Dear Friends,

It’s an honor to serve as president of NIU Friends of the Library this year. In this undertaking, I am graciously supported at every turn by former presidents Linda Schwartz and Barbara Johnson-Wint, still on the Board, and by Jerry Zar and Mary Lincoln, serving as this year’s Programming Committee co-chairs and Presidents-elect.

Invaluable to all of our endeavors are the tireless efforts of Friends of the Library Faculty Liaison Lynne Thomas and her assistant Angie Schroeder. Together, they have a most enjoyable and varied year of events planned for us, which began in November with “Lincoln and the Blackhawk War,” a documentary by Jeffrey Chown, Ph.D., Presidential Teaching Professor of the Department of Communication. Professor Chown’s film has recently premiered on PBS. Additional programs—something for everyone, we hope—will range from the world of book appraising to baseball statistics and their impact on the game. In December, the Friends co-hosted a holiday event in the beautifully restored Altgeld Hall Auditorium, a Muggle Yule Ball, open to students, staff, faculty, and the community. This was an event for Harry Potter fans of all ages with a Silent Auction and music provided by the Remus Lupins.

Your support of the Friends of the Library and events such as these has never been more important. As the CONTINUED
Dear Friends,

As we bring one year to a close and begin another, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to you on behalf of the University Libraries. The generosity you have shown through your contributions of expertise, time, and financial donations have and will continue to make a significant difference in what we are able to accomplish. The $300,000 endowment is a magnificent example of what you have accomplished in support of the University Libraries.

As you may know, we do continue to face some serious budgetary challenges. We work diligently to fulfill the teaching and research needs of our students, faculty, staff and friends. Reductions in state appropriations for higher education in Illinois have necessitated cuts in many areas during the past 5 years. University Administration has protected the University Libraries materials budget from cuts but has not been able to offer significant increases to that budgetary line item. The budget has increased less than 1% per year during that time period for an aggregate increase of 4.96%.

Katherine Wright
President

*“The Future of Libraries: Beginning the Great Transformation” by Thomas Frey, Executive Director of the DaVinci Institute, http://www.davinciinstitute.com

A Letter from the Interim Dean

Dear Friends,

As we bring one year to a close and begin another, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to you on behalf of the University Libraries. The generosity you have shown through your contributions of expertise, time, and financial donations have and will continue to make a significant difference in what we are able to accomplish. The $300,000 endowment is a magnificent example of what you have accomplished in support of the University Libraries.

As you may know, we do continue to face some serious budgetary challenges. We work diligently to fulfill the teaching and research needs of our students, faculty, staff and friends. Reductions in state appropriations for higher education in Illinois have necessitated cuts in many areas during the past 5 years. University Administration has protected the University Libraries materials budget from cuts but has not been able to offer significant increases to that budgetary line item. The budget has increased less than 1% per year during that time period for an aggregate increase of 4.96%.
The increase in costs for materials has grown at nearly ten times that rate (47.9%) during the past 5 years. The most dramatic increases have taken place in the science, technical, and medical areas. An annual subscription to a major chemistry journal can easily cost as much as a small car. These increases have come as the publishing industry changes, primarily through merger and acquisitions or the movement of publishing houses overseas where balance of payments is less favorable to the US dollar.

In this environment of dynamic information growth and restricted finances, we must rely more heavily on the support of our Friends, grants, and other alternate sources of income. We constantly monitor such opportunities and are aggressive in our pursuit of this additional income. We also take our responsibility as advocates of open access, author publication rights, and the movement toward not-for-profit publishing very seriously as their success will have a direct impact of the cost of information in the future.

We appreciate your partnership with us in moving the University Libraries forward. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Mary Munroe
Interim Dean of University Libraries

Founders Library Opens New Digitization Lab

On July 27, 2006 Northern Illinois University Libraries’ Digitization Unit began operations in a new work space of approximately two thousand square feet. This facility replaces a previous facility of some 750 square feet, in use since 1998. Within it library faculty, staff, and student workers digitize a wide range of materials, including texts, images, sound files, and video materials. With help of the library’s Automated Library Systems Division, the Digitization Unit provides users around the world with access to materials from its collections as well as those of partners in specific grant projects.

In addition to the library’s Abraham Lincoln Historical Digitization Project, it serves as the home for the Mark Twain’s Mississippi Project. Begun with funding provided by the federal Institute for Museum and Library Services, Northern Illinois University Libraries collaborate in this project with the University of California at Berkeley,
Tulane University, the St. Louis Mercantile Library at the University of Missouri – St. Louis, and Chicago’s Newberry Library to digitize materials pertaining to the historical milieu that Twain described in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, Life on the Mississippi*, and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. In addition to primary source materials in multiple formats, the Mark Twain’s Mississippi Project also includes interactive map materials, featuring statistical data drawn from voting returns, census records, and other sources, produced with Geographic Information Systems technology.

The new facility also supports the work of the Southeast Asia Digital Library. Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, this project will present Web users with a variety of primary source materials from Southeast Asia, in a variety of media types. Within the library, the Digitization Unit collaborates with Donn V. Hart Southeast Asia Collection curator Hao Phan on this work. The project also features a large set of partner institutions, including Yale University, the University of Michigan, the University of Washington, Arizona State University, Ohio University, the University of Hawaii, Khon Kaen University (Thailand), and Thammasat University (Thailand).

The library has also used the new laboratory to support other libraries and organizations in grant-funded public service projects. In October, 2006, the Digitization Unit began work on the conversion of twenty five years of the *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society* to a digital, online format through a grant administered by Eastern Illinois University. The Digitization Unit is also collaborating with National Louis University as they seek funding for the digitization of historical materials found in their library’s collection.

Digitization is helpful in preserving rare and/or fragile materials from the library’s collection by providing patrons with an opportunity to examine a high-quality digital surrogate instead of a delicate original resource. Digitization work also can provide a dramatically expanded set of potential users with an opportunity to examine materials via the World Wide Web, often in a searchable form.

Founders Library’s Digitization Unit has been among the first organizations dedicated to the digitization of humanities materials to extend this work to include interpretive materials as well as primary sources. They have also taken the lead in the utilization of sound and video materials in online projects, including scholars’ oral summaries of their work, captured and presented in a digital video format.
A Letter from the Faculty Liaison

Dear Friends,

This has been an incredibly active year for the Friends, although much of that action has happened behind the scenes. The Friends Board has added a new member, Drew VandeCreek, and has spent much of the past semester brainstorming ideas to expand the fundraising role of the Friends, and our general visibility on campus. While the Friends are still deeply committed to purchasing materials for the Library, we hope to expand our supportive role in other ways as well.

To that end, the Friends Board has approved funding for the renovation of the Periodicals Reading Room on the first floor of Founders Memorial Library, creating a “Scholar’s Den” that will hold not only the periodicals currently found in that space, but new books as well, in an inviting, thoughtful environment that will feature all new furniture and shelving. This past semester, in addition to screening the film “Lincoln and Black Hawk,” by NIU’s own Jeffrey Chown, the Friends co-sponsored the Yule Ball that was hosted by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences External Programs department. At the Yule Ball, held on December 2nd, 2006, a silent auction that benefited the Friends was also held, raising over $700 which the Board determined should be spent on acquisitions for the Library.

This is the final issue of Founders’ Type that you will receive in its current format. The Friends Board has encouraged us to update Founders’ Type so that it is more cost-effective, and can reach more readers. As a result, Founders’ Type will appear twice per year, rather than quarterly, and is undergoing a redesign. Please watch your mail for updated information on upcoming activities and programs being hosted by the Friends, including a Book Appraisal Fair that is in the works for late Spring.

As always, we are grateful for your ongoing support of the Friends. As you plan your charitable giving for the next year, please keep us in mind.

Lynne Thomas
Faculty Liaison
Friends of the NIU Libraries Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, Nov 20, 2006
12 pm, Room 55

Present: Lynne Thomas (ex-officio); Mary Munroe; Kathy Wright; Jerry Zar; Byron Anderson; Mary Lincoln; Drew VandeCreek; Linda Schwarz

Absent: Glen Gildemeister; Ging Smith; Barbara Johnson-Wint; Lee Hewitt

I. Brief Announcements:

Lynne announced that the new batch of “Rainy Day Bags” has arrived, and been given to the Circulation Desk, with many thanks. The new bags have the Friends URL added to the design.

II. Yule Ball and Silent Auction

Kathy W. mentioned that the plans for the Yule Ball (held Dec. 2\textsuperscript{nd}) were in place, and that the Silent Auction was coming along nicely. She distributed a preliminary list of 16 donated items for the auction. The Board suggested a large poster for the Friends next to the auction, which was later designed by Charles Larry.

III. Scholars’ den proposals

Discussion on the scholars’ den space included looking at furniture designs. The best cost estimate for all furniture, including new wooden shelving, several chairs, tables, and a settee came to just over $15,000. Mary Munroe mentioned that she had a private donor also willing to contribute to the den. The furniture to be purchased will be “traditionally” styled, in leather, with wooden trim.

After an exciting discussion, the Board voted to spend the remainder of the endowment-generated funds for this fiscal year as follows (Lee Hewitt submitted a vote on the Scholar’s Den furniture by email proxy):

- $10,000 towards the funding of the scholars’ den furniture. (A big shiny plaque and naming rights are included in this funding).
- $1000 and the proceeds of the silent auction on Dec. 2 to fund acquisitions for the library.
- $500 for sponsorship of the Muggle Ball. (It is expected that the silent auction will make most or all of this amount back).
IV. New Business

There was some discussion on a number of subjects.

- **Founders’ Type**. It was agreed that the current method of putting out FT is rather time-consuming, and not as effective as it could be. Suggestions included sending FT to the entire faculty and staff of the University, which would make our printing costs more cost-effective, as well as possibly reducing the number of issues each year. The coverage of the newsletter could also be expanded to highlight different projects within the Library (recent focus has been on past, present, and future Friends events).

- Out of this discussion came the idea of advertising and Corporate Friends. The Board wished to look into accepting advertising for FT, contingent upon a bigger print run. At some point in the past few years, advertisements for businesses were no longer accepted for FT. It was suggested, as an alternative to out-and-out advertising, that we could create a “Corporate Friend” program that would allow for listing in FT, similarly to how “Life Members” are now listed.

- **Programming**. Planning for the Book Appraisal Fair continues. It was suggested that the Friends use the Thurgood Marshall Gallery in Swen Parson for the event, as a “bookish” space. [NB: once a date is settled with the two appraisers, we will book the Marshall Gallery]. There has not been much progress in getting Audrey Niffenegger, the author of The Time Traveler’s Wife, to campus, but we continue to pursue her. It was observed that faculty and staff membership in the Friends is decidedly low, and that we need to be more aggressive in marketing our organization to the NIU community. There was discussion of trying to work with the Creston Winery to put together some sort of wine-tasting event, or a wine and cheese reception for New Faculty (and their Chairs), sponsored by the Friends. Events like these should give the Friends more visibility among campus faculty, acting as a “welcome wagon.”

The meeting adjourned just after 1:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne Thomas
Faculty Liaison
Life Members

Adra Baker-Gallagher  Mary and Charles Munroe
Paul and Jean Burtness  Todd and Joanne Nebel
Glen and Dawn Ericksen  James Block Pick
Deborah Eriksen  Mark Richard and Alice Priebe
Glen and Jamie Gildemeister  Ronald and Barbara Provencher
Deanne Holzberlein  Gordon Rasmussen
E. Nelson and Marilyn S. James  Lawrence Rast
Barbara and David Johnson-Wint  Larry and Judy Sill
Yvonne Johnson  Sally Stevens
Ron and Karen Klein  Peggy Sullivan
Martin and Harriet Kallich  Rebekah Wilson
John Jefferson and Judith M. Looney  Russell and Betty Wood
William and Josephine Monat  Arthur and Pat Young

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