

ReferencePoint

University Libraries' Newsletter

Volume 8, Issue 2



— *Bestselling*

alumna —

Friends hosting 'The Paris Wife' author Paula McLain

It's not like presenting at the Friends of the Libraries luncheon will be Paula McLain's first time speaking at Central Michigan University.

After all, she pursued degrees at CMU, earning bachelor's degrees in history and English in 1991 and a master's degree in English in 1993. On occasion McLain also has returned to participate in campus events and poetry readings.

But when she speaks at the annual invitation-only Friends event Saturday, June 8, it will be her first time presenting on campus as a New York Times bestselling author, sharing insights into her top novel, "The Paris Wife," in Park Library Auditorium.

"The Paris Wife" captures the love affair between Ernest Hemingway and his wife Hadley. Set in Paris in the 1920s, the novel unfolds as Hadley Hemingway struggles with her roles as woman, wife, lover, muse, friend and mother.

"We couldn't be more excited about having Paula McLain as our Friends speaker," says Megan Moreno, director of library development and community outreach. "She has a very engaging topic to talk about, and it really connects with the Libraries' important Hemingway collection."

CMU's Clarke Historical Library holds a substantial collection of material relating to Hemingway's life in Michigan and serves as the archives of the Michigan Hemingway Society.

In addition to her bestselling novel, McLain is the author of two collections of poetry as well as the memoir "Like Family" and the novel "A Ticket to Ride." She earned a Master of Fine Arts in poetry from the University of Michigan, and she has been a resident of Yaddo and the MacDowell Colony, two prestigious retreat locations for writers.

McLain currently teaches in the Master of Fine Arts Program in Poetry at New England College and at John Carroll University. She resides with her family in Cleveland.

To learn more about attending this event or how you can become a Friend of the Libraries, contact Moreno at 989-774-1826 or brook1mr@cmich.edu.

Serving service

ReferencePoint

Reference Point is published biannually by University Libraries.

Address questions and suggestions to:
Office of the Dean
Park Library 407D
Central Michigan University
Mount Pleasant, MI 48859

Editorial Board

Thomas J. Moore
Dean of Libraries

Richard Cochran
Associate Dean of Libraries

Megan Moreno, '06
Director of Development and
Community Outreach

Brad Stambaugh
Manager, Library Business Services
Reference Point Coordinator

Production

CMU University Communications

Writers

Melissa Beauchamp, Chelsey Colston,
Dan Digmann, Katie Pohlman,
Cierra Wallace

Editor

Dan Digmann

Designer

Trevor Grabill, '10

Photographers

Robert Barclay, Peggy Brisbane

Printing

CMU Printing Services

Libraries' website

lib.cmich.edu

Academic Year Library Hours

Mon - Thurs: 7:50 a.m. - Midnight

Fri: 7:50 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Sat: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sun: Noon - Midnight

Extended Hours Study

(Through April 25)

Sun: 10 a.m. - 2 a.m.

Mon-Thurs: 7 a.m. - 2 a.m.

Fri: 7 a.m. - Midnight

Sat: 9 a.m. - Midnight

Reflecting on a quarter century in the Libraries



Tom Moore

In a few months I'll be completing my 25th year as CMU's Dean of Libraries. It's been a continuing privilege and pleasure.

Measured by success in fulfilling our primary mission of facilitating access to the

best scholarly information resources, and supporting all of the university's academic programs, we're more effective now than we were in 1988, when I arrived.

Today, as in the rest of society, everything we do is infused with the remarkable benefits and perplexing challenges of technology. Smart Search – the centerpiece of our wholly renovated University Library and Global Campus Library Services websites (see p. 10) – is the latest in the lineage of evolved library technology applications away from card catalogs and printed indexes and toward truly convenient, direct access for library users to a ceaselessly expanding universe of academic books, journal articles, and multimedia sources. Smart Search is a powerful new aid for learning and research available by clicks to all our clientele on the Mount Pleasant campus as well as throughout the distant reaches of our Global Campus programs.

Yet technology is only part of the story, of course. Behind every technology tool we've implemented has been the impressive initiative, talent, teamwork, and hard work of our librarians and staff, past and current. And the central standard for weighing the countless implementation issues, small and large, has always been the advantage in service to our CMU student and faculty library users.

Over the last couple decades our service platter has clearly gotten bigger – blending traditional services such as book access and lending with newer ones such as desktop delivery of digitized journal articles, "chat" reference, extensive exhibit and speaker programs, and more – but our staff has not. We have about the same number of librarians and staff that we had years ago, and they're very busy.

A particularly gratifying change from the somewhat distant past is the growth of private financial support of the Libraries from CMU alumni and friends and faculty and staff. While our institutional budgets have been essentially static largely because of reductions in state of Michigan funding of the university, gifts and bequests now play a significant role in boosting our ability to purchase technology and equipment, buy costly information resources, and offer public programs. We're very grateful for the wonderful support we receive.

So, unlike some recollections of the past, mine favor the present. With the incomparable Park Library facility, the almost limitless benefits and potential of library technologies, the terrific, if lean, staff focused on the interests and needs of our library users, and the generous support of a necessary and appreciated, and I hope widening, group of donors, we're indeed very fortunate in library services at Central Michigan University.

I hope this good fortune and our high ambitions for serving our clientele show in this issue of Reference Point. Please let us know what you think.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Moore".

Tom Moore
Dean of Libraries

Chemical connections

Standard discussions about The Dow Chemical Company generally tie the industry-leading giant back to its headquarters in Midland, Mich.

But there's nothing standard about the current Clarke Historical Library exhibit – "Drilling for Brine" – that brings to the surface the nearly 30 years that Dow Chemical operated facilities in Mount Pleasant.

During the 20th century Dow had 10 brine wells operating in Midland County, but those weren't enough to sustain the demand needed to create bromine. In 1903 Dow drilled brine wells and built a bromide plant in Mount Pleasant.

"I expect many people will be surprised by the exhibit, since a lot of people don't know there was a Dow Chemical plant in Mount Pleasant," says Janet Danek, CMU University Libraries' coordinator of exhibits. "The primary focus of this exhibit is to highlight the existence of the Mount Pleasant plant."

Bromine was extracted from brine and turned into bromide, which when mixed with other chemicals was used in a variety of different ways including in pesticides, gasoline additive and brominated vegetable oil.

Showcasing the importance of chemistry and geology in Mount Pleasant is one of the key components of "Drilling for Brine: The Dow Chemical Plant in Mount Pleasant 1903-1903."

Clarke exhibit highlights three decades of Dow in Mount Pleasant

The exhibit features maps, handwritten letters exchanged between Herbert H. Dow and Mount Pleasant residents, and artifacts from the original site.

Danek says the exhibit introduces visitors to the wonders of history and provides excellent examples of the many unique pieces in the Clarke Historical Library collection. To complement the exhibit Park Library will feature paintings in the first floor Baber Room and microscopic photography of crystalline structures will be displayed on the third floor.

The exhibit and displays will be among the highlights at the 44th Annual American Chemistry Society Central Regional Meeting, which the ACS Midland Section is hosting on CMU's Mount Pleasant campus May 15-17.

"Displaying these pieces of art during the regional meeting creates awareness while shining a light on Mount Pleasant's history," Danek says.

"Drilling for Brine: The Dow Chemical Plant in Mount Pleasant 1903-1903" will run through the end of July. •

 library.cmich.edu/pubs for more

Selections from "Drilling for Brine"



Internal

outreach

Libraries actively increasing librarians' roles in classroom

Leslie Hildebrandt pulls a chair up to the table in a classroom where she teaches a dietetics class.

The professor in CMU's Human Environmental Studies Department is preparing to meet with an academic colleague to discuss curriculum-related resources.

But Hildebrandt's colleague isn't a professor within her department. She's a reference librarian and library faculty member – Robin Sabo – who has helped enhance the dietetics curriculum and research guides available to students, faculty and alumni through CMU Libraries.

"Without Robin's expertise as a librarian, we couldn't do all that we do," Hildebrandt says of Sabo's impact on CMU's dietetics program, which is one of the largest such programs in Michigan.

Sabo's involvement with faculty and programs within her subject areas, including dietetics and programs within The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow College of Health Professions, is consistent with a nationwide trend to further embed reference librarians into the classroom.

According to a January 2013 Inside Higher Ed online article, the American Association

of University Professors recently updated guidelines to reflect librarians' changing roles as teachers and researchers. Among the guideline recommendations, colleges and universities are encouraged to involve librarians in governance processes, such as curriculum development.

Focus strengthens existing connections

Reference librarians historically have worked regularly with CMU faculty to ensure library resources complement the course curriculum, Sabo says. But the increases in online and web-based resources are making it more pressing to keep the librarians and faculty even more closely connected. The Libraries also have partnered with colleges to provide reference librarians office space for limited hours within college academic buildings.

"The library used to be more of a book depository where students and faculty stopped in to use the books and journals we had in our collections for research," Sabo says. "With the Internet, more and more research is available online and it can change daily."

Because of this, reference librarians work to keep in close contact with faculty and

continually check reputable resources to ensure the Libraries provide information that best correlates with the classes faculty are teaching and the topics students are researching.

Something unique to Sabo in her work as a dietetics program reference librarian is that she is a registered dietitian. Her background, which includes previous positions in various health care and research fields at places such as Riverside Methodist Hospital in Ohio, led to her appointment as the interim didactic program director in dietetics.

Such a relationship is helping Sabo approach teaching and learning from both a librarian's as well as a professor's perspective.

"Because of this you have more interaction with the faculty, and they're in turn more comfortable in collaborating," she says. "Each subject librarian has built strong relationships with faculty over time, and as the library is pushing to do more of this, the departments are recognizing the benefits."

Just ask Hildebrandt, who is quick to cite the number of resources Sabo brought to her attention on which she now is highly dependent for her classes and research. •

Putting pen to paper

Alumnus Clarence Tuma writing the book of his lifetime

Family and friends wasted little time posing a pressing question to Clarence Tuma after his family's legendary fine dining restaurant – The Embers – closed in 2007.

"I started getting lots of phone calls and letters from people asking me when was I going to write a book or a cookbook," says Tuma, who graduated from CMU in 1950. "I wondered, 'Who would want to read a book about me?' But when people kept asking me about it, I thought that maybe I should do something."

And so, with a pen and his notebook in tow, Tuma has ventured to Park Library's second floor nearly every day this past year and has written the stories of his life. He says he enjoys watching the CMU students as he writes his manuscript out longhand, piecing together narratives about events throughout his storied 88 years.

"I know the students wonder, 'What's this old guy doing here?'" Tuma says with a smile. "One time I was wearing a CMU shirt and a student asked me, 'Are you one of the coaches?'" and I said, 'No, but I did play football here a few years ago.'"

Sharing family stories and secret recipes

Tuma's life is full of rich history, which originated with his grandmother sending his father from Lebanon to America when he was just 12 years old to protect her son from potentially being kidnapped by Turkish nationalists.

Grounded in his father's strong work ethic and love for America, Tuma says the book of his life has countless stories that

include everything from growing up as one of nine children in Detroit to serving in the Army during World War II, attending and graduating from CMU, and owning a highly regarded restaurant.

"In writing the book, I skip around a lot," Tuma says, explaining he keeps his notebook close by at home in case he remembers new information to include in his book. "I've got so many eras to cover, and I don't want to leave something or someone out of my stories."

To move his book forward and prepare his manuscript for editing, Tuma says he's grateful that his granddaughter Samantha Minnis is willing to read his handwritten copy and type it into the computer, something he admits not knowing how to use.

"I'm getting better at making out his writing and what he's trying to say," says Minnis, a 2005 graduate and the Libraries' coordinator of reference operations. "It's an honor to be able to do his for him."

In addition to his lifetime stories, Tuma says he is anxious to share recipes for The Embers' most delectable dishes. He envisions that between each chapter of the book he'll include the ingredients and instructions for favorites such as the peas and peanuts salad, pecan rolls, meatloaf and the one-pound pork chop.

"When people ask how the book's coming, I tell them I've been working on it one pound at a time," Tuma says. •

Clarence Tuma, '50, takes a break from writing his book in Park Library with his granddaughter, Samantha Minnis, '05.



Behind the scenes

Making connections to support Libraries' mission for CMU



Megan Moreno, '06

and friends of the Libraries. I inform them about what the CMU Libraries are doing to improve our resources, services and programs for all CMU students and faculty and explain how private financial support benefits our pursuit of our mission.

I meet people of various ages who've experienced CMU at different points in history, and at different periods in their lives. They teach me about where CMU has been, and I bring them up to speed on where CMU is headed and how the Libraries are helping the university get there. They share with me their stories: families, careers

I'm often asked what exactly it is I do as the Director of Development and Community Outreach for the University Libraries. Let me tell you.

I have the great pleasure of meeting CMU alumni

and hobbies. Many times we become friends, with an understanding of my role of facilitating and acknowledging their generosity in support of the Libraries and CMU. We become connected, then, by a university that's played a role in where we both are today.

In some cases I meet people who wish to support the Libraries at a greater level than they have in the past through a planned or major gift. I describe to them a funding need, or aspiration, of the Libraries that aligns with their philanthropic interests and passions. Finding a match benefits CMU students and faculty and fulfills the wishes of the donor simultaneously, thus beginning the circle of philanthropic joy.

In October 2012 I attended the inaugural David M. and Eunice Sutherland Burgess Lecture, featuring author Betsy Hearne, in the Park Library Auditorium. As I sat in the packed auditorium, among faculty, students, and community members, I witnessed the culmination of philanthropic satisfaction.

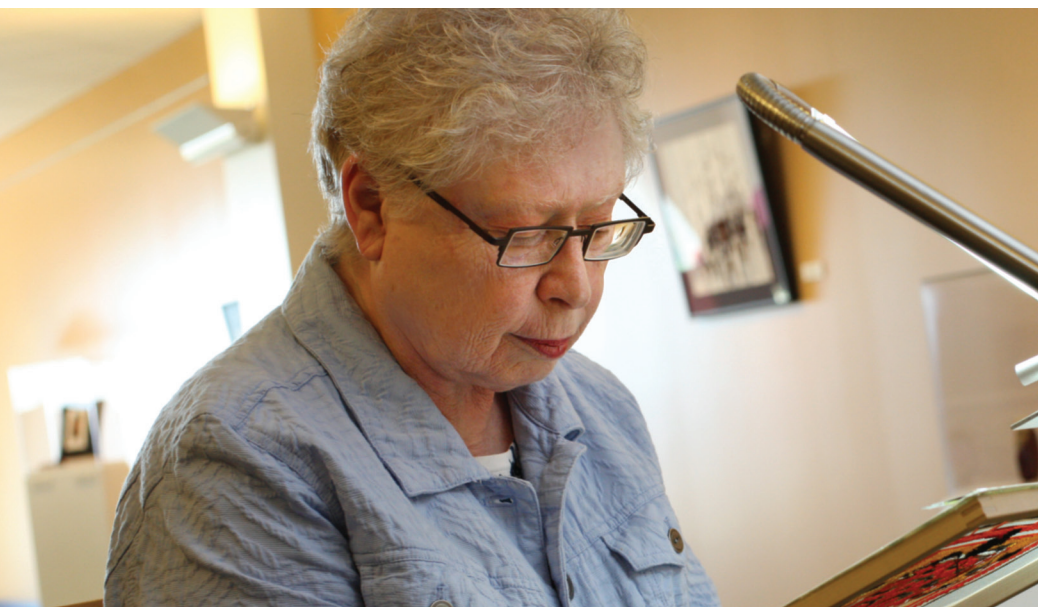
Seated next to me was my friend, library benefactor Mrs. Eunice Burgess. That evening an auditorium full of people reaped

the rewards of her generosity as they listened to and engaged with an award-winning author and scholar. The abundant pleasure and inspiration that Eunice's gift to the Clarke Historical Library had created was a joyful realization for Eunice, and it evoked a warm and satisfying experience for me as well.

I could go on with more stories of library supporters and friends new to me whose gifts of financial support have provided joy for them and for so many others too.

If you're considering a major or planned gift to the CMU Libraries, I'd love the opportunity to meet with you to determine how you could make a difference in an area of importance to you. Please feel free to contact me at 989-774-1826, or via email at brook1mr@cmich.edu.

Megan Moreno, '06
Director of Library Development
and Community Outreach



'Stitches & Stories'

CMU alumna and former faculty member C. Joanne Grabinski, M.A. '76, M.A. '80, works on a needlepoint piece during her recent Park Library Third Floor Exhibit "Stitches & Stories."

The exhibit represented the former CMU gerontology program director's interest in writing and needlepoint as art. Grabinski and her husband, Roger – a CMU professor emeritus – are regular supporters of the Libraries.

Author and scholar Betsy Hearne captivates crowd

Professor Elizabeth “Betsy” Hearne, an internationally recognized scholar of children’s literature and author of several children’s books, captivated listeners as she presented, “Children’s Books, Oral Lore, and the Playful Imagination.”

Hearne’s presentation was the first David M. and Eunice Sutherland Burgess lecture, made possible by a generous endowed gift from CMU alumna Eunice Burgess, ‘49.

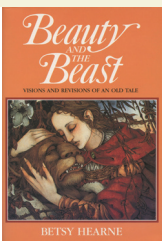
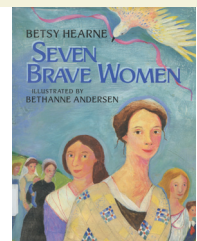
Hearne spoke about the large number of children’s stories that include an element of risk, giving children a way to work through their own fears as they are immersed emotionally in the story. Her crisp storytelling and views about children’s books made the evening light-hearted and memorable, Director of Clarke Historical Library Frank Boles says.

“It provided CMU a unique set of insights,” he says. “She just understands children’s literature and can write it in a way that interests children.”

Gretchen Papazian, associate professor of English Language and Literature, says Hearne exposed the importance of an aspect in stories that causes people to make sense of the world around them – an element often forgotten.

“My students were blown-away by her presentation,” she says. “They all picked up on different things that mean something to them.”

Hearne is former director of The Center for Children’s Books and a professor emerita in the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she taught children’s literature and storytelling for many years. She has reviewed books for more than 35 years and contributes to the New York Times Book Review. •



A telling story

Burgess endowment celebrates children and storytelling

Eunice Sutherland Burgess is like every other person who enjoys fishing; she has great stories to tell.

As the 1949 graduate quickly jumps from tales of ice fishing on Higgins Lake to describing her custom handmade fly rod, she pauses and sheepishly smiles.

“You know, my mother permitted us to skip school on the first day of trout fishing each spring,” says Burgess, the third of eight children in her family that lived in LeRoy just north of Reed City, Mich. “We usually started in February planning our lunch for that day.”

From fishing and beyond, Burgess is a self-professed fan of storytelling, and she proudly praises the greatest storyteller she ever heard: her father, James Monroe Sutherland.

“I grew up on stories from my dad. Paul Bunyan stories were my favorites,” Burgess says as she recalls sitting around the kitchen with her siblings for story time. “With a pan of popcorn and Paul Bunyan stories, we were happy kids.”

This passion for storytelling led her to establish the David M. and Eunice Sutherland Burgess Library Endowment in Clarke Historical Library. The endowment supports bringing authors, scholars and storytellers to the library who focus on the enduring art of story. This will provide generations of CMU students, faculty, staff and community members opportunities to engage with experts on the important role of story, primarily in children’s literature.

Burgess says children are a primary audience for storytelling, and they were at the heart of her lifetime profession. After earning her degree in psychology at Central, she began working for what then was the Bureau of Social Aid and focused on child welfare programs.

“Children were always part of what I did,” Burgess says.

In 1952 she married David Burgess, who worked with Sun Oil Co. and soon was transferred with the company to work in Texas. A second transfer moved the couple to Indiana, which provided her the opportunity to work in the child guidance clinic and pursue and complete her Master of Social Work degree at the University of Louisville.

A final Sun Oil transfer brought the Burgesses back to Mount Pleasant, and Eunice began working for the state of Michigan managing child welfare cases in Mount Pleasant and the surrounding districts. She took over as a youth services director – she was the only female director within the district – and retired after serving the state for more than 26 years.

While she and her husband of 60 years, who died in 2009, never had children of their own, Burgess says she understands the importance of establishing solid upbringings for all boys and girls.

And she knows from her own experiences as a child the impact a great story can have in shaping children’s ideas, imagination and goals. •

Honoring *'The Will'*



A Park Library exhibit this February recognized Black History Month and honored the post-Civil War drama "The Will," written by Sandra Seaton, CMU emeritus professor of English.

In addition to collaborating with University Events, the Libraries and other CMU offices to produce an on-campus performance of "The Will" Feb. 15 in Warriner Hall's Plachta Auditorium, Seaton provided insights and stories behind her play during a public forum Feb. 14 in Park Library Auditorium.

This play portrays the life of an African American family in a small town in Tennessee after the Civil War. It dramatizes the African American experience during Reconstruction as well as presents a culture that brings out the place of classical music in African American history and life.

The story of families like the Websters of "The Will" remains almost entirely untold. The father of the family, Cyrus Webster, is determined to pass onto his descendants not only his worldly possessions but also his courage and wisdom. •

a



different perspective

Libraries strive to connect with international students

Kasun Fritti arrived at Central Michigan University as a new student in a new country. He is here from the Democratic Republic of the Congo to finish his international business studies.

"The library has become one of my main assets," Fritti says. "I usually come every day to study and do homework. Some of the books I borrowed also helped me in research."

The number of international students attending CMU has increased by 10 percent within the last five years. They are coming from across the globe for reasons such as CMU's learning atmosphere and its outstanding programs.

Rebecca Pearce of Australia says she chose Central because it "offers a great outdoor recreation program with a wide range of courses."

With an increasing number of international students new to the university, Park Library provides an ideal study environment, writing resources, access to newspapers worldwide and friendly librarians and staff to ease students adjusting to a new environment.

"It is a good place to study, and people are very friendly," Fritti says. "I like the work area in the library, usually on the third floor. I will sit and study and do my work better than I would in other places."

Studying human resource administration, Peiran Li of China says one of the Park Library resources she uses most is the Writing Center.

"The Writing Center is very useful," she says. "I often need to write papers or essays, and the Writing Center is such a helpful place where they give me suggestions about my writing."

Tour takes students closer to home

At the beginning of each semester, new international students are taken on a library tour.

"It is important for international students to tour the library because it is the main source of information for students," says Victor Finch, director of international graduate student services. "They have access to computers where they can Skype with their families, and they have the facilities for a good study environment."

Aparna Zambare is one librarian who can relate to the transition new international students face. She originally is from India and began working at CMU in 2001.

"Some time back, I was just like you getting the library tour when I first arrived on campus," Zambare says as she leads students on a library tour. "It seems like a lot right now, but it all will come together for you."

She says leading a library tour is among her favorite interactions with international students.

"At the end of the tour I take them to a media tech classroom and have them click on the ABYZ user link," Zambare says. "I then tell them to click on their country, and then they can read newspapers from their countries and stay in touch with home. Their faces light up."

Increasing the number of international students is important for the CMU student population, according to Finch.

"International students bring diversity, including different backgrounds and different cultures, to domestic students here on campus," he says.

Through it all, the Libraries continue striving to meet the needs of this important and growing university population. •

Left top: Democratic Republic of Congo student Kasun Fritti.

Left bottom: China student Peiran Li.

Right: International student library tour.





New Smart Search software launched

Students see perks for interdisciplinary research

Research became easier and more efficient the beginning of this year for students using the Libraries' websites.

With a single click the websites' new search software – Smart Search – has the capability of simultaneously exploring hundreds of databases of information resources. This enables students to conduct searches across multiple kinds of materials quickly and efficiently.

With the previous system students had difficulties identifying which database to use for their research. Timothy Peters, director of Information Services, says Smart Search is a great tool for interdisciplinary research, explaining it helps users locate articles, books, videos, websites and other academic resources.

The new system searches CMU Libraries' books and media, research databases such as ERIC and MEDLINE, e-journal collections and other resources all at once.

"Sometimes topics can fall into more than one area of research. Something like interpersonal communication has relevance in business, social sciences, education and psychology," Peters says. "A user can leverage the powerful multidisciplinary index of Smart Search to find articles from different disciplines with one search."

Much like a Google search, Peters says the search interface is simple and it's accessible from any computer logged onto the Libraries' website.

Graduate student Elizabeth Roelse says research she conducts for the CMU Dietetics Internship is more productive with Smart Search. The Rockford native says she frequently conducted extensive searches of information on patients and their food intake, scholarly journals and medical literature with the prior system.

"Research is something most people cringe at when they think about it," Roelse says. "The new software is easy to navigate through, and I have almost all the information I need with just one search."

Reference Librarian Stephanie Mathson says Smart Search is a resource that can be utilized in different ways by all students regardless of their academic status.

"Web scale discovery tools such as Smart Search represent the new horizon for libraries, so-to-speak, and more and more institutions are employing them," she says.

'The Road to Andersonville'

Film documents Native American stories from U.S. Civil War

A documentary about Native American sharpshooters in the Civil War will debut on April 10 in Park Library Auditorium.

David Schock – former CMU English and broadcasting faculty member – produced "The Road to Andersonville," which is about members of the Three Fires Tribes who enlisted in the Union Army during the Civil War to fight for their land.

"The story is something that deserves to be told," says Schock. "These men distinguished themselves. They are true heroes."

The film outlines the hardships of the 139 sharpshooters: a quarter of them were killed or wounded in battle, and the survivors were captured and sent to an Andersonville prison camp.

Schock and his crew traveled to the Andersonville National Historical Site in Georgia and filmed as much of the ceremonies commemorating the sharpshooters as possible. They also conducted interviews with members of the Ojibtedaw, members of the Three Fires Tribes and scholars and historians.

Frank Boles, director of Clarke Historical Library, says the documentary ties together the Native American and Civil War collections at the Clarke Historical Library.

"This is such a wonderful opportunity for us," Boles says. "I'm pleased we could help support this documentary that presents such an important part of our history."

Clarke Historical Library is one of 14 organizations receiving a \$15,000 grant from the Michigan Humanities Council.

The grant provided funding for completing the film, which Schock began producing in 2010. •

Drilling for Brine: The Dow Chemical Plant in Mount Pleasant 1903-1930

A glimpse into the company's brief Mount Pleasant operation

- Through July
- 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday at Clarke Historical Library
- clarke.cmich.edu

Sociology in the Visual

Explore visual dimensions of American social life

- Through May 6
- Third Floor Exhibit Area, Park Library

Rural Impressions

Highlighting works by contemporary painter Alan Maciag

- Through May 6
- Baber Room, Park Library

Nature's Designs

Enhanced photographs of microscopic views of crystalline structures

- May 7 through June 12
- Third Floor Exhibit Area, Park Library

Dow Chemical Portrayed

Oil paintings of The Dow Chemical Company created by English artist Arthur Henry Knighton-Hammond

- May 7 through June 26
- Baber Room, Park Library

Our Front Porch

Celebrating 30 years of live music recorded for broadcast on CMU Public Radio

- August 2013 through January 2014
- Clarke Historical Library
- clarke.cmich.edu



Hot Rize on *Our Front Porch*



It's 1:35 a.m. and junior Hannah Opperman gulps an energy drink while glancing down at the green and blue highlighted page of her biology textbook. The glimpse of laptop light shines on her face, and the only sound filling the room is her fingers striking the keys.

She is solving chemistry equations while most students are nestled in their beds. The biology major from Vassar finds studying late at the library a relaxing escape from the busy library environment during normal hours.

Opperman says she is fortunate the university recognizes the need to have a quiet place to accommodate the night owls.

"There are fewer distractions, and it's just me and my book," she says. "I just operate better at night."

Student Government Association President Justin Gawronski says SGA conducted a survey that found students wanted the library open later.

"Many students just don't have time to study until late in the evening," Gawronski says. "It's great that CMU can accommodate those students."

Crunch-time accommodations

Associate Dean of Libraries Richard Cochran says he is grateful for Provost Gary Shapiro and President George Ross enthusiastically endorsing the initiative and providing added funding.

"In my view, the chief benefit of keeping the first floor of Park Library open until 2 a.m. is that a safe, convenient and comfortable study space for students is available when most other public buildings on campus are closed," he says.

Access Services Specialist Laquodra Simmons says serving the students' needs is rewarding.

"The students who are staying that late seem to be very appreciative, and that makes it worth it to me," she says.

Junior Kevin White from St. Clair Shores says working at the Library Information Desk until 2 a.m. to accommodate students' needs is a benefit for him as well. He utilizes the relaxed, quiet atmosphere to study.

White says more than 100 students fill the first floor and extended hours study room after midnight. Nearly half are graduate students, and usually the same students are there each night. When mid-term and exam weeks hit, more students take advantage of the space to get their work done.

"When it's crunch time, students use it," White says.

Even if it's until 2 a.m. in Park Library. •