its varied activities. All of your contributions are very much appreciated by my office and by the entire library faculty and staff. Thanks very much.

Arthur P. Young, Dean  
Northern Illinois University Libraries

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## Life Members

*Adra Baker-Gallagher*

*Glen and Dawn Ericksen*

*Glen and Jamie Gildemeister*

*E. Nelson and Marilyn S. James*

*Barbara and David Johnson-Wint*

*Ron and Karen Klein*

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*Arthur and Pat Young*



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

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