Recently our best “friend,” Sam Huang, Head of the Rare Books and Special Collections Department in Founders Memorial Library and the Faculty Liaison to FNIUL, announced his retirement from NIU to become the Assistant Dean for External Relations at the University of Arizona in Tucson. Certainly NIU’s loss will be the University of Arizona’s gain when Sam begins tackling his new duties of fund-raising and developing the library Friends group at U of A.

After 32 years of service with Founders Memorial Library, Sam’s decision to leave NIU was a difficult one. He came to NIU from Taiwan as a library science graduate student in 1966, and combined his love of books with his career plans. It was a natural choice given Sam’s own description for his preferences, “I like challenges, public service, and people.”

Sam began as interlibrary loan and rare book librarian in 1968 under Library Director Bernadine Hanby. Since then he has worked under nine directors and developed library service in a variety of positions including reference librarian, assistant director of the undergraduate library, and coordinator for computer reference.

Besides his work with FNIUL, one of Sam’s greatest contributions has been the development of library service for disabled students that he began in 1979. Thanks to his fund-raising skills, which earned strong support from the Roberts’ Foundation and DeKalb Ag, NIU was the first university in the U.S. to establish a program for library service for the disabled, and Sam became the coordinator.

“I enjoy promoting library service to the public,” Sam explained. “I never wanted to go into the technical side of library work because I like working directly with people. That’s why I enjoyed working with the FNIUL group.” And anyone who has had the opportunity to work with Sam would agree that library service is his first priority. Even with his retirement in sight (April 28 is his last day), he is still visiting the NIU deans to convince them of the importance for each college to contribute a percentage from fund-raising successes to the library.

Sam’s contributions to FNIUL are inspiring. When he took the liaison assignment continued on page 4 ...
Obituaries

Harriett Hart. Friends member and wife of Donn V. Hart, after whom the University Libraries’ nationally recognized Southeast Asia Collection is named, passed away on March 6, 2000. A memorial service was held in DeKalb on Saturday, March 11, 2000. Dr. Clark Neher, professor in Southeast Asian politics, said of Mrs. Hart: “Harriet was a superb scholar of Southeast Asia and a wonderfully gracious person.” Contributions may be made to the Donn V. Hart Endowment, in memory of Mrs. Harriett Hart.


Thomas Cole, 80, former professor in the Library and Information Studies Department and husband to Juanita Cole, passed away on January 14, 2000. Memorial funds have been established for Juanita and Thomas Cole.

Lucille Aikens, long-time Friends’ member and former DeKalb resident, passed away January 15, 2000, in New Hampshire. A memorial service was held on Sunday, March 26, 2000, 2:00 p.m., at the Oak Crest Retirement Center of DeKalb.

Please make contributions to any of the above funds by check or money order, payable to the Friends of NIU Libraries, with notation stating what fund they are for. All contributions can be sent to the Friends of NIU Libraries, NIU Libraries, DeKalb, IL 60115.

Book Sale Volunteers Needed

Volunteers for the Friends’ Annual Book Sale are still needed! The sale will be held April 18-20, 2000. We have slots to fill for set-up (moving boxes to the sale area and unpacking books), work during the sale (selling books, straightening book tables), and clean-up (packing books into boxes and moving to storage). If you can donate some of your time to this worthy cause on one or more days, please call 753-9838. We can help you select a time to help.

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: Samuel Huang, Northern Illinois University Libraries, DeKalb, IL 60115. All unsigned items are contributed by the editors.

Friends of NIU Libraries Board

President
Christa Even
Vice President
Rodney Borstad
Secretary
Byron Anderson
Treasurer
Mark A. Williams
Publicity
Sam S. Manivong
Program Committee
Ron Klein, Chair
Ralph Craf ton
Rosalie Hewitt
Harriet Kallich
Jerry Zar
Members at Large
William Blair
Ralph Craf ton
Sam Manivong
Jerrold Zar
Newsletter Staff
Samuel Huang
Kathy Sherman
Mark A. Williams
Woodstrup Entertains Friends

The third program of the Friends of NIU Libraries 1999-2000 season was a buffet dinner and presentation at the Country Inn. There was a nice turnout for the first ever try at combining a program with a full dinner option. The program, delivered by Thomas Woodstrup, had the rather intriguing title, “How did a hero of the American Revolution come to Sycamore, Illinois?” The program seemed especially appropriate, considering that it was the observance of George Washington’s birthday.

Bart Woodstrup, Visiting Assistant Professor of Design and Time Arts in the Department of Art, introduced his father, Thomas Woodstrup. Thomas Woodstrup is a 1949 graduate of NIU (then Northern Illinois State Teachers College). Later, he worked for a time in Alumni Relations. Now retired, he does research and writing on a variety of local history topics, one of which was the basis of the presentation.

For ten years, Thomas Woodstrup compiled research on Captain Benjamin Page (1753-1833). His research was gathered from a variety of locations, including the Sycamore Public Library, the Northern Illinois University Libraries, the National Archives, and a naval museum. Mr. Woodstrup admitted that when he began his research, he knew little about the American Revolution. Once he started studying, he knew his learning would never end. His interest developed after finding Benjamin Page’s name on a gravestone marker in Sycamore’s Elmwood Cemetery.

Benjamin Page served in the colonial navy for 11 years, and fought in the American Revolution. Page served on eight different sailing ships, rising through the ranks from third lieutenant to captain. In 1772, where Woodstrup’s story begins, Page was serving on a schooner called the Gaspee. The story is based on an incident that occurred between the colonial navy and the British navy at Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island. The incident became the first shedding of blood in the American Revolution (1775-1783), and one year before the Boston Tea Party. The Gaspee was captured and burned, and Page was captured and placed on trial in 1773. He was held as a prisoner of war, one of three times in his naval career. For his actions and bravery, Page was decorated and can be considered a hero of the American Revolution, though now mostly forgotten.

The second half of Woodstrup’s talk was delivered with the aid of slides he had taken as part of the research. Pictures were shown of the Gaspee and the cemetery memorial. The memorial gravesite has four graves—two of Page’s sons, the wife of one of the sons, and a woman whose connection to the family is not fully known. One son, Benjamin Page, Jr. came to Sycamore to establish St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, at 206 Somonauk. The children erected the memorial to their parents. The parents, Benjamin Page, Sr. and his wife, never came to Sycamore. They were buried in Canton, Ohio.

Time has weathered some of the wording on the memorial. To preserve this history, a placard monument briefly relating Page’s story has been erected next to the memorial. The research resulted in a self-published book, Captain Benjamin Page: a forgotten Rhode Island hero of the American Revolution rediscovered in Sycamore, Illinois, by Thomas E. Woodstrup, 1998. The title page of the book says, “The story of a Rhode Island family who moved west but who wished to remember their father, Captain Benjamin Page …” Woodstrup’s research, book, and efforts in establishing the monument have done a lot to keep this history alive. Woodstrup is correct in saying that this information brings the American Revolution to our backyard, and is a particularly effective way to introduce the American Revolution to middle and high school students. His book, 11 chapters for the 11 years covered, was written as a sort of primer for local secondary school students.

- Byron Anderson
Up-Coming Program:  
Thoreau in the Library

The fourth and final program for the Friends’ Program Series is entitled “Thoreau in the Library,” and will be presented by Dr. Elizabeth Witherell, Chief Editor of the Thoreau Editions project. The Thoreau Editions project, which came to the Northern Illinois University Libraries from the University of California at Santa Barbara in 1999, has a long history and a mission to rescue the writings of Henry David Thoreau. Thoreau, one of America’s most influential writers, had only two books (A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers and Walden) and a few essays published in his lifetime. Thoreau left behind a large number of unpublished manuscripts, some of which were published posthumously by friends and relatives. These texts have been discovered to be incomplete and inaccurate.

The Thoreau Editions project, which was founded in 1966, is in the process of publishing Thoreau’s writings in a complete, definitive, annotated, and readily available thirty-volume set (projected). The project has just completed the fifth volume in the series, 1852-1853. “Thoreau in the Library” will be presented on Monday, April 12, 2000, at 7:30 p.m. in the Staff Lounge of Founders Memorial Library. This program is open and free to the public. Refreshments will be provided. For additional information, please call (815) 753-9838.

... continued from page 1.

in 1994, FNIUL had 34 members. Art Young, Dean of the University Libraries reflects, “Sam’s leadership is directly responsible for the increase in the membership to 550 within 6 years. During this time, we have also established ten new endowments for the support of our collections. His superb work as head of Rare Books and Special Collections has resulted in the acquisition of major new collections and two nationally prominent collections related to Horatio Alger & Edward Stratemeyer that significantly enhance our holdings of American popular literature. Sam’s commitment, achievements, and good humor will be very much missed and very difficult to replace.”

Personal accomplishments for Sam and his wife Corinna include Leslie 26, Jonathon 22, and Lucinda 18, their three children. Among their interests are classical music and gardening. Besides developing a very complete Chinese vegetable garden, Sam and Corinna have a great variety of flowers, which bloom over 3 seasons.

That we will miss Sam is a given. We have also appreciated and will miss Corinna’s behind-the-scenes help with refreshments for the FNIUL programs. Both Sam and Corinna were very unselfish in the many ways in which they contributed to the success of the Friends. On behalf of FNIUL, Sam and Corinna, we wish you well.

A Retirement Party for Sam will be combined with the annual FNIUL Ice Cream Social on Friday, April 28, 2000, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Sky Room of the Holmes Student Center. Please stop by.
One of the many fascinating aspects of the field of science fiction books and science fiction magazines is the history of their publication. Few other types of literature have aroused such devoted and fanatical readers. And from the beginning, these readers were troubled by the knowledge that the paper used in the pulp magazines was of such poor quality that little permanence could be expected for the stories. The obvious solution was to publish better quality editions of the major works. Unfortunately, the large professional publishing houses had no desire to enter the science fiction field. The fans took the task upon themselves, and the result was a flowering of small private publishers devoted entirely to science fiction and fantasy.

The first of these private specialty publishers was Arkham House. Arkham House was created in 1939 by August Derleth and Donald Wandrei, and its original purpose was to print the works of Howard Phillips (H.P.) Lovecraft. The name Arkham was Lovecraft’s fictional location in New England where a number of his stories take place. The first book published by Arkham was an omnibus of Lovecraft’s works entitled, *The Outsider and Others*. The eventual success of this venture gave encouragement to other small houses, such as Fantasy Press, Buffalo Book Company, and Shasta. The evidence that a market existed eventually brought the larger publishers into the act.

In the Northern Illinois University (NIU) Libraries’ Science Fiction Collection, the most requested item is *The Necronomicon*. The *Necronomicon* is a book that Lovecraft referred to in his writings, but one that never existed. It is supposed to be a book about pre-human civilizations. Lovecraft did write a pamphlet, *A History of the Necronomicon*, which set out the story and origins of the imaginary book. In the pamphlet, he stated that the book was written about the year 730 by the “mad poet of Sanna.” Its original Arabic title was allegedly “Al Azif,” referring to the Arabic word for the nocturnal sounds of insects and also used to represent the howling of demons. He reported that a Latin translation was done by Olaus Wormius (a real person). Additionally, he stated that “the work, both Latin and Greek, was banned by Pope Gregory IX in 1232.” While the book is completely imaginary, Lovecraft “documented it so thoroughly and so convincingly that the temptation to reproduce a copy finally proved irresistible to a group of Lovecraft devotees,” a catalog describing an exhibit of literary fakes explains. The volume that the Northern Illinois University Library has was published by the Owlswick Press in Philadelphia in 1973. The text of this book consists of 197 pages of gibberish, in which random letters of the Syrian alphabet were manipulated to produce a text that looks realistic to the unsuspecting. Lovecraft’s tradition of invented history is continued by the preface, in which L. Sprague de Camp, the noted science fiction writer, invents a history of how he came into possession of *The Necronomicon*.

The H. P. Lovecraft Collection consists of some 100 titles and a few manuscripts of the noted horror/science-fiction writer and complements the University Libraries’ Science Fiction Magazine and Science Fiction Vol. 1, no.1 of *Amazing Stories*, issued in April of 1926
Science fiction is considered to be a modern literary form that essentially emerged in the West after the industrial revolution. Although Edgar Allen Poe in the United States, Jules Verne in France, and H.G. Wells in England were 19th century pioneers in the field, science fiction did not become a major genre until the 20th century when the pursuit of science and technology exploded. Even 19th century works, such as *Frankenstein* by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, should also be included in the genre of science fiction, since Shelley attempted to ground her story in science. The Science Fiction Collection at the NIU Libraries includes many literary works dating back to the late 19th century.

Modern science fiction in America traditionally dates from the 1911 serialization of Hugo Gernsback’s novel *Ralph 124C 41+* (read “Ralph one to foresee for one”) in his magazine *Modern Electrics*. This was the impetus behind the sudden expansion of both science fiction and the vehicle which carried it, the pulp magazine. Stories of “scientification,” as Gernsback called them, became so popular that by 1928 Gernsback started a magazine devoted entirely to this type of literature. In April of that year the first issue of *Amazing Stories* appeared on the newsstands. Its success drew imitations, and by the time the fad reached its peak there were more than 20 “pulps” devoted to publishing only science fiction and fantasy. The pulps were so named because of the cheap quality paper they were printed on. Science fiction had appeared prior to 1928 in popular literary magazines, science journals, and in the horror or fantasy magazine *Weird Tales*.

However, the first real science fiction magazine was the above-mentioned *Amazing Stories*. For his editing of this landmark publication, and for other achievements, Gernsback is considered one of the fathers of modern science fiction, in spite of a crude and amateurish literary style. The pulp magazine as pioneered by Gernsback quickly became the primary medium of American science fiction publishing, a position it held until the late 1950s, when it was largely superseded by the mass-market paperback book. The nature of the science fiction stories written for the pulps was governed by the need for speed in writing (authors were paid per word), as well as the need for excitement in the plot (readers were not interested in subtlety). Magazine publication today continues to be an important part of the science fiction genre, and many young writers still make their first print appearance in them.

During the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s, almost all publication of science fiction stories was confined to the pulp format, but the paper shortage of the Second World War terminated a number of the magazines. Stories in the 1920s and 1930s pulps were based on space operas, a parallel to the Westerns, and on gadget fiction with marvelous inventions. Then came the golden age of science fiction, from 1939 to the 1950s. This period saw the production of many classic science fiction works. Writers in this period were concerned with scientific and technological accuracy and with good fiction writing. Robert Heinlein and Isaac Asimov are two of the outstanding writers of the period. Robert Heinlein is well-known for producing many juvenile novels, while Isaac Asimov is well-known for his robot stories and futuristic novels. The NIU Libraries’ Science Fiction Collection contains many classic science fiction works. Recently, science fiction has become a genre where women writers have emerged as a force and where feminist forms of expression have been used. Many female science fiction writers are concerned with a sexist world and employ the theme of role reversals, changes in the traditional activities of males and females. The NIU Libraries’ Science Fiction Collection has an extensive number of works by female writers. One example is Ursula Le Guin’s *Left Hand of
Darkness, in which the author creates a future where beings are androgynous, both male and female.

In the late 1970s, the Science Fiction Writers of America (SFWA) appointed the Rare Books & Special Collections Department of the NIU Libraries as an official Repository Library of the SFWA's Circulating Book Plan (CBP). All books received by NIU through the operation of the CBP become and will remain the property of NIU. In addition to books received through the CBP, the NIU Libraries continue to acquire other works of science fiction and add them to the collection.

The NIU Libraries’ Science Fiction Magazine Collection

- Samuel T. Huang

The Friends of the Northern Illinois University Libraries provide support to the libraries in many ways. Membership dues are placed in an endowment fund, the interest income from which is used for the purchase of books and materials the libraries could not otherwise afford. The Friends hold a program series every academic year with a variety of speakers on interesting topics. These programs are free to members and their guests. Every April, the Friends hold their Annual Book Sale. Books that are donated to the library for the book sale are sold to the public. Proceeds from this event are placed in the endowment fund. We are very proud of our Friends group because their activities benefit and strengthen our libraries and the University. If you are already a Friend, please share this newsletter with a friend or colleague, or consider giving a membership in the Friends as a gift.

Please provide the following information:

- New Member
- Renewing Member
- Change of Address
- Gift Membership. Please provide your name so that we may notify the recipient of your gift:

- Mr.
- Mrs.
- Miss
- Ms.
- Mr. & Mrs.

Name:

Address:

City: State: Zip:

- Student Member $5
- Individual Member $25
- Family Membership $40
- Donor $100
- Benefactor/Corporate $500
- Life Member $1000

Benefits

- Preview the Annual Book Sale.
- Interlibrary Loan Services.
- Advance notice of events.
- Four issues of Founders' Type.
- $3 off oil changes at PitPros.
- $10 discount on first order at the Village Booksmith, Creston.
- 10% discount at the following:
  - Junction Book Store, DeKalb.
  - Heartland Books, Woodstock.
  - The Book Rack, St. Charles.

Please clip this section and return to: Friends of the NIU Libraries, c/o Mark A. Williams, University Libraries, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115
Member News

William Studwell, a principal cataloguer for the NIU Libraries and music researcher, was consulted twice in December by the Chicago Tribune for his expertise on holiday music. Studwell was also featured in the Aurora Beacon News, Elgin Courier News, Joliet Herald News, Waukegan News Sun, Midweek, Sycamore News, and the Kane County Chronicle for an article in which he named “Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer” the 1999 Carol of the Year in honor of its 50th anniversary.

Welcome New Members!

Life: Barbara and David Johnson-Wint
Corporate: Book Muse
Family: Mark Hedborn
Individual: Shawn Artlip, John McAnally, Dennis McCarty

Library Exhibits

The Walt Whitman Collection
Rare Books & Special Collection, FML, through May 31, 2000.

American Period in the Philippines, 1898-1935
Southeast Asia Collection, FML, through April 30, 2000.


Library Exhibits

The Walt Whitman Collection
Rare Books & Special Collection, FML, through May 31, 2000.

American Period in the Philippines, 1898-1935
Southeast Asia Collection, FML, through April 30, 2000.


William Studwell, a principal cataloguer for the NIU Libraries and music researcher, was consulted twice in December by the Chicago Tribune for his expertise on holiday music. Studwell was also featured in the Aurora Beacon News, Elgin Courier News, Joliet Herald News, Waukegan News Sun, Midweek, Sycamore News, and the Kane County Chronicle for an article in which he named “Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer” the 1999 Carol of the Year in honor of its 50th anniversary.

Welcome New Members!

Life: Barbara and David Johnson-Wint
Corporate: Book Muse
Family: Mark Hedborn
Individual: Shawn Artlip, John McAnally, Dennis McCarty

The Book Rack
Piano Factory Mall
410 South First Street
St. Charles, IL 60174
(630) 513-5787
FAX (630) 513-0883

New and Gently used books for the entire family. All at 25-80% off the Cover Prices. Friends members receive a 10% discount on used books.

Hardcovers, Paperbacks, Computer Books, Bestsellers, All Categories!

Open Daily