From the Interim Dean:

The new school year ushered in a new look for the library. First, comfortable seating was added to several locations in Founders Memorial Library, including the foyer area, the first floor Reference area, and the second floor Microforms area. Second, new signage can be found throughout Founders giving much better direction to users. Be sure to check out the new illuminated wall map near the first floor elevators providing a detailed map of all five floors. Also, there is a new electronic sign at the Information Desk providing both a welcome message and a scrolling message of daily room assignments for meetings and classes.

Third, the library security office was restructured and an additional full-time person, Debra Woolbright, was hired. Debra works the night shift from 6:00 pm to 2:00 am. Library security staff were given shirts with an embroidered “Library Security” message on the front, and student workers in security were given matching vests with the same wording. The shirts and vests give security staff, and the security worker who helps staff the Information Desk more visibility. Security will also be getting new intercom phones for better communication between the workers in the library.

Fourth, the newly revised library webpage, http://www.ulib.niu.edu, sports the new NIU template. This template is being required of all NIU web pages to give a similar look and feel to university web pages. The goal is to make it easier to browse and find the information. The new website is a work in progress. Special thanks goes out to the Library’s Systems office for their efforts to get the new webpage up and running, especially since much of this occurred during a very busy period involving other matters.

Finally, the Library’s Scholars’ Den was officially dedicated on October 12, 2007. Last spring, the Friends, along with two private donors, gave funds to refurbish and refurnish the Scholars’ Den. This room, located on the first floor of Founders, houses the library’s new books and most of the current newspapers. It’s a quiet and comfortable setting. The NIU Foundation picked up on this and used the Scholars’ Den as a showcase example of development based on donor funds. While I served as the master of ceremonies for the dedication, speakers included Provost Ray Alden III, Friends Co-president Jerry Zar, former Interim Dean of Libraries Mary Munroe, and a few remarks from donor Dr. James Pick. The Foundation provided bouquets of flowers and food for the reception afterward. The Friends were well represented and received a lot of publicity from the event. All Friends members will receive a copy of the sheet profiling the role of the Friends and Dr. James Pick and his wife Dr. Rosalyn Laudati, the other donors. A special plaque commemorating the event was given to Drs. Pick and Laudati and a permanent plaque for the room (to be mounted on the door) was unveiled, again, calling attention to the Friends involvement in making the room possible. When in the library, stop by and see this new room.

All Friends members can look forward to this year’s sponsored and co-sponsored events which will be announced in this newsletter, campus news outlets, community newspapers, and special mailings. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate.
Dear Friends,

For the Friends of the NIU Libraries, it is an exciting time! Thanks to our energetic program committee, we’ve enjoyed a variety of stimulating activities. At the beginning of the semester, we welcomed new faculty to campus with a wine-tasting event that pleased all who participated. Other recent activities include trips to interesting sites, book-related lectures, and our own Book Appraisal Fair.

The Book Appraisal Fair, styled as an antique books road show, was particularly successful. Two regional book appraisers donated their time and talent, and a large number of people brought literary treasures for appraisal. Excitement rippled though the crowd when one participant discovered that a modest looking book he had purchased at a yard sale was actually a first edition of Mark Twain’s *Huckleberry Finn*! Due to the event’s resounding success, we hope to schedule a repeat of the Book Appraisal Fair later this year.

A special highlight of the year was the transformation of the former periodicals reading room in Founders’ Library into the Scholars’ Den. Funds from the Friends endowment and a generous gift from Dr. James B. Pick and Dr. Rosalyn M. Laudati allowed us to create a quiet, serene space that fosters contemplation.

The Friends serve the university and local communities in ways that are both enjoyable and useful. Our sponsorship of the Muggle (Yule) Ball was appreciated last year, and we plan to contribute again to the holiday ball this year. The Friends regularly purchase materials for the library and stand ready to respond to library needs.

Libraries face challenges as they respond to traditional and non-traditional users’ demands for information in a variety of digital and print formats. Our libraries need our support, and the Friends of the NIU Libraries need friends! If you are not an active member, please consider becoming involved.

Mary Lincoln
Jerrold Zar
Co-Presidents

Additional photos will be available for viewing on the Friends website soon, http://www.ulib.niu.edu/friends/
Letter from the Faculty Liaison

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the new and improved Founders’ Type. We hope that you like it. Although it may seem that there has been a bit of silence since the last issue, let me assure you that the Friends Board and the Library staffers that work with the Friends have been hard at work behind the scenes. As you may have noticed, our newsletter has a new look. This re-design is thanks to the hard work of our intrepid Art Librarian and Head of Social Sciences & Humanities Reference, Charles Larry. You may notice some other changes to the newsletter. Founders’ Type will come out twice a year from now on, although there may be additional special issues if we get inspired. In an effort to raise the profile of the Friends on campus, we also have plans to alter our distribution model a bit, making copies available in buildings on campus outside of the library in addition to mailing copies to our current Friends. The content, too, will change, as we provide more stories about library activities in addition to Friends activities.

In this issue, we are introducing several new features, including “The Library Wish List,” which features specific items too expensive for the Library to purchase out of their regular budget. Although the Friends purchases items like these annually, there are always more books on the list than the Friends can purchase. We encourage you to “adopt” one of these titles as your own by purchasing it for the library. Your purchase will be honored through a bookplate affixed to “your” book, as well as an engraved “leaf” on our Ensuring the Future tree.

This coming year is particularly special for the Friends, as 2008 marks the 25th anniversary of the group’s founding. The Program Committee has their hands full planning multiple events for the upcoming year. While we may not be providing monthly events, we are trying to make the events a bit “bigger” in scope. The New Faculty wine tasting held at Rouge in Creston is an example of that effort. Twelve intrepid Friends and new faculty joined us immediately following a tornado warning, and just before the Great Flood of DeKalb, for wine, food, and fellowship --we are hoping that the next time we schedule this event, the weather will be a bit more cooperative. We have a talk by Lucy Townsend, Head of the Blackwell History of Education Museum, on one-room schoolhouses, scheduled for Wednesday, November 14, 2007 at 7:30 pm in the Staff Lounge. The title of her talk will be “Schoolhouse Memories: From Sawdust to Quilt.” On Wednesday, November 28th Robert Cotner, Independent Scholar and member of the Caxton Club, will present “The Interpersonal Intelligence of Abraham Lincoln” at 7:30 in the Staff Lounge. We are also pleased to announce the return of the Friends’ participation in the Muggle Ball, celebrating all things Harry Potter. This year’s ball is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 1st, 2007. Mark your calendars, and please join us! Additional programming next semester may include events related to baseball, book collecting and Transcendentalist literature, depending upon speaker availability, with a special 25th anniversary celebration next fall.

I would be remiss if I didn’t also take a moment to thank Angie Schroeder, who has worked valiantly to keep on top of renewals, as well as organizing and producing our newsletter, in addition to her myriad duties in Rare Books and Special Collections. She has been an inspiration in multi-tasking.

We hope that you enjoy the new, improved Founders’ Type, as a way of keeping in touch with the Library and the Friends. Happy Silver Anniversary, Friends!

Lynne M. Thomas
Faculty Liaison

Fall 2007 3
Founders Memorial Library Acquires Rare Book Scanner

Northern Illinois University Libraries’ Digitization Unit will add a Zeutschel 12000C Book scanner to its Digitization Laboratory in early 2008. This sophisticated scanner uses a variety of technologies to facilitate the scanning of many materials long considered too fragile for digitization, including rare books and manuscripts. It is a newer, more powerful version of equipment currently in use at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Libraries.

The Zeutschel 12000C’s prominent features include an overhead scanning mechanism, which facilitates the digitization of books lying in a face-up position. Typical flatbed scanners require materials to be placed face down on the scanning surface, and users often face the prospect of pressing down on the bindings of thick or brittle books in order to bring all text on their pages into the scanner’s work area. The Zeutschel 12000C also uses a system featuring multiple scanning cameras and specialized software to address another frequent problem in the digitization of bound materials: the image distortion and uneven lighting that often result, due to pages’ curvature in the area of the spine, from the face-up scanning of thick volumes. This difficulty not only produces flawed and unattractive replicas of scanned materials; it also slows the accuracy and efficiency of optical character recognition software used in the production of searchable, full-text documents from printed materials. This scanner also saves staff members’ time, by automating a major portion of the digitization process. Where most scanners produce digitized materials in one data type (such as a TIFF or GIF), leaving users to convert these files manually into additional formats like web-ready JPEGs, the 12000C can automatically produce a wide array of file formats from a single scan.

Purchased with a Research Equipment Subvention provided in part by Northern Illinois University’s Division of Research and Graduate Studies, the Zeutschel 12000C provides the library with several significant benefits. It will enable the University Libraries’ Digitization Unit to pursue new sources of grant funding and private contracts, namely those involving the scanning of especially fragile materials. This work includes the digitization of rare book materials held in the collections of other institutions lacking Northern Illinois University’s technical infrastructure and expertise in this field. In past years the library has worked with the St. Louis Mercantile Library, the Newberry Library (Chicago, IL), the Chicago Historical Society (now the Chicago History Museum), Lewis University, Knox College, the Illinois State Library, and Illinois State University in this capacity.

This equipment will also allow Digitization Unit staff members to pursue new research examining the digitization of various types of materials not yet evaluated by librarians, including those defined by their rarity and/or fragility and that diverge from the familiar printed-page format. These include palm leaf manuscripts from the library’s Southeast Asia Collection, and other materials to be included in the U.S. Department of Education funded Southeast Asia Digital Library. This project serves to provide Web users with access to various forms of information from Southeast Asian nations, and to furnish librarians and scholars with research findings describing suitable standards and processes for the digitization of such materials as are presented in non-standard or esoteric formats.

The proposed equipment can also enable Northern Illinois University faculty and students to make greater use of digitized resources in their research, teaching, and studies. Currently, the library’s Special Collections Department is unable to allow the scanning of many of its most significant materials, since processing on a flatbed scanner would result in significant, permanent damage to extremely rare items. The production of digital facsimiles of these materials will enable NIU faculty and staff members, particularly in the humanities and arts, to integrate them more fully into class curricula, student research papers, and faculty publications. This capability can in turn enable faculty and students to conceive and propose their own digitization projects in collaboration with the library’s Digitization Unit, providing the university with another potential source of extramural funding.

Drew VandeCreek
Head, Digitization Unit

4 Fall 2007
Calling All Muggles...

Earlier this year, readers experienced the final chapters of Harry Potter's® adventures and his last battle with Lord Voldemort. With the wizardry world safe again it is now time to celebrate. The Northern Illinois University College of Liberal Arts and Sciences invites students, educators and community muggles of all ages to enjoy a day of excitement Saturday, December 1, 2007.

Starting at noon, educators will be able to enjoy the New Ideas Conference “Bringing the Magic of Harry Potter® To Your Classroom” simultaneously with NIU’s Winter Muggle Academy for students in grades 4 through 12. While students explore the literary significance of the series, discuss film adaptations of the books, and participate in hands-on activities, educators will attend a separate workshop worth five CPDU’s. The educators’ workshop will be led by NIU Ph.D. candidate Karley Adney and John V. Knapp, Ph.D. At the end of the day, students will leave with their own Monster Book of Monsters, and a souvenir blanket in the colors of their “house.”

Following the Muggle Academy for educators and students, the entire community is invited to attend the Muggle (Yule) Ball at Altgeld Hall from 7 pm – 10:30 pm. Participants can expect light refreshments, music by The Remus Lupins and Sound Force VDJ’s, raffle, fog machine and a silent auction to benefit the NIU Friends of the Library.

Individuals attending the event are encouraged to dress up or to come as their favorite Harry Potter® character.

A children/young adult book drive will be taking place at the event. Anyone that brings a new or gently used book will be given a free raffle ticket for each book they bring. The books will then be given to DeKalb County children in need of a special holiday gift.

Karley Adney, (Ph.D. candidate, Northern Illinois University) an Assistant Professor of English at University of Wisconsin-OshKosh, will serve as the Winter Muggle Academy Director. Adney regularly teaches a Harry Potter®-themed writing class and has presented and published on both the series itself and ways in which it can be used in the classroom. She co-directs NIU’s celebrated Muggle Academy, and served as curriculum director for the Bonding Over Books organization, whose 2007 focus is Harry Potter®. Her primary research interest is adaptations of Shakespeare for children.

Please help us fulfill Northern Illinois University’s mission of continuing to educate and instill a passion for learning in students of all ages.

For more information about the one day educator conference and student camp or to reserve Muggle (Yule) Ball tickets at $5 each by November 26 call the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences External Programming at 815-753-5200, e-mail lasep@niu.edu or visit us at www.niu.edu/clasep to download application and registration forms.
The Library would like to purchase:

**Water Encyclopedia.**

"The Water Encyclopedia offers a comprehensive depository of all information relating to the scientific and technological aspects of the world's most important natural resource -- water."
Requested by: Dr. Carpenter, Dept. of Geology & EG and Nestor Osorio, subject specialist for Geology.

**Handbook of Nanostructured Biomaterials and their Applications in Nanobiotechnology.**

"...cover all aspects of the nanostructured biomaterials including all types of nanoscale biomaterials, biocompatible surfaces, functional bioengineered materials, polypeptides, bioceramics, biopolymers, organic-inorganic hybrid biomaterials, nanocomposites, biological macromolecules such as proteins, peptides, nucleic acids, DNA-based self-assemblies, biomolecules, cells, and glycans, biochips, biocompatibility aspects of materials, interactions between biomaterials, cells, tissue and organs, cellular matrix interaction, drug delivery, biomaterials for orthopedic and cardiovascular applications, applications in drug and protein delivery, BioMEMS, dentistry, bone, bioanalysis, biosensors, biomedical implantation, biomechanics, bioinstrumentation, nanoscale physiology and pathology, nanoscale proteomics, instrumentation techniques for nanobiotechnology, nanoscale cellular and tissue engineering, etc."
Requested by: Dr. Otieno, Technology Dept. and Nestor Osorio, subject specialist for Technology.

**Handbook of Thermoplastic Polyesters: Homopolymers, Copolymers, Blends and Composites,**

"...covers current knowledge on all aspects of polyester synthesis, structure, properties (chemical, physical and application relevant) and recycling. The most important technical polyesters are presented in detailed chapters, homogeneous polymers as well as copolymers, blends and high-performance reinforced polyester materials are discussed."
Requested by: Dr. Otieno, Technology Dept. and Nestor Osorio, subject specialist for Technology.

Requested by Library Reference Staff.

**Novels and Selected Plays of Thomas Holcroft.** The Pickering Masters. Pickering & Chatto, 2007. 5 volume set. 9781851968015. $795.00
Requested by William Baker, subject specialist for English.

**The Works of Charlotte Smith.** Vols. 6-10, 11-14. Pickering & Chatto, 2006-2007. 9781851967902; 9781851967957. Vol. 6-10, $750.00; Vol. 11-14, $640.00

This is the earliest version of the first Nancy Drew story currently available.
Requested by Lynne Thomas, subject specialist, Rare Books and Special Collections, for the American Popular Literature Collection.

*Items on this list have been requested by teaching faculty and subject specialist librarians, but are too expensive to purchase out of the Library’s regular budget.*

*The Friends have committed to paying half of the cost on any book purchased by individual donors from this list. Friends who purchase books from this list will have a bookplate placed in the book, as well as a leaf placed on our “Ensuring the Future” endowment tree, celebrating their gift to the library.*

6 Fall 2007
Thank you to our Life Members
(donating $1000.00 or more)

Adra Baker-Gallagher
Paul & Jean Burtness
Glen & Dawn Ericksen
Deborah Erickson
Glen & Jamie Gildemeister
Deanne Holzberlein
Samuel & Corinna Huang
E. Nelson & Marilyn S. James
Yvonne Johnson
Barbara & David Johnson-Wint
Harriet Kallich
Ron Klein
Mike Korcek
Judith M. Looney
Scott & Kathy Miller
William & Josephine Monat
Charles & Mary Munroe
Todd & Joanne Nebel
James Block Pick
Ron & Barbara Provencher
Gordon Rasmussen
Lawrence Rast
Larry & Judy Sill
Sally Stevens
Peggy Sullivan
Rebekah Wilson
Arthur & Pat Young
Jerrold & Carol Zar

2007-2008 Friends of NIU Libraries
Board Members and Officers

Mary Lincoln (co-president)
Jerry Zar (co-president)
Byron Anderson (ex officio)
Lee Hewitt
Kathy Wright (treasurer)
Drew VandeCreek (vice president, program chair)
Michael Spires (secretary)
Ron Klein
Linda Schwarz
Barry Schrader
Harriet Kallich
Yes! I/We wish to join the Friends of NIU Libraries at the following level:

- $1,000 or more Life Member
- $500 Benefactor/Corporate
- $100 Donor
- $50 Family
- $35 Individual
- $10 Student (Must show ID)

Enclosed is a gift of $______________

(Installment plans are available for large gifts)

Please charge to my
- Visa
- MasterCard
- Discover

Credit Card Number ____________________________
Expiration Date ______________________________
Signature ____________________________________

Make checks payable to Friends of NIU Libraries

NIU also offers Payroll Deduction for faculty and staff.

If a gift is in memory or in honor of someone, please include the purpose and the name and address to which acknowledgement should be sent.

Make checks payable to Friends of NIU Libraries.

Mail to: Friends of NIU Libraries, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115-2868

Thank you for your support!