David Broder shares insights on the nation’s shifting perspectives

David Broder, Pulitzer Prize-winning Washington Post columnist, began his address to the fourth annual Friends of the Libraries luncheon with this wry comment: “It’s a good day to be out of Washington, D.C. The weather was prettier, but the climate there was much worse, if you know what I mean.”

Broder, one of the most respected and influential political journalists in the nation, went on to share his views on what he’s been hearing from around the country.

“There is a great deal of restlessness among voters right now,” he said. “The war in Iraq has no clear plot line and doesn’t seem to be moving toward a happy ending. The soldiers who die aren’t numbers; they are real people, and everyone of them is a wound on the community they come from.”

Broder believes Washington’s ineffectiveness in grappling with the public’s concerns over the war and other issues such as health care and immigration reflect the ever-widening political divide between Democrats and Republicans.

“This division has its roots in the 1960s and protests over the Vietnam War,” he said. “The tensions are still there, but I also see it changing because the post-Baby Boomer generation is not as scarred up by these traumas.”

Continued on page 8
Staff is the foundation of CMU Libraries' service

One of the most pleasant parts of my role at Central Michigan University is hearing several times a week – from students and staff, faculty, parents, alumni, and campus visitors – about what a wonderful library we have. These are always proud moments for me. Certainly, when I look around our remarkable Park Library facility, it's easy to know why people make such comments. It's a truly impressive place: large, eye-catching, and inviting. It's loaded with sizable collections of books and journals, terrific technology, and expansive and comfortable study spaces.

Yet I know that what actually makes our library wonderful is the outstanding staff. It's obvious to me, though perhaps not always apparent to everyone who enters our doors or uses our digital information resources, that everything we do in library service, including for our students and faculty at a distance through our extended campus programs, is dependent on competent, committed people.

They are professional librarians and non-librarians, regular staff members, and student staff members. Each contributes daily through direct, individual assistance to library users or through less conspicuous activities vital to library operations and the growth of our ever-widening information services. As a staff team, they carry out their responsibilities days and nights, during the workweek and on weekends, providing a pretty seamless accessibility of staffed services and support functions over 100 or so hours per week during the academic year.

While clearly not as instantly perceptible to many as the appearance of the Park Library building, the expertise of our staff is likewise impressive. Developing print and digital collections of the scholarly literatures across the many academic disciplines, providing top-notch information technology, and operating a state-of-the-art library facility and extensive services for CMU programs throughout the U.S. and in Canada and Mexico require a group of people with an abundance of knowledge and skills and, of course, the motivation to learn continuously.

Behind the service desks of Park Library and behind the cool, professional appearance and copious content of our hundreds of Web pages are some smart, warm, and highly dedicated human beings. I'm greatly proud of them and what they do.

In this Reference Point there are brief articles about two of our very best: Monica Craig (p. 3) and Mary Mead (p. 5), whose valuable contributions over time to the breadth and quality of our library services cannot be overstated. There's also an article highlighting a few of our student staff members (p. 4) who work with Mary. They represent approximately 175 student assistants at Park Library who are particularly special to us because of what they give us in energetic time and talent and what we give them in real-life skills and experience.

So we do indeed have a fine library at CMU. It's an active service integration of a multitude of print and electronic information resources, splendid equipment and facilities, and the boundless capabilities and commitment of our staff.

As you review this issue of Reference Point, you'll see some highlights of activities and services suggestive of the array of contributions being made regularly by the people who staff CMU Libraries. Be in touch if you have comments or if you'd like additional information.
Off-campus librarian receives national award

Craig is honored by recognition

Members of the Association of College and Research Libraries named Central Michigan University off-campus librarian Monica Hines Craig the 2006 recipient of their Haworth Press Distance Learning Librarian Award.

The award is given annually to an ACRL member who works in the field of distance learning librarianship and/or contributes to the field’s success.

“I was very surprised to be the one who was named the winner,” said Craig, who has worked at CMU for 18 of her 28 years as a librarian. “I am truly honored.”

Former Interim Vice President and Executive Director of Off-Campus Programs Terry Rawls was not surprised the ACRL honored Craig with the award.

“She has been deserving of this for a long time,” he said. “Monica and the rest of the OCLS staff are the most student-oriented people you’ll ever find. This group takes it to another level.”

Craig enjoys interacting with students

Rawls said OCLS enables CMU to deliver programs that are superior to others in the distance learning community by offering the level of library support that master’s-level students need.

“In Detroit, Monica is the ‘front door’ to the library for students and faculty,” he said. “She is there to provide hands-on service that you don’t get by looking at a database.”

Craig assists students via e-mail, fax, telephone, and face-to-face interaction.

“My favorite part of my job is interacting with the students and getting them the resources that they need,” Craig said. “It’s a nice challenge, and I really like working with the students.”

Craig received her award at the annual American Library Association conference in New Orleans in June.

OCLS Conference benefits distance-education field

2006 event in Georgia focuses on research papers

Central Michigan University’s Off-Campus Library Services Conference is a one-of-a-kind experience in the field of distance-education — and the world.

This international conference brings together librarians, administrators, and educators to champion the technology, techniques, and theories of providing library services for students not pursuing their education on a campus.

This year the conference hosted 257 attendees in Savannah, Georgia, and it continues to influence the field through small, informative sessions, papers, and posters.

“The fact that this year was the first conference to really focus on research papers was exciting as well,” said Elaine Magusin, reference services librarian at Athabasca University in Alberta, Canada, and conference advisory board member. “I have found it to be beneficial to my professional development because of its focus specifically on topics in distance education librarianship.”

Held every other year, the OCLS Conference began in 1982 and has grown in popularity with each year. It is one of the valuable ways that CMU contributes opportunities and leadership to this increasingly important area of academic librarianship. The conference is sponsored by CMU Libraries.

“The first conference I attended was unlike any conference I had ever been to,” Magusin said. “Because it is a small conference and everything is housed in one location, you have many more opportunities to meet colleagues in the profession and have discussions about relevant issues.”

A great networking opportunity

Julie Garrison, director of Off-Campus Library Services, considers the conference to be a great opportunity for networking in an intimate environment, which is particularly beneficial for those attendees who are new to the field.

“It was great to be with friends to think about distance learning and related librarianship,” said Thomas Abbott, dean of Libraries and Distance Learning, University of Maine at Augusta. “At this year’s conference, I tried to look at the bigger distance-education picture and at how distance-education libraries and librarians interact with the rest of their institutions.”
Honing skills for bright futures

Student employees tweak Park Library’s new computers

Switching out more than 300 of Park Library’s general public and library staff computers from Gateway to Dell was no simple task.

But with the indispensable help of five student employees unpacking computers, installing software, and working out glitches, programmer analyst Mary Mead and automation support specialist Jane Tilmann got the job done by the start of the new academic year.

“These people are terrific,” Mead said. “We wouldn’t have gotten it done without them. We were under pressure, but it’s an experience that will help prepare them for jobs in life after the university and what they will have to deal with in their careers.”

Students Joseph Moore, Philip Carol, and Ryan Head worked with Mead to change out the public access computers on the first and second floors, and Christine Githinji and Jhordy Lytle worked with Tilmann to switch out one-half of the library staff members’ computers.

While the remainder of the public access computers will be changed in summer 2007, Githinji and Lytle completed the staff computer project that began in summer 2005.

Each new computer includes updated software and a thin, versatile monitor that swivels and features more convenient input modules. The old computers, after their hard drives are erased, will go to whichever Central Michigan University department needs them.

Joseph Moore, senior, information technology
“This job is a real blessing. I’ve learned a lot, and it will mean something on my résumé. We’ve been working 24/7 with the new technology, trying to fix problems. It’s a challenge dealing with new software.”

Philip Carol, senior, computer science
“It’s neat because we do a lot of programming, and I’ve been learning about the rest of the computer and how its parts work together. By far this has been my favorite job. It’s fun coming to work everyday.”

Ryan Head, senior, computer science
“The biggest draw for me with this job is that I’m learning a side of computers that I haven’t learned in the classroom. I can work with software that I wouldn’t be able to afford to work with on my own, to test it, and use it. For instance, in my off hours I’ve been learning how to write batch files.”

Christine Githinji, senior, information technology
“They can teach you about these types of things in class and in theory, but this was a great experience because I got to see what I’ve learned about in class applied in the working world.”

Jhordy Lytle, junior, psychology
“Knowledge of computers and information technology can be applied to my field. We use computers in the behavior analysis research we’re conducting, so the experiences I had working with the computers will be valuable when people have tech support questions.”

“These people are terrific. We wouldn’t have gotten it done without them.”
– Mary Mead, University Libraries programmer analyst

Students Christine Githinji, seated, and Jhordy Lytle help switch out half of the library staff members’ computers.

From left, students Philip Carol, Joseph Moore, and Ryan Head learn computers from the inside out while helping update Park Library’s computers.
On the byte track

Mead keeps library computers up and running

Park Library Programmer Analyst Mary Mead spends her days making sure every patron computer is running on track.

“If a server goes down, that’s one of my major problems,” Mead said. “Then I have to make sure it’s backed up by another server. Our main goal is to keep things running smoothly 24/7 so that patrons doing research here at the library and at home never run into any problems.”

Part of Mead’s job also involves keeping an eye out for hackers in the system and deploying all the software. Different computers in Park Library have different software and specialized databases. For instance, the physics and bibliographic databases require different software. She also evaluates software and makes suggestions about which are the best to buy and tests software and hardware.

Mead, who started out in cataloging and binding 31 years ago at Park Library, has managed to keep up with every technological change by taking a few career development courses and reading about the latest computers, databases, and software in books and magazines.

“Mary has really helped lead the way in applying technology at Park Library,” said Daniel Ferrer, head of Library Systems and Mead’s supervisor.

“I have embraced the technological advances because of the atmosphere at Park Library,” Mead said. “Knowing computers makes it possible for me to interact with so many people. Reading computer magazines and learning are fun because it allows me to help more people.

“I remember one Saturday when one of the reserve desk student assistants couldn’t get her computer to come up. She was frantic; students were waiting,” Mead said. “I went in, fixed the problem, and got the biggest hug because she was so happy I had helped her out.”

Getting technical

Mary Mead said that reading computer magazines and learning enable her to help more people. Here’s a look into some of the resources that this Park Library programmer analyst uses to stay up-to-date on the ever-changing world of technology.

Some of the computer magazines Mead reads

- PC Magazine
- Windows IT Pro
- Computerworld
- Baseline
- Eweek

Some of the listservs Mead subscribes to

- aix maintenance
- cert security advisory list
- enew.eweek.com
- ibmITToolbox service
- infoworld
- light reading
- Microsoft security bulletin
- security space news
- techtips
- techRepublic.com
- techtarget.com
Greetings from Park Library at Central Michigan University. I would like to thank all of our donors for their choice to support what I like to consider the heart of Central Michigan University: the CMU Libraries. CMU Libraries support every academic program, provide research assistance to the entire university community, and offer a highly valued study environment for many of our on-campus students.

Our Off-Campus Library Services continues to provide our extended learning students with the services and resources they require no matter where they attend CMU classes. We’re also very proud of our cultural programming that enhances student experiences through art exhibits, speaker events, and informative and colorful exhibits in our Clarke Historical Library.

Gifts in support of CMU Libraries help us in many ways, such as in implementing new technologies like ILLiad and Find It!, both of which were funded by donor generosity.

Ways to give
As the CMU Director of Library Development, I’m pleased to help our library supporters become aware of the many gift opportunities available to benefit library services. Making a charitable contribution really is an “art” and varies according to circumstances.

I’ve detailed below just three opportunities to give, and there are many more giving options that I’ll describe in future issues of Reference Point.

Cash. Cash is the simplest, most direct, and most popular type of charitable gift. For a gift of cash, the net cost to a donor can be much less than the actual amount of the gift because of charitable gift income tax deductions offered at state and federal levels. For example: The net cost of a $1,000 cash gift to a donor in the 30 percent marginal income tax bracket is only $700 after his or her $300 federal tax savings. A state income tax savings also might be available.

Charitable Gift Annuity. The charitable gift annuity is among the oldest and most popular of the charitable lifetime income plans. In exchange for a transfer of cash, marketable securities, or, in some circumstances, real estate, the university contractually guarantees to make specified annuity payments to the donor and/or other beneficiaries. The payout rate depends on the age and number of beneficiaries.

Planned Gifts. Each year many people designate a portion of their assets by bequest to benefit Park Library or other areas of the university. Gifts under wills have become an important part of the American philanthropic tradition because they enable some donors to make more sizable and significant gifts than they could make during their lifetimes.

Let me know if you would like to discuss any of these giving opportunities or to have more information sent to you. Once again, a sincere thank you to all of our library supporters for all that you have done to help make CMU Libraries such a valuable academic resource.

Brian A. Palmer
Director of Library Development
Olga Denison donates collection to CMU

Olga Denison has been collecting Native American art and telling their stories since the 1960s. Now, this collection has found a home at Clarke Historical Library.

Originally housed in CMU’s Museum of Cultural and Natural History, the 170 pieces range from baskets and carvings to stained glass and jewelry. Denison, a Central Michigan University alumna and longtime supporter of Park Library and the university, has donated the art, artifacts, and stories to CMU as a way of preserving them and making them accessible to others.

“The entire Native American art collection is now in Clarke, and an area has been created in Park Library where portions of the exhibit will be on display on a rotating basis,” said Frank Boles, director of Clarke Historical Library. “People who wish to see items not on display can access those pieces through the Clarke.”

Sue Ann Martin, dean of the CMU College of Communication and Fine Arts, is making audio recordings of interviews with Denison to preserve her oral stories about how each piece was acquired. The recordings will become a part of the Native American art collection.

“Olga Denison’s oral stories demonstrate not only her love for Native American art, but her deep respect for the artists and their creative talents,” Martin said. “Her stories will be a priceless addition to the collection.”

A lifetime of support

Denison’s interest in Native American art flourished through her involvement with the Mount Pleasant Federated Women’s Club. For 30 years the group held fundraising events that gave indigenous artists a chance to sell their crafts and art.

“It was a wonderful experience getting acquainted with the artists and their families,” Denison said. “I am constantly amazed at how they make such decorative and beautiful art from things in the environment like stones, shells, and porcupine quills. The inner drive of indigenous people to create something beautiful is universal.”

A fall exhibit in celebration of Denison’s Native American art collection will be showcased at the University Art Gallery. The display, along with Denison’s stories, will run in conjunction with the 2006 Michigan Story Festival October 19-21.

Twentieth Century Anishinabe Art: The Olga Denison Collection

Treasured artwork of Native peoples collected over the years by Mount Pleasant residents Olga Denison and her late husband, Rollie

- October 13 through November 27
- Main Gallery, University Art Gallery

At top, longtime CMU supporter Olga Denison reflects on the Native American art she has collected over the years.

Above from left, curators Adriane Greci Green and Alice Gardner get help from student Julie Paveglio in choosing pieces for the Olga Denison exhibit.

At left, one of the pieces of pottery from the Olga Denison collection
Broder speaks

A native of Chicago Heights, Broder has covered every national campaign and convention since 1960. He remembers John F. Kennedy complimenting him on his stories.

“You can imagine what that did to my ego,” Broder said.

Of the political leaders Broder has known, he found Lyndon B. Johnson to be one of the most interesting.

“He was so much larger than life, both physically and mentally,” Broder said. “I wouldn’t say he was likeable. He was ambitious and intimidating and could be pretty terrible, but you had this sense of huge waves of power emanating from him.”

Today, Broder travels up to 100,000 miles a year to interview voters and report on the candidates. He makes regular appearances on NBC’s “Meet the Press” and Public Broadcasting’s “Washington Week in Review.”

He is author or coauthor of seven books. In 1973, he won the Pulitzer Prize for distinguished commentary and has been the recipient of numerous other awards and academic honors. He also originated this popular quote: “Anybody who wants the presidency so much that he’ll spend two years organizing and campaigning for it is not to be trusted with the office.”

The future of journalism

Broder believes journalists must remain vigilant in the face of economic pressures and the 24-hour news format, both of which have potential to weaken the chain of accountability.

“I wish I knew where journalism is going,” Broder said. “We have to struggle to earn trust everyday. Some people welcome this new trend of choosing a side and finding reinforcements to back you up, but I think that’s a very dangerous pattern because ultimately it’s one country. I don’t worry the country is going to go to pieces, but I do think that we are in pretty serious trouble in terms of loss of trust from politics and journalism.”

Ann Broder donates mother’s collection to Clarke Historical Library

It took Helen Hoffman Collar about 50 years to record her informal history of the Beaver Island community on cards. After Collar’s daughter, Ann Broder, donated these cards to Clarke Historical Library, it took Central Michigan University’s reference and archival assistant Jennifer Wood and student assistant Grace Gorton more than two months to transcribe these cards into two enormous binders now available for researchers at the library.

“My mother loved research, and she was good at it,” Broder said. “It gave her a feeling of accomplishment.”

Collar made personal connections

Some of the cards are devoted to special topics like boats and Irish customs, such as litting—a lively singing cadence—or a particular incident like the theft of a cow or a murder.

“Some of the stories about the island’s residents are tragic,” said Frank Boles, director of Clarke Historical Library. “Others help explain the worldview of the islanders. Still others are simply good tales. Taken together the stories document life on Beaver Island over the course of nearly a century.”

The cards go beyond the statistics to reveal the lively, often eccentric lives of big Irish families, fishermen, roughnecks, and refugees.

Gift documents history and life on Beaver Island

Student assistant Grace Gorton, left, and reference and archival assistant Jennifer Wood transcribed Helen Collar’s detailed notes of Beaver Island history into researchable binders.
“Helen Collar developed a strong emotional attachment to the people of Beaver Island,” Wood said. “She actually sat down and had tea with people to discuss their fathers and their father’s father, so there was a real personal connection. She cross-referenced diaries, geology, biology, genealogy, ecology, and federal records against her oral history.”

Collar also visited Ireland to gather background information on Irish history and culture. She discovered that some of this legacy had been better preserved on Beaver Island than in Ireland where the ravages of famine had wiped out fragile cultural bonds.

“It’s a cool experience to transcribe something like this,” Gorton said. “Not many college students get this kind of opportunity.”

**Fifty years of work translates to 1,000 pages of material**

Both Gorton and Wood enjoyed the process of seeing Collar’s research unfold, deciphering her handwriting and notations, feeling as if they were listening in on an ongoing conversation, and, ultimately, developing their own attachment to the people and the place.

Their work resulted in roughly 1,000 pages of material that can be viewed at the Clarke or on the Web, but researchers are encouraged to look at the original cards.

“There is meaning and magic found in paper and ink that you can’t get from a transcription, which is something to remember in this digital era,” Boles said.

Library representatives presented the transcribed papers to Ann Broder during the Friends of Library luncheon, which featured her husband, Pulitzer Prize-winning national columnist David Broder.

“I was blown away by Park Library. It’s a wonderful facility.”

— David Broder, Pulitzer Prize-winning *Washington Post* columnist
IlLiad eliminates cumbersome process
Park Library recently unveiled IlLiad, an interlibrary loan registration system which asks users to register for access to interlibrary loan materials in order to eliminate a cumbersome process.
“The primary benefit of IlLiad is its online registration form,” said Pat Barbour, CMU’s interlibrary loan coordinator. “Users register once for the system and from then on may log in using a username and password established during the registration process.”

Bird-watching at your computer
Did you know that the male wood thrush can sing two notes at once? Or that Native Americans of the Northwest revere ravens as the creators of the earth, moon, sun, and stars?
Not only can you learn more about the birds of North America with Park Library’s new database, you can hear the wood thrush or zoom in on pictures of raven nestlings.
“The Birds of North America Online database is a collection of detailed scientific information for each of the 716 species of birds nesting in the United States and Canada,” said reference librarian and associate professor David Ginsburg. “It’s very thorough but concise and also provides extensive bibliographies.”

Database features top ornithologists
The BNA database began 14 years ago in print format and has since gone online so it can be easily updated on a continual basis. It features the work of some of the country’s top ornithologists, including Central Michigan University biology professor Michael Hamas, who contributed his expertise on the Belted Kingfisher.

Find It! does this by streamlining the old system. Users search the databases, and when they find what they need all they have to do is click the Find It! button. This launches a screen that tells the patron how to obtain the article, whether it’s through HTML or PDF links or a call number. Find It! also offers a direct link to request interlibrary loans of materials not owned by CMU and informs users of the availability of full-text articles in the database.
“It’s such an intuitive system,” Casey said. “You don’t have to do anything differently than what you’re doing now, and your results are more helpful.”

New registration system aims to make interlibrary loan easier
“Illiad eliminates cumbersome process
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“This database is aimed at a wide audience. It will be used by researchers, managers, and lay people alike,” Ginsburg said. “I recommended we subscribe to it based on that fact, as well as the use of the print version, which is slowly going out of date, and its reasonable price considering how comprehensive it is.”

The database also includes:
• Conservation and management issues
• Detailed map indicating species’ breeding and wintering ranges
• Feeding habits
• Full data on breeding success, life span, and mortality

CMU users can access BNA Online through CENTRA or the Virtual Reference Collection via the Park Library homepage www.lib.cmich.edu.

New database opens window to birds of North America
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For more information about IlLiad, call the Park Library interlibrary loan desk at (989) 774-3022.
Muralist captures the magic of Michigan Story Festival

Work to be exhibited in Park Library

For the past three years Tom Woodruff has created murals that capture the stories and storytellers of the Michigan Story Festival, which will occur on campus and in the Mount Pleasant community this fall. Each mural is six-by-nine-feet.

Woodruff, a Grand Rapids-based children’s book illustrator and graphic artist, first became involved in this project three years ago when he conducted a draw-along program for school children and teenagers. When Kevin Malloy, library-media specialist at The Morey Charter School, asked him to create a mural, Woodruff saw his chance to link the story festival to the community.

“Every year Tom attends the festival and then takes those experiences and images back with him and places them on canvas,” said Darcy Orlik, events coordinator for CMU’s College of Communication and Fine Arts. “Those that have attended the Michigan Story Festival and have viewed the murals say it is like enjoying the past festivals all over again.”

Bringing a mural to life

Woodruff sketches out the original drawing and then works with junior and high school students for one week, letting them slap down layers of paint and put their special stamp on the mural.

“I like to get them involved first and then I put on the finishing touches,” Woodruff said.

His first mural reflected the flavor of the stories, his second captured the various storytellers themselves, and his third combined the storytellers and stories, as well as the mix of dancers and musicians involved in the festival.

“The Michigan Story Festival brings people together for different kinds of stories, from ballads to stories that help people with Alzheimer’s,” Woodruff said. “It shows the diverse values of storytelling and how it better our community. Also, a lot of it is just plain fun.”

Woodruff’s murals and other works will be on display in Park Library’s central corridor and Third Floor Exhibit area October 9-23.

Current and upcoming CMU Libraries exhibits

Michigan Cookbooks: 150 Years of Mostly Good Meals

A showcase of 70 historical cookbooks from the Maureen Hathaway Michigan Culinary Archive

• Clarke Historical Library, Park Library
• Through December 21

Sari Khoury

Selected works by the late Sari Khoury, former CMU art department chair

• Baber Room, Park Library
• Through October 25

Michigan Story Festival murals and art

Artwork by Tom Woodruff, children’s book illustrator and graphic artist

• Third Floor Exhibit area, Park Library
• October 9-23

Twentieth Century Anishinabe Art: The Olga Denison Collection

Treasured artwork of Native peoples collected over the years by Mount Pleasant residents Olga Denison and her late husband, Rollie

• October 13 through November 27
• Main Gallery, University Art Gallery
Clarke Historical Library features Michigan cookbook collection

A glimpse into the culinary tastes of our ancestors

Great Lakes State delicacies such as apple butter and Michigan bean salad, as well as a few less appetizing dishes – duck blood soup and pork cake, anyone? – are on the menu in the Clarke Historical Library’s latest exhibition.

“Michigan Cookbooks: 150 Years of Mostly Good Meals,” showcases 70 historical cookbooks from the Maureen Hathaway Michigan Culinary Archive. Hathaway, a friend of CMU, contributed her collection of 1,500 classic and contemporary Michigan-related cookbooks to the university in 2004 – more than doubling the Clarke’s cookbook collection.

“For more information, call (989) 774-3352 or visit the Clarke Web site at clarke.cmich.edu, which offers a Web version of the exhibit.”

“This increase in the Clarke’s holdings occurred at a time when scholarly opinion about cookbooks was changing dramatically,” said director Frank Boles. “Scholars have begun to use cookbooks as windows allowing them to view social history that is otherwise difficult to see.

“Cookbooks are more than simply a means to a good meal. In between the tablespoons of butter and cups of flour, the careful reader can discern a great deal about nutrition, ethnicity, changes in American culture, and other subjects of great historical interest,” he said.

For more information, call (989) 774-3352 or visit the Clarke Web site at clarke.cmich.edu, which offers a Web version of the exhibit.”