More than a toy

Library will display Mackinac Bridge replica

Frosty Wyrick knows the ins and outs of the Mackinac Bridge after using more than 4,000 girders and other Erector set pieces to build a 101-foot, 2,358-pound model of the structure.

Visitors to the CMU Libraries can see the engineering feat November 1 through 21 on the second floor of Park Library.

Its display will complement Clarke Historical Library’s exhibit, The Mackinac Bridge: A Political History, that will be up through March.

Wyrick, an emeritus CMU staff member from the university recreation department, will answer questions during the opening ceremony at 7 p.m. November 1 in the Park Library Auditorium.

How it began

Wyrick had walked across the Mackinac Bridge almost every Labor Day since 1969. He already owned photos and books about the bridge, and he had a lifelong love of the structure when a chance meeting in 1999 turned his passion into action.

Lawrence Rubin, the first executive secretary of the Mackinac Bridge Authority, was signing copies of his book about the bridge, and Wyrick asked for his autograph. The two struck up a conversation about the bridge, its engineering and construction, and Erector sets, and Wyrick said he thought he could build a model of the bridge using the out-of-production metal construction toy.

"I told him, ‘I’m going to build your bridge,’ and he promised me he would live to see it,” Wyrick said. Wyrick and Rubin, now 94, both kept their promises.
In a recent discussion with library department heads about what quality or feature best characterizes the CMU Libraries, it was notable, if not exactly surprising, that the dominant view was not about our magnificent Park Library facility or the breadth of our printed and expanding electronic library collections, but rather about the service ethic displayed by the staff.

I think it’s true. Certainly our own and campus-wide surveys regularly generate evidence of student and faculty appreciation for the helpfulness of our librarians, support staff, and student assistants. But I’m also pleased to hear routinely how our staff members often go the “extra mile” assisting library users to find the right yet elusive piece of information for a report, acquire from another library the obscure journal article not in our collection to meet an imminent deadline, untangle a thorny technology impediment to accessing an electronic database, prepare a nervous class of freshmen – or even graduate students – for a library research assignment, or put on a public event using our outstanding hospitality facilities.

While, to be honest, glitches occasionally occur, the stories I hear from library clients are many times more likely to be about what went right rather than what went wrong. And that’s very gratifying.

Of course, not all of our service successes take place in direct or visible relationship with students and faculty who use our Park Library or the comprehensive services available to students and faculty throughout CMU’s geographically widespread off-campus programs.

Many of our best services are performed behind the scenes by staff the public rarely, if ever, sees. Whether we’re taking care of an individual patron with a problem or meeting the multifarious needs of an academic program, we’re drawing heavily on the service efforts of the people who order and catalog the books and journals, tease and tune the software that runs our Web sites and automated systems, and ensure that bills and staff get paid and our budgets balance. So service activities inside the library are just as important as viewable support to library users as we fulfill our library mission for the university.

Since the CMU Libraries are not graced with abundant numbers of staff, knowing how few people do so much makes me appreciative and proud. Librarianship today truly is a profession at least as much, and probably more, about service responsiveness as it is about books and bytes. In the Libraries care and concern about helping others is at the center of what we do every day.

In this issue of Reference Point you can read more about ways we’re serving the university community. What’s more, you can learn about two of our staff recently recognized for distinguished service to their broader professional communities: Anne Casey, who has received the national “librarian of the year” award for off-campus library services; and Frank Boles, who has been elected Vice president/President-elect of the Society of American Archivists.

I hope you’ll find the articles informative and interesting. As always, let me know if you have comments or questions about library services or about Reference Point.

**Tom Moore**
Dean of Libraries
Award-winning distance

National association honors CMU librarian

Knowing the struggles of nontraditional students, Anne Marie Casey looked forward to assisting with research by students in CMU’s Off-Campus Programs.

“Customer service has always been my No. 1 priority,” said Casey, who worked with distance learning students for 15 years. “No matter what people would need, that is what I would do.”

Casey, CMU’s associate dean of libraries, was named the 2007 recipient of the Haworth Press Distance Learning Librarian Conference Sponsorship Award from the Association of College and Research Libraries Distance Learning Section.

This annual award honors an ACRL member who has helped advance distance-learning librarianship. It is the second consecutive year that a CMU librarian has received a national award for supporting off-campus students and faculty. In 2006, Monica Hines Craig, a librarian for CMU’s Off-Campus Library Services in metro Detroit, won the award.

“I feel so honored because this was the area of librarianship into which I have put most of my career time and attention,” said Casey, who received her award June 23 at the American Library Association annual conference in Washington, D.C. “This means more to me than anything I could have gotten. I think that most of our learners are distance learners, whether they are returning adults or students doing research out of their residence hall rooms.”

Remembering past accomplishments

Casey remembers helping a student at the CMU Off-Campus Programs site in North Dakota find information on how to start a steam train tourist business in the Rocky Mountains. She was able to find an association for just that type of business where he found all of the background information he needed.

And with the recent I-35 bridge collapse in Minneapolis, Casey thought of a student she assisted with research on the deterioration of U.S. bridges. Ten years ago he had predicted that bridges would be failing just like the one in Minnesota did.

“As a reference librarian, I was helping students do research before the Internet. So they would call me up for help often,” she said. “I really got to know students and their projects quite well.”

Connie Hildebrand, chair of the award committee, said Casey has shown a long and distinguished record of service in the Distance Learning Section and in off-campus librarianship.

Casey’s activities with the Distance Learning Section include serving as chair from 2001 to 2002, as a member and chair of the social events planning committee from 2003 to 2008, and as secretary/archivist from 1995 to 1997. She serves on the Michigan Library Association Board of Directors and was vice chairwoman of the ACRL-Louisiana chapter in the early 1980s. She has published many journal articles, many of which relate to distance learning.

Casey came to CMU in 1991. Prior to becoming associate dean of libraries at CMU, Casey served as CMU’s director of Off-Campus Library Services, coordinator for librarian services, and off-campus librarian, including more than three years in CMU’s Washington, D.C., office.

Casey received her bachelor’s degree from the University of Massachusetts in 1977, earned a master’s degree in Medieval Studies from the Catholic University of America in 1979, and obtained a master’s degree in library science from the University of Michigan in 1981. She currently is working on a Ph.D. at Simmons Graduate School of Library and Information Science in Boston.
Brown: Make libraries an everyday part of life

PBS news reporter Jeffrey Brown always carries his library card.

In his personal and professional life, he surrounds himself with literature, art, and culture.

So it was fitting that Brown, an Emmy Award-winning senior correspondent for the PBS show *NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*, spoke recently at the annual Friends of the Libraries luncheon in the Charles V. Park Library Auditorium.

Brown said he can’t imagine a world without libraries or books.

“Books are words and ideas,” he said. “Even though a book’s form may change, it will always be important to society.”

CMU Professor emeritus Dennis Thavenet, a Friend of CMU Libraries, said he avidly watches the *NewsHour*, and he enjoyed Brown’s speech.

CMU Professor emeritus Dennis Thavenet, a Friend of CMU Libraries, said he avidly watches the NewsHour, and he enjoyed Brown’s speech.

“Jeff was fascinating. You really can see that being an arts correspondent is right up his alley,” Thavenet said. “It also is nice to have somebody here with name recognition and who believes in giving libraries support.”

Brown admitted that for years, he didn’t set foot into a library.

“For a while, I got caught up in so many other things that I forgot what a great place the library is. My daughter helped reintroduce me to the library,” he said. “Starting when she was age 5, we’d go to the library every Saturday.”

Now whether Brown is at work or on the way home, he regularly uses the public resource.

“Personally, I use the library all of the time. The Arlington, Virginia, Public Library is on my way to work, so I stop in and browse the new authors and books. It’s enjoyable and it helps me with interview ideas,” he said.

The arts shape our culture

Brown, who mainly reports on the arts and culture, said it is important to recognize current artists because they shape today’s culture.

He has interviewed many leading artistic figures, including author Philip Roth, musician B. B. King, and actor Kevin Kline.

“The arts are such an important part of our culture and our lives. It’s important to keep it in the news and to treat it as news,” he said. “So often the substance of art and culture doesn’t make it into the news; instead you get entertainment gossip.”

Prior to joining the *NewsHour*, Brown was a producer and writer for the Columbia University Seminars on Media and Society, an independent television production headed by Fred W. Friendly. He produced many programs for public television on a wide variety of subjects, including foreign policy, ethics, and the Constitution.

Brown earned an undergraduate degree in Classics from the University of California, Berkeley, and a master’s degree from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. He studied law at the U. C. Berkeley School of Law.

Award-winning author spends a day on campus

A podium with a microphone was set up in the Park Library auditorium.

It looked as if the podium was waiting for the library’s prominent guest, two-time Pulitzer Prize winner David McCullough, to speak behind it.

McCullough’s books include *The Johnstown Flood, Brave Companions, Truman, John Adams*, and *1776*. None of his books has ever been out of print.

But as the 74-year-old history author walked on the stage during his recent visit, McCullough noticed a chair near the center of the stage and sat. He addressed the eager crowd.

“Good morning. It is a pleasure to be here,” he said, slightly moving the seat. “I thoroughly enjoy meeting with students and people who are interested in writing.”

During the mid-morning chat last Spring, McCullough talked about the beauty of CMU’s campus, his positive impression of Park Library, and how HBO has adapted his best-selling novel *John Adams* into a television miniseries produced by Oscar Award-winning actor Tom Hanks.

The HBO project has seven parts, each an hour long. It will air in early 2008.

“People who watch this are going to see the 18th century as it was in more ways than they’ve seen it before,” said McCullough, a consultant to the $100 million production.

McCullough noted it is important to be realistic. “Otherwise, you aren’t fair to the subject or the audience.”

‘When you are trying to pick a topic, research to see what has been done on it before. If nothing has been done or you think you have something better, write it.’

— David McCullough
McCullough also shared writing advice with the crowd of CMU students. Here are some recommendations he gave for aspiring authors:

**Pick something you are curious about; however, make sure that there is enough information available.**

At the onset of his *John Adams* project, McCullough intended to write a dual biography of Adams and Thomas Jefferson and how the political foes ultimately reconciled, forming an unlikely friendship late in their lives.

But it soon became evident that the Jefferson aspect lacked the ingredients of a story. Jefferson destroyed most personal records – notably, all letters he had exchanged with his wife.

Adams, on the other hand, had many interesting personal letters, especially those between him and his wife, Abigail. McCullough then eliminated Jefferson from the book to focus wholly on Adams.

**Write four pages a day.**

When McCullough was 28 years old, he said he was given the best piece of book writing advice – to write four pages a day.

“Years ago, when I’d summoned the courage to decide I was going to attempt writing a book, I met a man one night at a party – his name was Harry Sinclair Drago. He wrote Westerns. A friend said to me, ‘You see that old fellow over there? He’s written over 100 books.’”

McCullough said he nervously approached Drago and asked how he had written 100 books.

“He said, ‘Four pages a day. That’s how you write books.’ That advice has really worked for me.”

**Make use of libraries and librarians.**

McCullough said he could not write his books without the kindness, consideration, resourcefulness, and work of librarians.

When he started work on his first book, *The Johnstown Flood*, McCullough, then living in New York, would walk to the 42nd Street Library. His book was about the catastrophic Johnstown Flood of 1889.

“I worked principally in the genealogical room there, because they had wonderful basic sources for doing biographical research,” he said. “The people in that room taught me the ropes.”

And it was at a library when McCullough first thought about writing a book. “What started me writing history happened because of some curiosity that I had about some photographs I’d seen in the Library of Congress,” he said. “I was astounded by the violence of what had happened and the drama of it. I grew up in that part of Pennsylvania and I had heard about the Johnstown flood all my life. I knew that a dam had broken, but beyond that I didn’t know anything. I was curious.”

After checking out several books, McCullough found them to be boring and inaccurate. So McCullough decided to write a book on the Johnstown flood that he would like to read. His book was published in 1968.

“When you are trying to pick a topic, research to see what has been done on it before. If nothing has been done or you think you have something better, write it.”

**When writing about a political figure, to avoid bias make sure at least a half-century has passed.**

“I think it takes about 50 years for the dust to settle and for us to be able to see these individuals in the context of what follows, as well as what has preceded, and what happened during their time in office,” he said.

McCullough, though he’s been asked his opinion of President George W. Bush several times, will not comment on current political events.

“Time needs to pass before we can see things clearly. The things that were said about Harry Truman in his time are just withering. Wait a while before you put him down or up.” •

Two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning author David McCullough shares his writing insights with a crowd of eager CMU students the morning of his daylong visit to the university last spring. McCullough concluded his campus visit with a public presentation for members of the CMU and Mount Pleasant communities.
Event raises funds for Michigan Hemingway Endowment

Although Ernest Hemingway was born in Oak Park, Illinois, he spent every summer of his first 22 years in northern Michigan. He grew up playing in its fields and streams and immortalized “up north” in his writing. Michigan was always somewhere deep inside Hemingway’s mind.

On August 6 the Clarke Historical Library, in conjunction with the Crooked Tree Arts Center of Petoskey, held a fundraising event to benefit CMU’s Michigan Hemingway Endowment. The event included an exhibit designed by Frank Boles, director of the Clarke Library, and Michael Federspiel, president of the Michigan Hemingway Society. The exhibit consisted of a selection of the Hemingway materials in the Clarke Library collection. After a presentation by Mr. Federspiel, our guests had the rare opportunity to tour the Hemingway family cottage, Windemere, on nearby Walloon Lake. We are thankful to both Ernest H. and Judy Mainland for opening their home to us.

The Clarke Historical Library holds an extensive collection of manuscripts, letters, books and other materials relating to Ernest Hemingway in Michigan. The endowment provides funds so that the Clarke Historical Library can continue to collect, preserve, and make available to the public materials relating to Hemingway. The Up North with the Hemingways event raised nearly $10,000 for the endowment and for the library.

The special treat for the Hemingway aficionados was the tour by Mr. Mainland, a nephew of Ernest Hemingway. He shared personal experiences and stories to add a unique perspective into what it was like to spend time at Windemere.

After the tour our guests convened for a reception in the lobby of the historic Perry Hotel in downtown Petoskey. All had a chance to enjoy hors d’oeuvres and refreshments while they shared their experiences of their day “up north with the Hemingways.” A dinner followed the reception with a few closing remarks by Frank Boles.

Pam Neal, a social studies teacher from Lansing Catholic Central High School, commented that she appreciated Mr. Mainland’s family stories about the cottage. “He really painted a picture of what it was like to be a little boy spending time at the cabin and gave you a glimpse of what it must have been like to grow up in the Hemingway family,” she said. “He was such a kind and generous host and made us feel welcome in his home.” Pam Neal is incorporating Hemingway’s writings in her lesson plans for this upcoming school year.

Jan Fedewa, executive director of the Michigan Humanities Council, commented that, “It was an absolutely wonderful experience. I never thought that I would have the opportunity to tour the Hemingway family home. Walking in his footsteps was just outstanding.”

Jim Neal, an attorney from Lansing, said, “It’s wonderful when the Clarke Historical Library can put together a fundraiser that is both fun and educational. The Clarke Library has successfully made a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to tour the Hemingway family home into an enjoyable fundraising event.”

On behalf of the Clarke Historical Library, I would like to thank Ernest and Judy Mainland, Liz Ahrens and the staff of the Crooked Tree Arts Center, Jim and Marion Sanford, Sandra Croll, Mike Federspiel, and all of our guests, who made this event a success.

Brian A. Palmer
Director of Library Development
Morrow endowment will support library collection

Establishing an endowment to encourage reading and education made perfect sense to Ralph Morrow.

The 1951 CMU alum wonders, if he didn’t know how to read, how he could have learned to lead an Army platoon in World War II, earned four college degrees, taught at two Michigan universities, directed the Michigan Department of Agriculture, and served as a coach and prominent board member at Haslett Public Schools.

Morrow and his wife, Sally (Leitch) Morrow, have pledged $50,000 to establish the Morrow Family Endowment at Park Library. The endowment will support the acquisition of children’s literature and environmental studies materials at the library.

“You have to read in order to learn, so it’s important for kids to get a good start,” Morrow said.

Morrow remembers how his mother, Eva Mae (Clapper) who taught for nearly four decades in Petoskey-area schools, influenced and developed his early reading skills. But, growing up in northern Michigan, Morrow devoted most of his time tending to the chores of the family dairy farm and raising everything from seed potatoes to oats, barley, sweet clover, and alfalfa.

Purple Heart veteran turned college student

Morrow left home in 1942 at age 20 to serve in the United States Army and became a member of the 33rd Infantry Division stationed in the Pacific. Morrow was wounded in combat by an artillery shell and was awarded a Purple Heart. He returned to Michigan in late 1945.

Instead of continuing to work on the farm at home, he began studying for his degree at Central Michigan College of Education.

“All I knew was the farm, but all along I knew that I needed an education,” Morrow said. “Central welcomed me, and I felt I got a good education there.”

Initially he wanted to study physical education and become a coach, but, when Morrow realized that more than 60 percent of his male friends had similar career aspirations, he changed his focus and majored in agriculture and minored in biology and English.

In the first class Morrow took at Central, he was the only man in a class of 14 students. Sally Leitch, the woman he eventually married, was among the 13 women enrolled in that class.

“With my background, I knew agriculture, and I could teach it,” Morrow said. “I studied under (CMU agriculture department head) George Wheeler, and he did an excellent job of preparing me to go further.”

Occasional opportunities to teach classes for Wheeler helped lead Morrow to his career as an agriculture professor at Michigan State University and deputy director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture. Sally Morrow, who attended CMU and received her master’s degree from Michigan State University, taught reading for 31 years at schools throughout Michigan.

CMU family ties

Throughout the years Morrow has maintained close ties with CMU. In fact, nearly a dozen of his family members – including his mother, sisters, mother-in-law, brother-in-law, daughter-in-law, grandchildren, and nephews – also have attended CMU. Ralph and Sally Morrow’s grandson Bryce currently is in his second year at CMU and is a pitcher on the CMU baseball team.

“Many of our family members have attended CMU, and that’s why we felt it was appropriate to establish this as the Morrow Family Endowment,” he said.

Brian Palmer, director of library development and community outreach, said the Morrow endowment will offer valuable resources to help the library keep its specified collections current.

“Were very thankful for the Morrows and their generosity,” Palmer said. “Endowments provide the funding that the library can depend on from year to year.”

To learn more about endowments and other ways of giving to the CMU Libraries, contact Brian Palmer at (989) 774-1826 or palme1ba@cmich.edu. •

Morrow, fraternity brothers establish memorial for Catherine O’Connell

The Morrow Family Endowment isn’t the first time Ralph Morrow has contributed to the CMU Libraries.

While studying at Central Michigan, Morrow and many other WWII veterans benefited from the extra care and attention they received from the late Catherine O’Connell, the head reference librarian and associate director of Park Library from 1948 to 1971.

In October 2002 Morrow, with other Alpha Beta Sigma fraternity brothers from the classes of 1948 to 1952, had gathered on campus to remember O’Connell and raise money for a memorial in her name at the library. The effort to honor O’Connell was spearheaded by Clarence Tuma, ’50, who also was Morrow’s college roommate.

“Miss O’Connell, we called her ‘O.C.’, was a well thought of librarian who went above and beyond to help all the students and veterans, including myself,” said Tuma, who served in the Army and was stationed in Europe during WWII. “For all the help she gave us members of Alpha Beta Sigma, we felt we needed to raise some funds for Miss O.C. so that she’s remembered in the library.

“Ralph (Morrow) played a very significant part in that, and when we all met that weekend, he said, ‘Whatever it takes, you can count on me.’”

Funds from the endowment support the acquisition and maintenance of artwork for Park Library. •

Ralph, ’51, and Sally (Leitch) Morrow
Location limits distractions

Health professor Jeffery Betts said a small study room in Park Library is his office away from the office, and it’s exactly what he needs.

For Betts and others like him, working on research projects, journal articles, or grant applications in their regular offices amid distractions and interruptions can be difficult. “If you want to get much done, you really have to leave your office,” he said. “It’s very nice to have a place in this beautiful library to work.”

The library has 41 individual study rooms, and this summer 30 of those were reserved by faculty conducting research. This fall, they’ll all be reserved, and a waiting list will form.

Library staff members working toward graduate degree

Amie Pifer and Joyce Salisbury, seated in a Park Library study room, compare their fall semester class schedules. They talk about a class – cataloguing – they both took last year and how they were happy to save money by sharing the book.

But the women aren’t CMU students. They are Park Library staff members who both are pursuing a master of library science degree.

Pifer, technical services manager, and Salisbury, administrative secretary, attend Wayne State University. They hope the degree will aid them with professional development and future job opportunities.

“The hardest part is jumping in. After I started, I realized that because it is something that I am interested in, it’s not that difficult,” Pifer said. “I’m not saying it’s easy, because it is not. But now I realize it is something that I can do. And I get satisfaction with every class I complete.”

The women said that the majority of classes thus far have been online or at the WSU Lansing campus. However, they will have to take Detroit-area classes in the future. Gas prices may make the two women worry, but their bosses’ support in their endeavors does not.

“There has been so much support and encouragement from my supervisors. I try to take classes that don’t interfere with work, but, if needed, they are flexible with my schedule,” Pifer said. “As I get further along, I keep telling myself, ‘you can do this.’ And with everyone’s help, I know I can.”

Homework, books, class … again

Pifer, who earned her bachelor’s degree in 1991, said it was a little intimidating to be a returning student.

“When I started in 2005, it had been 14 years since I had done homework or written a paper,” said Pifer, mother to two boys ages 11 and 14. “But I adjusted pretty quickly.”

Helping her make the transition was the support she received from CMU coworkers.

“Working in this library has given me a huge advantage,” Pifer said. “If I have any questions, I can just ask coworkers. That has really been beneficial.”

Salisbury said her motivation to complete the program is to have a chance at finally reaching her “ideal” job. In high school, Salisbury said she took a career aptitude test that said that her No. 1 job fit was a reference librarian.

After years of working at several different jobs, Salisbury, ’82 MS ’91, decided to listen to that high school advice. So, in 2006, she decided to go back to school for a master of library science degree.

“When I got this job at Park Library, I decided to go for it. I didn’t want not getting that degree to be one of my life’s regrets,” she said. “Now I know that it won’t be.”
Park Library offers new service

Faculty members said at a 2006 Academic Senate meeting that they wanted access to a desktop delivery service so that coming to Park Library for research materials from the printed collections wouldn’t be necessary.

Pat Barbour, Park Library’s interlibrary loan coordinator, said the suggestion couldn’t have come at a better time.

“It was something that I’ve wanted to do since we moved into the new Park Library building,” Barbour said. “But we had to wait until we purchased the ILLiad computer system, which we did in March 2006.”

ILLiad automates the processing of interlibrary loan requests, compiles lending and borrowing statistics, provides tracking for lending and borrowing, and delivers articles and other documents electronically. It even notifies users when requests are filled.

“The system really has reduced the work of locating items and the paperwork we had to do,” she said.

The Interlibrary Loan staff started a Desktop Delivery pilot study last October with several campus departments.

“It was the first time anything like this was offered on campus. We felt it was a service that would help the faculty with their research endeavors,” Barbour said. “The faculty who used the service during the pilot program were so happy to have this service available.”

The service delivers all items that can be sent electronically, such as articles, chapters out of books, microfilm, microfiche, or anything that can be scanned or photocopied and sent electronically. The target turnaround time is 24 to 48 hours on a weekday basis.

“They have to give us at least the journal and the article name, or some piece of info that would help us locate it, otherwise we may give them the wrong thing,” she said. “And no one wants that.”

CMU values faculty research

Chemistry faculty member Anja Mueller, who participated in the pilot study, said the new service has saved her hours of time. She uses it for several projects, including her research on polysaccharides – which are sugar polymers – and how they can be used as skin scaffolds.

“I no longer have to choose a date to go to the library and spend hours there,” she said. “I can do a search on the computer, request journal articles, and have them delivered electronically. It makes things a lot faster and convenient.”

Barbour said they had almost 100 requests from faculty during the trial period. Library staff members now are ready to take on more. Barbour said the program, which is free, is now open to all faculty members.

“We want to see how much demand there is,” Barbour said. “After we figure that out, we’d like to offer it to graduate students and then everyone else.”

Desktop Delivery

User directions for faculty

1. Go to the Libraries’ Home Page www.lib.cmich.edu and click on “Interlibrary Loan Requests” under the Services heading. Create an ILLiad account using your CMU Global ID.

2. Click on the ILLiad request form and create an account by selecting “Mount Pleasant campus” and clicking “Register” on the right side of the screen.

3. Complete the registration form and click “Submit information.” Your ILLiad account will be registered.

4. Once registered, log into ILLiad for the request forms. After you have filled out a request form, click “Submit Request” at the bottom of the screen.

5. The Interlibrary Loan staff will receive and act on your request. The target turnaround time is 24 to 48 hours on a weekday basis.

6. You will receive an e-mail message that will direct you to log onto your ILLiad account when the document has been uploaded.

7. Log onto your ILLiad account, click on “View/Download Electronic Items.” You will have 14 days from the date of posting to access your articles on ILLiad.

For more information, contact:

• Pat Barbour, interlibrary loan coordinator, at barbo1pa@cmich.edu or 774-1212

• Pamela Grudzien, head of technical services, at grudz1pa@cmich.edu or 774-6422

CMU graduate student Drew Fox, left, and Park Library staff member Melissa James scan printed documents that they then can send.
Frank Boles, director of Clarke Historical Library, sits among the stacks in the Clarke and discusses his role as the recently elected vice president of the Society of American Archivists (SAA). Boles will serve back-to-back terms as vice president and president of the SAA.

Preserving the past

Frank Boles is in a position to shape the practices for the preservation of historical records nationwide.

Boles, director of the Clarke Historical Library, has been elected to serve back-to-back one-year terms as vice president and president for the Society of American Archivists (SAA), the nation’s oldest and largest national archival professional association. The SAA has about 5,000 members.

He began his term as vice president in August and will become president in August 2008.

Boles said he has always had an interest in the past.

“I’ve always been a little nosy,” he said with a laugh. “Where else can you read people’s mail without getting in trouble?”

On a more serious note, Boles said the past is important because it holds answers.

“History is the explanation of the present. It answers the question, ‘How did we get here?’” he said. “And that is very important to know. Those answers can aid us with decisions we make in the future.”

On top of his job as Clarke director, Boles said he puts in 10 to 20 hours a week for SAA.

“I end up working a lot of weekends,” he said. “It’s a lot of work. But just like anything in life, if you find something important enough, you make time for it.”

Archivists have a wide range of responsibilities and often deal with an equally wide range of human emotions.

Boles recalled traveling to Harbor Springs in the mid-1990s to pick up a 4,000-book collection willed to the library.

When he and his colleague arrived at the home, the man’s widow greeted them at the door, led them to the collection, and pulled a book off the shelf.

“This is the book we bought together on Mackinac Island in 1947,” she said to Boles. She picked up another book and described its personal significance.

Boles said he did what he says archivists should do: he checked to make sure she truly wanted to part with the books; then, while his colleague gathered the books, he listened to her stories.

“There are many things people don’t realize is part of an archivist’s job,” Boles said, referring to copyright, the related issues of privacy restrictions and public access to records, and serving as advocates for the preservation of documentation. “We advocate the preservation of historical documents and the public’s access to them, but much of what archivists do is work with people, sometimes in very traumatic moments of their lives.”

Boles said it is always helpful to meet with people who do similar work, which is why he joined the SAA in 1977.

“SAA enriches the professional life of archivists across the country,” he said. “It gives us a chance to connect, share stories, identify issues, and come up with solutions. Or at least try to.” •
Library provides home for CMU Writing Center

CMU’s Writing Center has moved its primary operation into the campus hub of academic activity – a permanent, larger, newly remodeled location on Park Library’s fourth floor.

Prior to this, the Writing Center has had only a temporary spot at the Library, with operations and services distributed among sites in Anspach Hall, Towers Residence Hall Complex, and the Indoor Athletic Complex.

“The library is a focal point of inquiry and knowledge. Having a writing center at the library makes eminent sense,” said CMU Writing Center Director Mary Ann Crawford. “Writing is central to a college education and to communicating learning, whether in school or professional life. It’s a wonderful asset to an already exemplary library.”

The Writing Center provided more than 10,000 consultation sessions last year. That member is expected to increase with the new location. The staff also visits classes and offers writing-across-the-curriculum support to faculty.

Gerry Edgar, manager of library business services, who oversaw the remodeling project. “We see the Writing Center as part of what the library is and should be,” said “To have all the resources of the library right outside the door of the Writing Center is a good idea. It certainly is an academic function, which is what we’re all about.”

The Libraries, the Provost’s Office, and the College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences funded the move and remodeling.

The Writing Center will continue to operate its three other sites, maintaining convenient access to students across campus. The library site’s hours of operation are Mondays through Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Fridays 9 a.m. to noon and Sundays 6 to 9 p.m.

Visit the Writing Center online at www.chsbs.cmich.edu/writing_center.

More than a toy

Wyrick started buying old Erector sets whenever he could find them, and he accumulated parts for more than two years before he started construction, which took 5½ years.

He would stay up late and get up early to work on the project. If he woke in the middle of the night, he would grab a pencil and paper to sketch his ideas.

Wyrick’s model was a highlight of the 50th anniversary celebration of the Mackinac Bridge this summer in Mackinaw City. And he said he’s happy to haul his bridge to CMU for exhibit.

“When people see it, that’s the satisfaction I get out of building it,” Wyrick said.

After the bridge’s stay at CMU, Wyrick plans to display it at the Detroit Science Center, and he tells everyone he meets about the need for a permanent Mackinac Bridge museum.

“The thing I really learned through all this was how difficult and dangerous it was to build the Mackinac Bridge,” Wyrick said. “The ironworkers, foundation workers, laborers, divers, administrators, and engineers need to be recognized for the job they did.”

“I will give my bridge to the people of Michigan if they build a museum.”
Exhibit documents more than 300 years of fishing history

If you can’t get away for a long weekend to fish, cast a line into the rich waters of The Reed Draper Angling Collection, which is on display at the Clarke Historical Library until October 22. The exhibition features books on the “gentlemanly art” of fishing from the collection of the late Reed Draper (1928-2004), former president of the National Automobile Dealers Association and owner of the Draper auto dealerships in Saginaw.

Draper’s family generously lent his Wanigas wooden fishing poles and fishing hat and baskets for the event. Highlighted in the exhibit are fly-fishing and the Michigan grayling, a once prolific species fished with such reckless abandon that by 1900 the species was virtually extinct. A copy of Izaak Walton’s classic tome The Compleat Angler, first published in 1653, also is on display. Robert Kohrman – dean of CMU’s College of Science and Technology and fishing enthusiast – also wrote a companion catalog.

The library’s hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, call the Clarke Historical Library at 774-3352.