



Clarke Historical Library marks golden anniversary

by JOSH TILLEY

Fifty years after receiving its first donations, the Clarke Historical Library continues to expand and build on the vision of Dr. Norman E. Clarke Sr.

"The Clarke Historical Library represents a tremendous amount of dedication from a lot of people," said Frank Boles, director of the Clarke Historical Library. "They have made a huge impact over the years."

Central Michigan University and the Clarke Historical Library will celebrate the library's 50th anniversary October 29 in the Park Library building at CMU. Dr. William Anderson, director of the Michigan Department of History, Arts, and Libraries, will discuss the past, present, and future of special collections libraries in

Michigan at 3 p.m. in the Park Library Auditorium. A public reception follows in the Clarke Historical Library. Both events are free and open to the public.

"We are grateful to the donors, families, Board of Governors, present and past staff, and the university for all their support," Boles said. "They have been extremely supportive and deserve credit for their vision and dedication."

"We have expanded in ways Dr. Clarke Sr. couldn't have conceived of."

**– Frank Boles
Director of the Clarke Historical Library**

www.lib.cmich.edu

Dean's Column

REFERENCE POINT

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Tom Moore

New academic year brings challenge and celebration

Even this early in fall, it already has been a busy semester at Park Library. Our service desks have been centers of activity; our classrooms, used for teaching the processes of library research in a dynamic information environment, have been bustling with the familiar academic rhythm; our study tables and carrels have been growing in occupancy with the advance of the semester's academic expectations; our Off-Campus Library Services' document delivery pace has been brisk; and, of course, our Café has been a popular spot for student and faculty refreshment and conversation days and nights.

Underlying all this activity, at least from the standpoint of the librarians and staff, are both our commitment to service and the gratification we feel that our contributions support teaching, learning, and research at CMU.

Meeting this commitment obviously requires significant resources. Because of the Libraries' inescapable participation – along with every other area of the university – in budget reductions caused by a large drop in state funding, we've been striving to respond to losses in staff positions and funding for collections, computer equipment, and general operations. We're working hard to uphold, to the best of our capability, a very positive library service legacy.

In this issue of *Reference Point*, you'll find articles on a selection of topics that I hope will be of interest. They'll provide a good glimpse of some of our activities. I want to call attention, especially, to the item on the 50th anniversary of our Clarke Historical Library, which we are celebrating with a special exhibit and program. (The exhibit also is available on the Web at clarke.cmich.edu.) The anniversary is a milestone for this wonderful library gem, of which we are very proud.

The growth of the Clarke Historical Library from mid-century to new century has spanned lots of developments in the world of libraries, notably the applications of computer technology. But the timeless value of its remarkable collection of special – and, in some cases, precious – books, manuscripts, and graphic materials is a reassurance of the importance of the intellectual record, regardless of the “technological” package in which it's contained. Over the years the Clarke Library has built not only an impressive collection, but also a respected tradition of service to researchers from near and far.

The anniversary of the Clarke Library is a great opportunity to recognize CMU's role and the key role all universities and libraries play in preserving and making accessible documentation about the past. Let's all cheer for an equally fruitful next 50 years for the Clarke Historical Library!

If you have comments about *Reference Point* or about the services and collections available in Park Library or on the Web, we'd like to know. Be sure to be in touch with our staff or with me.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Moore". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line above the first few letters.

Tom Moore
Dean of Libraries

Mary Dow Reading Room: More than a name

by LISA SOMMER

Students looking for a quiet place to read often turn to the Mary Dow Reading Room, located on the third floor of the Park Library. While this room may seem ideal for poring over the latest magazines, its name has a special historical significance.

Born in 1868 and raised in Midland, Michigan, she was the sister of the founder of the Dow Chemical Company. Mary E. Dow had an independent streak. When it came time for Dow to go to college, rather than choosing the more traditional teaching career, she embarked on the new program of library science and became one of the pioneers in this emerging field for women.

Dow spent many years as a devoted librarian in Saginaw's public libraries and schools, and she played a key role opening Midland's first library, the Grace A. Dow Library.

In 1924, E. C. Warriner, president of what was then the Central Michigan Normal School, asked Dow to fill the vacancy left by their head librarian, who had fallen ill. Because Dow and Warriner had worked together in the East Saginaw school system, she did not hesitate to lend her services.



Dow put CMU's library first

Dow had planned to stay one year in the position, but when a fire burned down the college's "Old Main" administration building, destroying all but 17 of its 30,000 books, she decided to stay on and went to work ordering new books and helping plan the new library, which opened in Warriner Hall in March 1928.

Because of her dedication to CMU and the library profession, and in recognition of a generous donation from the Midland-based Rollin Gerstacker Foundation, Tom Moore, dean of libraries, and his development support staff came up with the idea of paying tribute to Dow by naming the reading room after her.

"She was a librarian here and a member of the Dow family," said Gail Moore, former senior development director for planned and major gifts. "We felt it would also be appropriate to honor the

Gerstacker Foundation in naming the room after Mary."

Tom and Gail took their idea to Ned Brandt, director of the Gerstacker Foundation, who matched their enthusiasm. The proposal was then presented to the CMU Board of Trustees and approved.

Dow will continue to be remembered for years to come with appreciation for her commitment and service to Central Michigan University. •



The Mary Dow Reading Room is a treasure trove of the latest magazines and newspapers from around the world.



Mary E. Dow's dedication to the CMU Libraries lives on in the colorful reading room named to honor her and a major gift from the Rollin Gerstacker Foundation.

Friends of the Libraries provide critical

by SHAVONNE SINGLETON

Anyone who has stepped into Charles V. Park Library has noticed a wide variety of books, computers, and specialized exhibits throughout the facility.

Many collection materials, exhibits, and art and cultural events are made available, thanks to the donations and contributions from the Central Michigan University Friends of the Libraries.

Established in 2002, The Friends of the Libraries is a membership organization that provides financial and in-kind gifts supporting University Library, Clarke Historical Library, and Off-Campus Library Services.

"Especially at a time when the university is experiencing budget cuts, contributions from the Friends provide flexibility and funding to the Libraries for valuable resources that wouldn't normally be there," said Tom Moore, dean of libraries.

"Gifts to the Libraries strengthen academic programs throughout the whole university."

Funds allow for special acquisitions

Friends of the Libraries donations enhance the acquisitions budget for a variety of library-supported items. They help fund the purchase of research materials such as books, journals, and digital information, and they supplement the budget for annual upgrades and replacements for the 500 computers.

For example, the library recently purchased the digital version of the "Humanities and Social Sciences Index" to periodicals, which dates back to 1902 and covers history, art, philosophy, sociology, music, religion, and literature. Another special purchase was an original five-page letter by a young Ernest Hemingway describing the great attractions of northern Michigan, where he spent much of his childhood. It is available for viewing by request in the Clarke Historical Library.

"The support from the Friends is truly crucial to the CMU Libraries," Moore said. "It gives us the ability to provide the information and resources the students and faculty need for research and to offer allied cultural programming."

The cultural programs supported by the Friends' contributions include special exhibits in the Clarke Historical Library and Baber Room. The special catalog for the Clarke Library's spring 2004 exhibit, *Native American Treaty Signers in the Great Lakes Region*, was published with the financial support of the Friends.



Friends of the Libraries gathered for a spring luncheon featuring guest speaker Matthew Battles, author of *Library: An Unquiet History* (see page 6).



Library holdings include an original five-page letter by Ernest Hemingway describing northern Michigan.

ongoing support



The Friends of the Libraries include loyal supporters like Sue and Bud Baber, who posed in the Baber Room prior to the annual spring luncheon. The Baber Room provides students, faculty, staff, and community members a place to study and to experience thought-provoking artworks by professional artists.

Friends enjoy special activities

In addition to contributing to the advancement, cultural enrichment, and education of the CMU community, Friends of the Libraries members also enjoy special library activities such as:

- An annual luncheon
- Receptions
- Presentations
- Behind-the-scenes library tours
- Volunteer opportunities

Contributors are recognized with their names on plaques, chairs, and tables, as well as rooms within Park Library.

"We are very fortunate to have such a truly lovely and unusually well-equipped library, and the close association with it is something that each Friend should be proud of," Moore said. "Likewise, we're very honored to be associated with the special and generous donors who support academic quality at CMU through gifts to the Libraries." •

New Vision campaign committee determined to build support for libraries

As part of the \$50 million New Vision of Excellence Campaign for Central Michigan University, the Park Library is endeavoring to meet, and preferably exceed, a goal of \$2.5 million for support of library collections and services. The campaign runs through December 2006.

Assisting with the libraries' portion of this largest-ever fund-raising effort at CMU is a committee consisting of volunteers who are advising on fund-raising strategies and helping to identify and contact prospective major donors. The group is chaired by Joe Sweeney, '66, '67 (Canadian Lakes).



Joe Sweeney

"Investment in the libraries is one of the best ways to ensure great learning and research opportunities for all students and faculty at CMU," Sweeney said.

As an attorney with widespread interests ranging across a variety of fields, Sweeney has a strong interest in supporting the libraries.

Other dedicated members of the Campaign Committee are Stan Bies, '72 (Ann Arbor); Sandy Croll (Harbor Springs); Bob Graham, '65 (Paw

Paw); John Logie (Grand Rapids); and Mary Catherine Rentz, '78 (Grosse Pointe Farms). Croll and Logie also are members of the Clarke Historical Library's Board of Governors.

"We're fortunate to have the time

and talent of these dedicated people behind our pursuit of library excellence," said Tom Moore, dean of libraries.

Funds raised during the campaign will be used for endowments for collections and the Clarke Historical Library, as well as for annual funding of library programs, including keeping current in technology. More information about the Libraries' campaign is available from Brian Palmer, director of library development and community outreach at (989) 774-1826 or palme1ba@cmich.edu. •

"Investment in the libraries is one of the best ways to ensure great learning and research opportunities for all students and faculty at CMU."

– Joe Sweeney, '66, '67
New Vision Campaign Committee Chair

Harvard librarian and author inspires Friends of the Libraries

by SHAVONNE SINGLETON

Matthew Battles, guest speaker at the spring 2004 Friends of the Libraries luncheon, was quite impressed that, despite the high-tech computers, moving bookshelves, and stylish furniture, the Charles V. Park Library still maintains the warm charm of a traditional library.

“What struck me about the library was the atrium and the natural lighting available for the users,” said Battles, who was treated to a tour after his speech. “I enjoy the fact that it serves as a cultural center without sacrificing the character of a library. It is a stunning, terrific building.”

The author of *Library: An Unquiet History*, published in 2003, Battles

addressed a gathering of donors who had made contributions to the ongoing growth of the Central Michigan University Libraries. His topic: *Reading the Library*.

Battles took the audience on a delightful journey into the stacks of Harvard’s Widener Library, where he began his research. He shared his reflections on the ideal uses of a library and what the future holds for traditional libraries across the globe.

“Technological advances have threatened the idea of the library again and again,” he said. “This is nothing new in history. Even with the increasing use of the Internet and online search engines, I believe the book is too good of a technology to give up on, and people know that.”

Inspired to write by a life between the stacks

Battles grew up in the small town of Petersburg, Illinois, and spent many childhood afternoons in the library. Libraries became special places for Battles through his college career as well. As he began to realize his aspirations to become a writer, he also recognized that the library was his natural habitat.

“I spent a lot of time searching through the stacks of Widener, and it became a muse for me,” Battles said. “I began to look at the library collection as

one big book, a kind of literary text, and I became intrigued by the themes.”

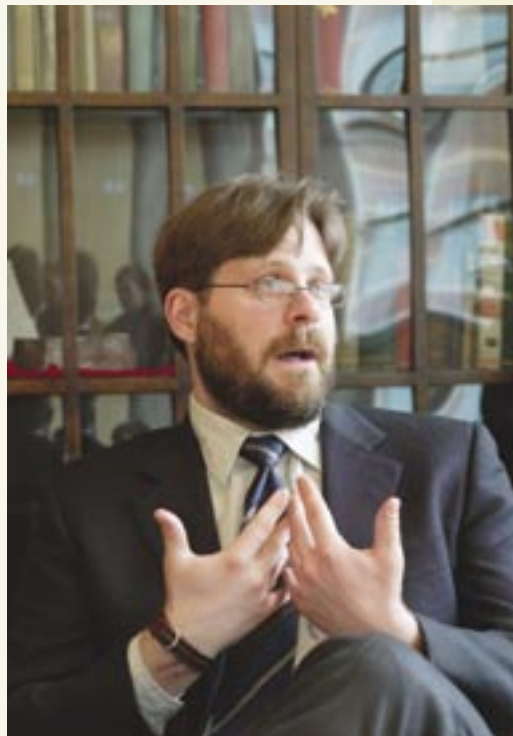
His book originally began as a *Harper’s* magazine article entitled, *Lost in the Stacks: The Decline and Fall of the Universal Library*. In the book, Battles

continued to explore the creation, destruction, and continual changes in libraries throughout history.

“Matthew’s book indicates a sharp mind, creativity, and the capability to articulate some unusual insights into the development of libraries through the centuries,” said Tom Moore, dean of libraries.

Battles has a bachelor’s degree from the University of Chicago and a master’s degree from Boston University. In addition to *Harper’s*, he has contributed to the *London Review of Books*, *The American Scholar*, and the *Boston Globe*.

Currently, he is the coordinating editor of the *Harvard Library Bulletin* and is working on completing two new books. *Widener: Biography of a Library*, a history of Harvard’s Harry Elkins Widener Memorial Library, is due out in September. The tentatively titled book *Urge of the Letter*, which traces the natural history of handwriting, will be published in 2005. •



6 Author Matthew Battles was the keynote speaker for the Friends of the Libraries spring luncheon.

“It is a stunning, terrific building.”

– Matthew Battles
Author, *Library: An Unquiet History*

CMU hosts Great Lakes mapping conference

by JOSH TILLEY

Central Michigan University hosted a collection of nationally and globally known presenters during the Mapping in Michigan and the Great Lakes Region conference June 11 and 12 in the Park Library Auditorium.

"It's been a very long time since there has been a serious, scholarly discussion on Michigan's cartographic records," said Frank Boles, director of the Clarke Historical Library. "This conference created a fresh group of perspectives that will advance scholarship and also make a contribution to K-12 education."

The papers on the Michigan and Great Lakes region maps ranged from indigenous maps of Native Americans to the highway maps of the 1950s. They will be published in a book by the Michigan State University Press and in the *Michigan Historical Review*.

"The last truly comprehensive book to look at Michigan maps was published by Lewis Karpinski in 1931," Boles said. "I'm looking forward to the tremendous impact all of the papers and presenters will have on this topic."

Mapping in Michigan and the Great Lakes Region presentations included the following:

- **James Akerman and Daniel Block**
Official State Maps and the Promotion of the Great Lakes Region in the Automobile Era
- **Francis M. Carroll**
The Search for the Canadian-American Boundary along the Michigan Frontier, 1819-1827: The Boundary Commissions under Articles VI and VII of the Treaty of Ghent
- **Gerald Danzer**
Popular Cartography of the Great Lakes: Some Case Studies and Comparative Dimensions
- **J. P. D. Dunbabin**
Motives for Mapping the Great Lakes: Upper Canada, 1782-1827
- **G. Malcolm Lewis (read by Margaret W. Pearce)**
First Nations' Maps, Mapmaking, and Map Use in the Great Lakes Region: A Historical Review
- **Kenneth E. Lewis**
Mapping Antebellum Settlement Spread in Southern Lower Michigan

- **Cheryl Lyon-Jenness**
Picturing Progress: Assessing the Nineteenth Century Atlas Map Bonanza
- **David Patton, Amy Lobben, and Bruce Pape**
Mapping Cities and Towns in the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries: A Look at Sanborn, Plat, and Panoramic Mapping Activities in the Great Lakes Region



- **Margaret W. Pearce**
The Holes in the Grid: Reservation Surveys in Michigan
- **Mary Pedley**
Louis Charles Karpinski and the Cartography of the Great Lakes
- **Helen Hornbeck Tanner**
Mapping Grand Traverse Indian Country: The Contribution of Peter Daugherty
- **Keith R. Widder**
The Western Great Lakes in 1767: The Manuscript Maps of Robert Rogers and Jonathan Carver

The conference, which was conceived by the staff of the *Michigan Historical Review* and the Clarke Historical Library, was cosponsored by the Michigan Humanities Council, the University of Michigan's William L. Clements Library, the Michigan Geographic Alliance, Michigan State University Press, and the Historical Society of Michigan. •

Some of the maps discussed at the summer conference at Park Library included a 1923 fire insurance map of Clare, a 1940 winter highway map of Michigan, a 1867 bird's-eye view of Flint, and an 1829 Michigan Territory Straights of Michillimackinac map.

CMU librarians contribute to university

by JOSH TILLEY

Central Michigan University librarians support CMU's mission to serve as a research-intensive university by continually conducting research and assisting others with their research.

Park Library staff members aid faculty, students, and community members in the research process. Librarians offer classroom instruction and individual consultation for those who need assistance with research and researching methods. They also offer general reference services by answering questions face-to-face, over the phone, and through e-mail.

"At other institutions, librarians sometimes serve in specific capacities, such as subject bibliographers or as general reference librarians," said Robert Faleer, reference librarian. "The reference librarians at CMU are responsible for a variety of services, which include bibliographic duties, public service, and library instruction."

As bibliographers with specialized areas of expertise, the librarians purchase research materials that faculty and students need as a part of the library's development of the collections. Faleer's areas of bibliographic expertise include broadcast and cinematic arts, journalism, religion, and history.

Some CMU librarians also conduct research of their own

Robert Faleer: An expert on European choir stalls

Faleer's current individual research focuses on "misericords," the folding, elaborately carved half-seats found in the choir stalls of medieval cathedrals, abbeys, and parish churches throughout Europe. Many of the carvings portray religious

themes, but a significant number of carvings also exhibit mythology, folk figures, military themes, and scenes of domestic life.

"The research we do makes us aware of what resources are available in a particular subject field and fine tunes our research skills," Faleer said. "It allows us to assist others better."

During the March 5 Michigan Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters annual conference, Faleer

discussed the mystical beasts misericord theme in his paper, *Wyverns in the Quire: The Depiction and Symbolism of Fabulous Beasts in Medieval English Misericords*. The paper described the use of creatures that represent the era's darkest fears, such as dragons, wyverns, merpeople, unicorns, basilisks, centaurs, and manticores in the carvings.

"Any of the research we do makes us aware of what resources are available in a particular subject field and fine tunes our research skills. It allows us to assist others better."

– Robert Faleer
Reference Librarian



Michael Lorenzen: Focusing on instruction, literacy, and security

Michael Lorenzen, head of reference services, also is an active researcher who has published more than 20 articles in library literature over the last eight years. His research has focused on library instruction, information literacy, and library security. Some of his recent publications include an article on how high school students use the Web for research and how to use an active learning assignment to teach library skills. He also is the executive editor of *Academic Exchange Quarterly*, which is a peer-reviewed higher education teaching journal.

Anne Marie Casey: Developing Web-based assessment tools

Anne Marie Casey, associate dean of libraries, has been developing an Internet-based assessment tool that measures the effectiveness of student information-seeking skills. Over the past four years, Casey and Lana Ivanitskaya, assistant professor, School of Health Sciences, have been working on the Research Readiness Self-Assessment (RRSA).

With the help of Ryan Laus, a library programmer analyst, and student programmers, RRSA is being tested in the Introduction to Library and Information Research (LIB 197) classes. Based on the effectiveness of the testing, the program may become part of the class course work for all sections of LIB 197. RRSA already is a requirement in Ivanitskaya's courses.

"RRSA is a Web-based program that is available at anytime," Casey said. "The LIB 197 classes are using it as a pretest and a posttest to see how well the students can find information at the beginning and end of the course."

Casey presented an article on RRSA at a conference in Scottsdale, Arizona, in early May. The article will be published in the conference proceedings. •



Reference Librarian Robert Faleer, who conducts research on medieval choir stalls known as misericords, feels his experience prepares him to help others with their research. Pictured above and left are photos and a casting of the misericords.

Park library tours aid many users

by SHAVONNE SINGLETON

Central Michigan University student recruits and their families, new faculty members, and elementary students can take part in tours led by library staff at the CMU Libraries.

The tours are designed to showcase the resources, technologies, and collections available to faculty and students. They also, by their very nature, inspire a sense of pride and an element of awe in visitors.

"The first thing visitors always notice upon touring the library is the open space that is available," said Shay McFadden, facilities/access services specialist. "They are overwhelmed by how open and interactive the library is."

Three different levels of tours

- **General.** These tours expose community members, elementary students, and other interested individuals to general features and services as well as various technologies within the library. Participants get hands-on experiences such as pressing the buttons that run the moving bookshelves, and they get a good look at the Clarke Historical Library, the Baber Room, and the auditorium.
- **Instructional.** These basic skills tours are given to students from tribal colleges and other Michigan colleges as well as CMU outreaches such as the King/Chavez/Parks high school program. The students become familiar with the many available resources and collections within the library.
- **Group.** These tours are provided for new student athletes, McNair Scholars, and others who need to gain a familiarization with essential library resources.



The Okemos Kids Club's summer visit, above, and a new student orientation session were just a couple of the many Park Library tours given this year.

South African human rights struggle documented in exhibit

The struggle for human rights in South Africa was examined in a traveling exhibit held in the Baber Room this spring.

Images of Human Rights: South African Prints, a collection of 29 fine art prints by artists representing the nine provinces of South Africa, were hand-printed by master printmaker Jan Jordaan. The works commemorated the post-apartheid nation's bill of rights and were on tour across North America in association with Michigan State University and an association of South African agencies.

"*Images of Human Rights* is an artistic celebration of the testament to the human spirit that endured years of struggle for democracy and human rights in our beloved country," South Africa Archbishop Emeritus Desmond M. Tutu said in describing the exhibit. "The work of the artists represented in this portfolio reflects the complexity, passion, and richness of our rainbow nation." •



A reception in the Baber Room followed presentations in the Park Library Auditorium by Chima Korieh, CMU professor of African history, who discussed the *Race on History of South Africa*, and Maureen N. Eke, CMU associate vice president for diversity and international education, who read a selection of South African poetry.

Tours provide comfort level for new students

"The tours help make people feel comfortable after arrival at CMU," said Michael Lorenzen, head of reference services. "They aid in eliminating library anxiety for students and demystify the place for anyone who wants to use the Park Library's services."

In addition to the tours, the library hosts a part of the Centralis Scholarship Competition. While Centralis competitors take the essay test, families of the students enjoy the sights.

Also, during the summer Freshman Orientation Experience, held in the Library since 2003, faculty advisors are available to help students with course choices. Library staff members help incoming freshmen learn basic skills, such as how to use the network printing system.

"Many prospective students and their parents are very impressed with the services, collections, and study space within the library building, and the tours help to encourage them to consider CMU as their institution of choice," said Anne Marie Casey, associate dean of libraries.

"There was a significant increase in freshmen using the library during the 2003-2004 academic year. We believe it is because they learned about the library during their time here for orientation and because they knew what resources and assistance would be available to them." •

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– Anne Marie Casey
Associate Dean of Libraries

Clarke Historical Library marks golden anniversary

Continued from page 1



Anyone with an interest in history will find priceless resources in the Clarke Historical Library. Seen here, community members review photos of Broomfield Township Country Schools.

Big changes but unchanging mission over the years

The Clarke Historical Library was founded in 1954 through a gift from Dr. Norman E. Clarke Sr. to CMU. The library, which started with a collection of 1,500 items, has become one of Michigan's leading research libraries. The collection currently contains more than 101,000 items related to the history of Michigan, the Old Northwest Territory, and the university, as well as a historical children's book collection.

"We have expanded in ways that Dr. Clarke Sr. couldn't have conceived of, with the addition of the microfilm program, the children's book library, and the digitizing program," Boles said. "But the core idea is still the same: collect historical materials and make them available."

Although the library is funded by CMU and serves as a resource for the campus and scholarly communities, the general public also is welcome. However, because of the rare nature of much of the library's collection, material use is limited to the Clarke Reading Room.

"The most favorable thing is when people ask for certain information and get it," Boles said. "I feel the most valuable piece in the library is the most recently used item that answers a question."

Clarke Historical Library maintains year-round hours and embraces a continuing commitment to serve scholars, the CMU community, and the public. The library is open to the public Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. and many Saturdays during the academic year. •



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