Presents from the past

Clarke collection connects women to family history

Hand-written letters and old family photographs clutter a table in the Clarke Historical Library.

Corky Evans Hyatt is spending the day with her father. There are tales about reckless things he did in his youth. Stories about his family life.

“My father died more than 30 years ago,” she says, holding one of his letters. “Reading these, I can still hear his voice in a way.”

Hyatt of St. Louis, Mo., and her cousin Kathy Evans Collins of Indianapolis sorted through 40 boxes of the library’s “John Pollie Collection” in late summer. Pollie’s Aunt Rosie was grandmother to both Hyatt and Collins.

Pollie owned a circus in the early 1900s and later operated carnival games. Some of the Pollie collection is on display in the Clarke through January 2010 for the “Rides and Spangles: Michigan Circuses and Carnivals” exhibit.

Because of the current exhibit, the women found out via the Internet that the Clarke has a rich collection – almost 100 years worth – of their family history.

“I lived with my grandmother for a while,” says Hyatt. “She always had great stories. I wanted to do something – like write a book – on Grandma Rosie’s life, but I couldn’t find enough information. Well, that has just changed.”

The two women say they have been seeking out family history for decades. And for the past 10 years, they have taken weeklong genealogy trips, which they call their “girl getaways.”

But they had never found information as extensive as what the Clarke has.

“I have stumbled across diaries that belonged to someone else’s family before, and I thought, ‘Why couldn’t that have been from our family?’” Hyatt says. “But look – now we have 40 boxes of family letters and photos. I think that beats any diary.”

Come one, come all!

Turn to page 4 for more information on the Clarke Historical Library’s “Rides and Spangles: Michigan Circuses and Carnivals” exhibit.
Dean’s Column

Beyond the books and journals

Libraries provide central location for university resources

Often I’ve described our beautiful Park Library as a library and center for selected academic support services. Indeed, one of its distinguishing strengths is that in it there are, in addition to great library collections and wonderfully helpful library staff, several excellent services that in complementary ways contribute to the common enterprise of Park Library, which is assisting faculty teaching and research and student learning and success.

The Help Desk is CMU’s centralized provider of technology support for on- and off-campus students, faculty, and staff. Nearby, Media Services offers a broad spectrum of audiovisual resources, especially equipment and videos/DVDs, for classroom and course-related activities. Both services are operated by the Office of Information Technology.

Also supporting the use of learning technology, but going well beyond, are FaCIT – the Faculty Center for Innovative Teaching – and CID – the Center for Instructional Design – which is a part of CMU’s extensive Off-Campus Programs. Together these units supply to faculty a comprehensive array of teaching consultation, training, instructional development, and multimedia production services. Their goal is to aid faculty in the use of best practices for teaching and learning – in classrooms and online, and on campus in Mount Pleasant and off campus at many dozens of CMU sites in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico.

Services for students

Two services offered directly to students are the Writing Center and Student Disability Services. The Writing Center, one of four locations on campus, provides students with peer writing assistance on site and online. As a broad goal, the Writing Center aims to nurture “a culture of writing” at CMU, just as the Libraries aim to support a culture of reading and information use. For students with disabilities or temporary impairments, Student Disability Services assists full participation in the learning and growth opportunities of the university. Both also provide substantial help to faculty in working with students.

What one can find in Park Library, then, beyond the books and journals and other information resources typically found in libraries, is an unusually rich constellation of talent and collaborative relationships, with beneficial effects radiating outwardly across the campus and across the widespread geographic and virtual range of the CMU community. For me it’s a daily pleasure to share in the combined efforts and special collegiality of librarians, technologists, various types of learning specialists, faculty, students, and support staff.

In this issue of Reference Point you’ll learn about some of the many other worthwhile things that occur in the CMU Libraries. Let us know your comments and, if you have them, your questions.

Tom Moore
Dean of Libraries
Consultants assist students with course projects
Reference librarians from the University Library and from Off-Campus Library Services and the Writing Center staff teamed up last spring to help students with their research papers through a service called Research and Writing Nights. Reference and writing consultants helped students perform research and integrate the findings into their writing.

This service is again being made available this fall, says Mary Ann Crawford, director of the Writing Center that has one of its four on-campus locations in Park Library.

“Writing is a communicative act,” she says. “It’s important for any writer to receive feedback.”

The service will be available the end of fall semester on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday during weeks 13 and 14.

CMU English faculty member Brooke Harrison is thrilled with the new service and sees it as a significant stride in the center’s program.

“Every once in a while you see a program make a big leap, and I see this as a big leap forward,” Harrison says.

In addition to the Research and Writing Nights program, students and faculty members interested in using the Writing Center’s services can schedule an appointment or come in during walk-in hours.

Write on
In Park Library, the Writing Center is located in the northwest corner of the fourth floor.

Regular hours
5 to 9 p.m. Sunday
9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Thursday
9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday

Telephone
989-774-2986

Online
www.chsbs.cmich.edu/writing_center

Washington Post’s Arana presents at Friends luncheon
Acclaimed writer and critic Marie Arana says her big break in life came when she grew up surrounded by two different cultures – her father was from Peru, her mother was from the United States.

“It was a big break, indeed,” Arana told the nearly 100 people attending the annual Friends of the Libraries event early last summer in the Park Library Auditorium.

In her keynote presentation – “The Writer and the Critic: Making a Life and Career Between Two Unfriendly Cultures” – Arana shared stories of how her childhood experiences in Lima, Peru, and then in Summit, New Jersey, helped prepare her for her career.

Arana is a writer-at-large for the Washington Post and was editor of the newspaper’s discontinued Book World section. She also is the author of books, including “Lima Nights” and “American Chica,” a memoir of her Peruvian-American upbringing that was a 2001 National Book Award finalist.

As challenging as it was juggling two cultures as child, Arana says it’s been even trickier being a critic and a writer.

“It’s like being the fox and the hound … Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde,” she says. “A life as a critic and a writer isn’t easy, but I wouldn’t have it any other way.”

You’re invited
The CMU Friends of the Libraries is a membership organization that supports – through contributions and volunteer activities – the programs of the University Library, the Clarke Historical Library and Off-Campus Library Services.

Members of this group receive special invitations to:
• Library-sponsored and Friends of the Libraries events
• Behind-the-scenes library tours and more

Become a Friend of the Libraries today:
Call 989-774-3500

Cultures in counterpoint
Welcome to the Big Top

‘It was more than just a show’
Decades of carnival and circus life on exhibit

The people who entertain at circuses and carnivals always attract attention – from claiming the title of “World’s Only One-legged Aerial Clown” to a psychic who would pay $200 if she could not read your future.

So naturally, Marian Matyn, an assistant professor and archivist at the Clarke Historical Library, wanted to put carnival and circus life on display. But this time she wants spectators to come away with more than amazement; she wants them to get an education.

“These performers made a living and were able to spend time with their families. It was more than just the show. It was being part of a community,” Matyn says. “I’m very excited and hope everyone will come out to see what we’ve brought in.”

The Clarke Library exhibit “Rides and Spangles: Michigan Circuses and Carnivals” is up now through January 2010. It’s curated by Matyn, and much of the display is material she collected during her 2007 sabbatical researching the topic for a book project.

The Amazing Miniature Circus!
Couple creates a small display as a large tribute

Mike and Karen “Janke” Janczewski of Saginaw Township created this miniature circus more than 30 years ago. The Janczewskis made the circus to pay homage to the many Michigan performers they remember seeing when they were younger.

The circus, which is on display in the Clarke Historical Library, includes a main tent that has 1,500 people in the grandstands. The Ferris wheel lights up and rotates. There is a hot air balloon that goes up and down. And there is a trapeze artist – near a tent that says ‘Flying Melzoras’ – that swings.
Man on the Flying Trapeze

With the greatest of ease, a Flying Melzora remembers circus life

Former trapeze artist Bill Thomas, 93, takes notice of the Clarke Historical Library’s extensive exhibited collection of carnival and circus memorabilia, some dating back to the mid-1800s.

“You have absolutely everything. Everything and everyone that I remember is here,” Thomas says, peering into the glass cases.

Thomas, who was a Flying Melzora – a nationally known Michigan-based trapeze group – in his youth, was a featured speaker for the opening of the Clarke Library exhibit “Rides and Spangles: Michigan Circuses and Carnivals,” which is curated by Marian Matyn, archivist at the Clarke. The exhibit is open through Jan. 31, 2010.

The Flying Melzoras started in the early 1900s and gave performances until the 1960s. The Thomases – Melzer, Buster, Jane, Raymond, Bill and Ann – traveled as the Flying Melzoras with the Shrine Circus, Barnum & Bailey and the Ringling Brothers.

Moving to another display, Thomas browses items such as a whip used by the famous lion tamer Clyde Beatty and a 1960s newspaper article about his mother, Jane Thomas, giving a trapeze performance in celebration of her 80th birthday.

But he stops at “Riding Sensation of the Age,” a memoir about Dorothy Herbert.

“She would ride side-saddle on a horse over hurdles of fire,” says Thomas, who made his first on-stage appearance at age 1, since his parents were heavily involved in circus life and started the Flying Melzoras. “I thought she was absolutely crazy.”

What about flying through the air on a trapeze without nets to catch you? Is that crazy?

“No, we weren’t doing anything out of the ordinary. We were just making a living,” says Thomas. Then, after a pause, the Saginaw resident continues, “I guess it is all a matter of perspective.”
Collective efforts benefit all CMU students

In June we had our annual Friends of the Libraries Luncheon at Park Library. Besides an interesting speaker and fine food, we were in great company. It was exciting to have nearly 100 of our Friends in the same room. It was a nice event and a small token of our appreciation for the valuable support for the CMU Libraries. Some strangers and some friends, but all came together as supporters of the CMU Libraries.

Being a philanthropist means knowing one person can make a difference. A single individual’s generosity can enhance our services, collections and more. Together, with all their generosity combined, our Friends are truly making a difference in the library support for CMU’s academic programs.

What motivates each individual to give varies. Yet, each dollar that is given helps in many ways. With academic budgets still tight, uncertain state budgets and the cost of journals and periodicals increasing rapidly, donor support is more important than ever.

New year energizes learning community

Now that the fall semester has started, students, faculty and staff are all back with a renewed energy for learning. Our crowded Park Library is a reminder of that. Your gifts help every academic program on campus, and they also assist us to provide excellent art exhibits as well as the exhibits and collections in the Clarke Historical Library.

Your donations can benefit any area of the Libraries you prefer. Whether you select the general Library Endowment, the Clarke Historical Library, books and journals for a specific college or department or choose to support library speakers and special events, we appreciate your generosity.

Your support is needed more than ever. Remember, there are many ways to give: cash gifts, gifts of stock, planned gifts, pledged gifts over a number of years, memorial/honorarium donations, in-kind gifts and more.

Please contact me at 989-774-1826 or by e-mail at jodi.robinette@cmich.edu. I would be happy to help you with any questions or just chat about your interest in the CMU Libraries and the university. You have the opportunity to make a beneficial difference and be a true philanthropist!

Thank you to all who already give to the CMU Libraries.

Jodi A. Robinette
Director of Library Development and Community Outreach
Giving history

Annual gifts to the Clarke preserves and advances collections

Much has changed in 25 years, but for Susan Sadenwater, ’64, one thing stays the same: her gift to the CMU Libraries.

She says there are several reasons she has chosen to donate annually to the Clarke Historical Library for a quarter of a century. “I didn’t have a lot of money, but I gave what I could because it is important to support something that you believe does a great service.”

She also says her love of Michigan and its history has made donating to the Clarke a satisfying choice. “When I was a CMU student, I remember taking a Michigan history class and being so fascinated and proud of my roots,” says the Freeland resident and Michigan native. “And the Clarke is incredible because it has an extensive collection of Michigan history.”

Frank Boles, director of the Clarke Library, says because of supporters like Sadenwater the library is able to add important pieces to the collections that normally would have been out of financial reach.

“Ernest grew up in Michigan, in many ways, and in this letter he tries to convince a friend of his to come to Michigan for the summer. He writes about fishing and the beautiful Michigan landscape,” Boles says. “It is a wonderful letter that talks about our state and what it was like to live here. And now, because of people like Susan, that letter will stay in Michigan.”

In addition to the collections, Sadenwater – who attended the opening event for “Rides and Spangles: Michigan Circuses and Carnivals” – says she enjoys coming to campus and attending CMU Libraries’ events.

“I try to make it here a couple times a year. There have been great events and presenters, especially (author) David McCullough,” Sadenwater says. “It makes me feel connected to a place where I’ve had some really great memories.”

Returning the favor

Alumna supports her campus refuge

Everyone has a place where they go to get away from it all. For Donijo Robbins, ’94, that place was Park Library.

“I had three roommates my first two years and five my last two years at Central, so the library quickly became my favorite place to study or just get away from reality,” Robbins says. “I would spend hours after class studying before I went to work. And if I wasn’t studying, I was looking for books to read.”

Robbins, an associate professor in the School of Public and Nonprofit Administration at Grand Valley State University, says about 10 years ago she noticed an envelope in Centralight alumni magazine and decided to make a donation.

“I saw the envelope, and it made sense for me to contribute. I give what I can, but I try to double the amount every year,” says Robbins, who lives in Grand Rapids with her husband, Keith De Jonge, and their dogs, Reagan and Lucy.

Robbins says she has watched Park Library grow and transform over the past few years, and she is a proud supporter – mostly because she knows her investment helps provide additional resources for CMU students.

“Now Park Library is amazing – even more so than when I was a student,” she says. “At CMU I got a great education and wonderful experiences, and a large part of that came from the library. Now other students need Park Library like I did.

“I knew I wanted to give to the library because the library gave so much to me.”

Donijo Robbins
Library adds five multimedia rooms

Erika Shrauger describes the characteristics of a Leonardo da Vinci painting to two fellow CMU students. Shrauger, a junior, uses her laptop to find online images of da Vinci’s work. But instead of crowding around her to see, the students – using one of Park Library’s new multimedia rooms – look up at a 40-inch LCD flat screen.

“In the ‘Mona Lisa’ you can tell that the work is unfinished, which is a sign of a da Vinci,” she says, using the cursor to point to the painting’s edges where a column peeks out. “This painting was supposed to include the columns, but he didn’t finish. The painting was supposed to be larger than it actually is.”

To help students like Shrauger in their courses, Park Library recently added multimedia to five of the existing group study rooms – which vary in size and setup with seating available from two to 10 people – on the library’s third and fourth floors. The rooms are equipped with 40-inch LCD flat screens and laptop connections built into the study room tables.

“These multimedia rooms will help students prepare for group projects or run through class presentations,” says Gerry Edgar, library business services manager. “Now students won’t have to crowd around a computer or pass around a laptop for group activities; everything can clearly be seen on the LCD screen.”

The rooms are available to CMU students, faculty and staff. A valid CMU ID card is required to check out a room at the library’s second floor Book Checkout. Laptops and connection cords also are available.

The idea came from a visit Dean Tom Moore made to a newly constructed library that had LCD televisions in the study rooms.

“He came back and said, ‘We need multimedia rooms for our students,’” Edgar says. “The rooms were the library’s summer project. Our goal, which we met, was to have the rooms ready for student use by fall.”

In addition to the five multimedia rooms, Park Library has 16 group study rooms and 41 individual study rooms.

CMU Libraries’ exhibits and events calendar

lib.cmich.edu/exhibits

CLICK! The Photography of Juanita Baldwin
• October 30 to December 7
• Baber Room

Jillian Pekel: Photojournalism traveling experience
• November to December 2009
• Extended Hours Study, Park Library

CMU Art Department Foundations Exhibit
• Through January 2010
• Extended Hours Study, Park Library

Rides and Spangles: Michigan Circuses and Carnivals
• Through January 2010
• Clarke Historical Library

Student Erika Shrauger, right, likes using the new library multimedia rooms for her art history courses.
Helping CONDOR to soar

Haggart lightens the load to submit works
Abby Haggart is making it easier for CMU faculty, staff, and students to post their research and creative works on the CMU Online Digital Object Repository.

After she receives the brief electronic submission form describing the piece to be posted on CONDOR, the Libraries’ access services specialist acquires the necessary copyright permission from the publisher.

“I do as much as I can,” Haggart says. “The larger CONDOR gets, the more utilized it will be.”

CONDOR is the online resource that collects and permanently preserves the research and creative products of CMU faculty, staff and students. Repository items include articles, books, theses, dissertations, simulations, and published and unpublished research.

Benefits of posting on CONDOR
By posting on CONDOR members of the CMU community will:

• Allow their services and scholarly works to be discovered by others worldwide
• Increase the possibilities of collaborating with other scholars
• Tap into a resource that makes unpublished works visible and discoverable
• Always have a permanent link to their deposited work
• Leverage the advantages of open access publishing

Indexed by Google and other search engines, CONDOR enables these works to be shared, discovered and disseminated electronically.

Ruth Helwig, Libraries’ systems librarian and CONDOR team leader, says the Libraries want to encourage more CMU community members to contribute their materials to the developing online repository.

“We assume responsibility for seeking copyright permission to make things easier for the submitter,” Helwig says. “We know that everyone is busy and seeking copyright permission is time consuming. We want to do what we can to simplify the process.”

Haggart receives the submission form and then works with library bibliographers to research publisher information and make the necessary contacts for permission to place the work on CONDOR. Depending on accessibility and responsiveness of the publisher, she says it can take anywhere from hours to months to receive the needed permission.

With the publisher’s approval, Haggart finds a useable digital file and uploads the work to the repository.

With Haggart’s help, the contents of CONDOR are expanding, giving it potential as a useful tool for accessing intellectual output from CMU academic activities.

Abby Haggart

Stepping onto CONDOR

www.condor.cmich.edu

Simply put, posting your work on CONDOR is a three-step process. Here’s what you need to do:

Step One: Author Agreement Form
Visit condor.cmich.edu and complete the Author Agreement Form.

Step Two: Enter Submission Information
Click the “Submit An Item” tab, enter your CMU global ID and password and complete the “Submission Information” form. Click the “Next” button to continue.

Step Three: Review Submission and Upload File
Double check your information and upload your file. Click the “Complete Submission” button.

Congratulations! Your work is done.

Library staff members now will complete the process. This includes acquiring copyright permission from the publisher and posting your work on CONDOR for the whole world to see and cite as a valued scholarly and creative work.
Library adds new media methods to reach patrons

The CMU Libraries want more patrons – students, faculty, staff and community members – to be aware of their services and resources. To do that, the Libraries have increased their online presence.

Using new media outlets – such as blogging and social networks – library patrons can explore research methods, ask questions or find out the latest happenings at the library. And they can do it from the comfort of home.

New-age history

What do you get when you mix the past with new media? The answer: The Clarke Historical Library’s MichiganinLetters.org.

The Clarke’s blog was launched in July and highlights the manuscript collections of the Clarke Historical Library in a new way. Its purpose is to elucidate the pieces of the Clarke’s collections.

Online visitors will find scanned images of the Clarke’s actual letters and documents and samples selected from the thousands of manuscripts held by the Clarke.

Accompanying the selections are introductory notes, edited transcriptions, annotations and commentary on editing historical documents.

“The blog format allows the reader to compare the original document with the transcription and view images that relate to the document,” says Susan Powers, Clarke Library reference specialist. “People can see what is involved in documentary editing and can learn about the Clarke’s resources.”

An interactive feature for the Web site is that visitors are invited to contribute comments and to ask questions about the selections.

“Any time you walk around the library and see computer screens up, you will see some students looking at Facebook,” Lorenzen says. “They don’t respond as well to traditional methods like paper flyers. So, in addition to the traditional methods, we thought we’d try an untraditional one. It is just another way for us to reach out and serve our students.”

And it seems to be working. As of September, the library has more than 220 fans registered on the new site.

Libraries fan club

If you already are a fan of CMU Libraries, there now is a way that you can make it official. All thanks to Facebook.com.

Michael Lorenzen, head of reference services, says he is using a new media method to disseminate library information to patrons – but the focus is on the students.

Walking around the library observing student computer use, Lorenzen says he noticed a favorite student Web site: Facebook.com.

The library now is using Facebook to get library events and information about new offerings, like the new multimedia study rooms, out to the students.

In addition to learning about what is going on at the Park, students can e-mail questions via the social networking site.

Susan Powers, Clarke Historical Library reference specialist, says the blog MichiganinLetters.org is a valuable tool to engage people in historical research.
Reference librarian shares passion with new bibliography

Sitting in his Park Library office decorated with woodcarvings, paintings and other works of art, Robert Faleer discusses his recently published bibliography.

“My annotations are designed to provide the user with as much information as possible and to present not only basic information about each work but also to capture the spirit of each work as well as the author’s intent,” says Faleer, a University Libraries’ reference librarian.

“Church Woodwork in the British Isles, 1100-1535” is a reference tool featuring more than 900 annotated citations. Faleer has presented and worked with misericords, wooden church furnishings and other forms of church woodwork in the past, but this was his first authored book.

The idea to write an annotated bibliography about church woodwork started forming in 2005. Faleer noticed a lack of reference guides about the subject and took it upon himself to provide one of quality.

“This bibliography is the most comprehensive and informative publication dealing with late Romanesque, Gothic and early English Renaissance church woodwork currently available,” Faleer says of the book’s value.

Researching three years in U.S. and U.K.

He spent roughly three years performing research, writing and laying out the book, the research being the most time-consuming. In May 2007, Faleer signed a contract with its publisher, Scarecrow Press. During Faleer’s research journey he spent a lot of time in libraries across the United States and the United Kingdom. “I spent time at the Newberry Library in Chicago, the Bodleian Library at Oxford University, the Main Library at Cambridge and the British Library in London,” Faleer says of his travels.

Faleer says his job as a reference librarian came in handy during the research process. His knowledge of what sources to use and where to find sources was greatly influenced by his line of work.

Overall, Faleer says he is very pleased with how the book turned out. In fact, he is so happy with his first book-length bibliography that he is already thinking of writing a follow-up.

“My next book project will be an annotated bibliography dealing with floor tombs in British churches, specifically monumental brasses and incised stone slabs,” Faleer said.

The book was released at the end of April. Copies of “Church Woodwork in the British Isles, 1100-1535” are available through Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble or any major book service worldwide.
Michigan authors on the radio, in your home

Project connects Clarke Historical Library with WCMU
Welcome the voices of Michigan storytellers into your home this year.
The Clarke Historical Library is showcasing its collection of Michigan authors and books through a joint effort with CMU Public Broadcasting.
“The Clarke Library has collected books written by Michigan authors for a long time,” says Frank Boles, director of the Clarke Historical Library. “We are excited to make presentations and other public appearances by these authors available on the radio. This is a wonderful opportunity to team up with our friends at WCMU.”
Knowledgeable and thought-provoking authors will discuss fiction, gospel music, local history and a wide variety of other subjects. Each program will be an hour long. This project was made possible in part by a grant from the Michigan Humanities Council.
“This is a great way to get to know Michigan authors,” says Susan McTaggart-Dennis, WCMU program producer.

Featured presentations
Presentations by authors who live in Michigan or have written about the state will air at 8 p.m. the last Tuesday of each month on CMU Public Broadcasting radio stations throughout the state. Presentations also will be available online at www.wcmu.org.
Upcoming authors and presentations include:
Oct. 27
• Deborah Smith Pollard
• “When the Church Becomes Your Party: Contemporary Gospel Music”
Nov. 24
• Hugh Fox
• Author of 85 published books
Dec. 29
• Larissa Niec
• “Shorn: Book One of the Sky Seekers”
Jan. 26
• Steve Miller and Andrea Billups
• “A Slaying in the Suburbs: The Tara Grant Murder” •