**REFERENCE POINT**

**UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES NEWSLETTER • MARCH 2009**

**Browsing made easy**

**Library now houses children’s literature collection**

Jessica Sikora can vouch for the convenient new location of the children’s literature collection at CMU.

When the Clinton Township senior recently had a free moment while proctoring her Phi Mu sorority’s study hours in Park Library, she remembered something she learned earlier this semester: the Betty A. McDonald Children’s Literature Collection is on the library’s fourth floor.

“I wanted to look at the full collection and see what was available so I can use it for lesson plans and for my general use in the future,” says Sikora, a child development major.

Children’s books always have been included in the University Libraries’ collection. However, about 30 years ago, because of limited space in the old Park Library the children’s books were relocated to the Instructional Materials Center in Ronan Hall. In December 2008 the collection was welcomed back to Park Library that was reopened in 2002 after its expansion and renovation.

“There definitely is a convenience factor with it being in its new location. If I’m at the library, I always can go up just to browse.” Sikora says.

Sikora learned about the Betty A. McDonald Children’s Literature Collection during the first day of her International Literature for Children and Young Adults class. CMU English Professor Susan Stan specifically held her class near the collection.

“Most of the students in this class are already familiar with this collection. I wanted them to become familiar with its new home,” Stan says.

The collection supports program curricula within CMU’s academic colleges, including:

**College of Education and Human Services.** Collection material is useful for developing teacher education course lesson plans and textbook evaluations.

**College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences.** Students enrolled in children’s literature classes benefit from having primary sources and critical works located on the same floor in the Park Library.

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**Quite the collection**

The 24,000-volume Betty A. McDonald Children’s Literature Collection includes:

- Picture books
- Children and young adult fiction and nonfiction
- K-12 textbooks

Many of these books are winners of prestigious children’s literature prizes and have been favorably reviewed and have achieved the status of recommended books on published lists. The K-12 textbooks comprise a representative collection covering many subjects written for a wide range of reading levels.
Blazing service and technology trails

Off-Campus Library Services leads the way

As I look around Park Library daily, I see not only a vibrant center of academic and social activity but also a library staff and a set of library and related services participating in the profound technology-enabled changes taking place in librarianship, higher education, and our society. Nowhere is this more true than in our Off-Campus Library Services department, which – while “headquartered” inconspicuously in Park Library – has key staff located as well in Troy, Michigan, and Atlanta, Georgia.

OCLS has been serving with distinction CMU’s extensive off-campus programs since 1976. Over the years OCLS’s exceptional staff members have forged a lofty national and even international reputation for leadership in library services for students and faculty at a distance from campus. What’s more, they’ve often blazed the trail for our on-campus library services, establishing successful practices and setting standards for “remote” library services easily transferrable to serving our Mount Pleasant clients, who now take advantage of e-mail reference assistance, electronic desktop delivery of journal articles, and a suite of continuously growing online offerings. OCLS is truly a “point of pride” for the CMU Libraries.

In this and every issue of Reference Point, you’ll see stories about an evolving blend of traditional and newer library services and the people who conduct them. I hope you’ll also see how valuably the Libraries contribute to the quality of Central Michigan University.

If you have questions or comments, please be in touch.

Tom Moore
Dean of Libraries

Brian Ryckman and Jennifer Rundels are off-campus librarians who both use Web cams mounted on their computers to interact with students nationwide and around the world and help them with using library resources online.
Online learning is connection to student needs, information

CMU Off-Campus Librarian Jennifer Rundels has her headphones on and she adjusts her office Web cam.

Sitting at her Park Library desk, Rundels teaches CMU online students about what resources the library offers and about the best places to look for research information.

“We want students to know that no matter how close or far away they are, we are here for them.” - Jennifer Rundels

“Students can even let you know how you are doing,” she says, pointing to a small box in the corner of her screen with a variety of faces. “These are emoticons. When a student likes my presentation, I'll get a smiley face or a thumbs up.”

Rundels, who has been teaching online students about library resources for more than a year, says CMU online course enrollment has grown at a fast pace.

“Many off-campus students are taking online classes for convenience,” she says. “We need to get information to these students the same way they are getting their educational needs met. There is a world of resources right at their fingertips.”

Tonia Durden, who received her M.A. in education from CMU, says the university has great online resources.

“I used it not only for research papers but as a resource for my classroom preparation,” says Durden, an Atlanta, Ga., teacher.

And annually, the amount of available electronic research materials increases.

Face-to-face online library lessons

As the library’s Web resources grow, the need to guide students through the site increases. Rundels and Brian Ryckman are among six off-campus librarians who now are giving an increasing amount of instruction presentations to online classes.

“It isn’t just the students who learn from our presentations,” Ryckman says. “Even instructors are amazed at what is available electronically.”

Rundels and Ryckman, who also give face-to-face library lessons to off-campus classes, say there are many benefits to the online presentation. “The information is archived, so students can go back to it anytime,” Ryckman says. “And I think students are more comfortable asking questions in an online format.”

Regardless of the medium used, the two off-campus librarians say their goal is to get students connected to Park Library’s resources.

“We are giving these students the same information that we would have presented to them in a traditional class,” says Rundels, who takes off her headphones and places them onto her desk. “This is just another way to get information out to students. We want students to know that no matter how close or far away they are, we are here for them.”

Online research tips

CMU gives students access to more than 120 online databases that index thousands of professional journals, magazines and newspapers.

To find books, electronic journal titles and other material owned by CMU Libraries, students, faculty and staff go to http://ocls.cmich.edu and use the CMU Library Catalog.

A sampling of databases to search within specific areas include:

Business topics
• ABI-Inform
• Lexis-Nexis

Education topics
• Education Abstracts
• ERIC
• PsycInfo

Health topics
• CINAHL
• Health Reference Center
• Academic
• MEDLINE

Fast, efficient and at your service

Off-Campus Library Services are available at http://ocls.cmich.edu. The site offers students, faculty and staff:

• Research tools
• Links to online databases and a comprehensive selection of print and electronic books
• Access to a variety of academic writing guides
Two centuries in the making

Exhibit commemorates Michigan’s newspaper history

An exhibit celebrating the vital role newspapers played in documenting Michigan’s history is on display at the Clarke Historical Library.

“Celebrating 200 Years of Newspapers in Michigan” commemorates the bicentennial of Michigan’s first newspaper – Michigan Essay published Aug. 31, 1809, in Detroit – and focuses on five themes:

• Michigan’s first papers
• James Scripps and the daily newspapers
• Consolidation of the press and the return of the weekly paper
• The press in the service of focused communities
• Preserving Michigan’s newspaper heritage

Frank Boles, Clarke Historical Library director, says the exhibit highlights the significance of newspapers as information resources, their longevity and the importance of preserving newspapers as historical sources.

“We’ve come to have a deep appreciation for what newspapers do for the state,” Boles says. “Newspapers are the first draft of community history and continue today as a fundamental source of community news and public accountability.”

The historical library also developed a related traveling exhibit, which recently debuted in Grand Rapids at the Michigan Press Association’s annual winter conference that drew more than 400 newspaper professionals and journalism students from around the state.

R.e. Whipple, a CMU journalism student who attended, says the traveling exhibit was telling.

“The handouts were especially awesome because they detailed the changes, which I hadn’t really gotten in any of my classes before,” she says. “We always look at the current and future trends, but I never really thought about the past.”

As far as the ever-changing times in the newspaper industry, Boles said, “Newspapers have always had trying times … There is a continued and vital role for the press and that will never go away.”

‘Celebrating 200 Years of Newspapers in Michigan’

• On display through July 31
• 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday
• Clarke Historical Library, Park Library
• Free and open to the public
• Visit www.lib.cmich.edu/about/clarke.html to learn more about the traveling exhibit and its stops in Michigan

Michigan’s first newspaper, Michigan Essay, sits amid other historical items from the state’s newspaper industry.
New director leads library into electronic collection era

When Robin Sabo started doing graduate research, she spent hours flipping through journal pages, sorting through microfiche and making copies.

“It is amazing how much has changed in a little more than 20 years,” Sabo says.

Sabo, who was appointed as Park Library’s collection development director last fall, has many years of research experience. Sabo became a dietitian but later shifted her career goals.

“I stayed working in health sciences, and before this position I worked as the university’s health sciences bibliographer,” she says. “But I still am licensed as a dietitian. I worked far too hard to give that up.”

Even though the workplace is different than her dietitian days, Sabo says working in a library is a great fit.

“I love the research aspect of education,” she says. “And it is in the family. My aunt was a school librarian in Marquette. I always thought that she had a fun job.”

Resources for different learning styles

In the book review room, Sabo stands by a shelf with health sciences books. She pulls one off the shelf.

As the director, Sabo knows what work goes into maintaining the library’s collection. She has spent years as – and currently is – a subject bibliographer. Bibliographers maintain the collection and review potential new items.

“There are 15 subject bibliographers in all,” she says. “Working as a subject bibliographer has helped train me for this position.”

Sabo says the collection will continue to grow – and it may look different in the future.

“Things always change. Look at how different a library was when I first started college,” Sabo says. “Collections will continue to grow and change and that is a good thing.”
The heart of CMU

Libraries key to student and faculty success

To me, the CMU Libraries are the heart of Central Michigan University. Here are some reasons why. CMU Libraries:

- Support each and every academic program and college and every student and faculty member.
- Provide a knowledge center for scholarly information and academic assistance, as well as a high-quality study and research environment.
- Host many wonderful speakers, exhibits and events in the Library Auditorium, Baber Room and other areas throughout the year.

Both on-campus and off-campus students rely on library services for success with their studies and research. Our Off-Campus Library Services is a great resource for students taking courses in locations outside of Mount Pleasant. We’re also proud of our Interlibrary Loan Office. If we don’t have a book or journal article needed for a student or faculty member, we can have it for them in as little as 24 hours.

Stephani Gibson, ’06, shares a little bit of her experience:

“A huge part of my success in school was due to the Park Library. If I hadn’t had access to the resources and services provided there, my grades would have suffered. … The staff was incredibly friendly and helpful. Whenever I needed help with anything, they were able to provide it.”

Off-campus student Mumtaz Sunderji says:

“I feel blessed to have such wonderful staff in the Off-Campus Library Services. They always assisted me in a very professional and caring manner. Thank you very much!”

To maintain the high quality of these services, we need your engagement more than ever. ’

– Jodi Robinette

To maintain the high quality of these services, we need your engagement more than ever. With support from the State of Michigan tenuous, endowment earnings down and university budgets stressed, every donor dollar turns to service in the Libraries. We’re committed to “being there” for our patrons, and we’re asking you to join us by “being there” too. The ongoing academic support and up-to-date information the CMU Libraries provide are due in part to your generosity.

Thanks to all who already support the Libraries. We appreciate your continuing generosity.

Jodi Robinette
Director of Library Development and Community Outreach
Endowment supports children’s literature collection

Betty A. McDonald remembers how much her four children enjoyed it when she read to them each night before they went to bed. “I’d read the books so often that eventually the children could say the words along with me as I read,” says McDonald, the 1941 CMU alumna who generously began an endowment that provides funding to help grow the children’s collection in Park Library.

The Betty A. McDonald Children’s Literature Collection consists of picture books as well as children’s and young adult fiction and nonfiction. It supports program curricula within CMU’s academic colleges and is open to everyone for avocational purposes as well.

“This gift provides an annual subsidy to purchase new and replacement books for the collection, says Tom Moore, dean of libraries. In addition, naming the collection gives it more prominent attention as a valuable teaching, learning and research resource in Park Library.

“As a parent, grandparent and great-grandparent and former teacher, Betty understands well the powerful impact of reading and literature on the development of children and the role that reading plays as a skill and enrichment throughout life,” he says. “We appreciate her enthusiasm for supporting this wonderful collection.”

First CMU visit in over 60 years

McDonald grew up in Saginaw and studied at CMU to become a teacher. She graduated and then taught 52 students in a two-room schoolhouse outside of Saginaw.

After teaching for one year, she served as a recruiter during World War II for the newly established U.S. Coast Guard Women’s Reserve, also known as the SPARs. During that time she and Jim – her high school sweetheart – were married just before he went overseas in the U.S. Navy Submarine Service. When the war ended, the couple returned to Saginaw and she worked as a secretary for an airline while he worked for General Motors. Soon they started a family and moved several times as his work with GM changed. In February 1981, he became president and chief operating officer of GM and retired in August 1987.

Until last year, even though she had seen much of the world, Betty McDonald hadn’t visited CMU since she graduated. She says that she and Jim, who had been married 64 years, were impressed when they saw the campus and the library. “When we got to the library, we looked at each other and said, ‘Isn’t this beautiful,’” she says.

How does the endowment grow?

The endowment established by Betty McDonald can grow with future gifts, which will increase the funds spendable every year on the collection.

Anyone can support the collection by making a gift to the Betty A. McDonald Children’s Literature Collection Endowment.

Contact Jodi Robinette to learn more.

• jodi.robinette@cmich.edu
• 989-774-1826
Tom Moore reflects on leading CMU Libraries into the future

Tom Moore studied with monks at Belmont Abbey College in North Carolina and earned his bachelor’s degree in English. He later earned an M.A. degree at SUNY Binghamton and an M.S.L.S. from Syracuse University.

In July 2008 Moore marked his 20th year serving as dean of libraries and has the distinction of being the longest serving dean at CMU. He recently reflected on his experiences and how the events of the past two decades are helping to direct the library today and tomorrow.

When you interviewed for the position as dean, you said you were impressed by the high caliber of the staff. What’s it like to lead such a staff?

Leadership is not only at the top. Leadership is at a variety of levels and I find that we have more leaders in the organization at different levels than we used to. There are people who have ideas, ambitions and aspirations for their departments, the library and for their own careers. I really appreciate that our staff has moved along ambitiously and with great enthusiasm, especially in making the changes in using technology.

What have been the biggest changes in the types of services the library needs to provide?

The biggest change is the technology and what it can do. To see how we can push the services of the library out onto the campus and out into our broader user community and get it to desktops, that’s terrific. We’re really increasingly effective at it and alert to the information needs and habits of our clientele, who span quite a range in ages. We’ve got the 18-year-old students and the older faculty who are still teaching and doing research. So, now we talk about things like instant messaging but we’re of course still talking about the fact that we have books and journals, in electronic media as well as print and paper.
What changes have you seen in the library’s role in the university community?

When we built the new building we said we wanted to do academic-related public programming. When you look at the artwork in the Baber Room across the hall from the exhibit gallery of the Clarke Historical Library, that’s not by accident. What we wanted to do was create a rich public place for anybody and everybody at the university and in the broader Mount Pleasant area. Even though we’re pushing our services out there with technology and creating an increasingly strong virtual library for campus and off-campus clienteles, there’s still something very valuable and powerful in what the library offers as a physical place, as a common place, where the university community on the Mount Pleasant campus can come together. We have the whole curriculum of the university, and more, reflected in the kind of collections we build and the services we offer. I like partnering with others on campus a lot, so whether we’re partnering with Minority Student Services for Martin Luther King Week or helping to sponsor the International Film Festival or we’re contributing to bring in a special speaker, I like that. These things help the library be at the center of the academic community.

Many people read in their free time. What does the CMU Dean of Libraries do?

I like to walk. And I know it’s such a stereotype, but I like to read. If I am reading a book on history, or whatever I am reading, I look for people that I can talk to who know all kinds of stuff about the subject. I do enjoy socializing and some of it’s job related. I am heavily involved in fundraising for the university and that interaction overlaps and builds value into our social lives.

What book are you reading right now?

I’m reading two books: a novel called “Gilead” by Marilynne Robinson. And I just started one called “The Ascent of Money” by Niall Ferguson, an historian. I usually read two or three at a time, some fiction and nonfiction.

What excites you most about being the CMU Dean of Libraries?

I think in so many respects it’s the best job at CMU because we serve everybody. We are an academic service that reaches across the campus and across the broad geography of CMU’s off-campus programs. I like knowing that we’re helping undergraduate students and graduate students, and we’re helping the faculty, supporting what’s going on in the departments and in the research programs. I think that’s pretty neat.

Tom Moore appreciates that the Park Library has increased its role in the campus community, from hosting guest speakers in the auditorium to art exhibits in the Baber Room and being among the highlights on campus tours.
His story

John Cumming brings past to the present

John Cumming comfortably sits on a fading red leather presidential chair nestled in the corner of a collection room in his Mount Pleasant home.

When Cumming started serving as the director of the Clarke Historical Library in 1961, he began with a space in Ronan Hall “half the size of this room,” he says. In over 22 years, CMU’s collection grew with rare books, original manuscripts, letters, diaries and many other unusual finds.

“When I left, it was a library, and I’m proud of that,” the since-retired Cumming says.

Cumming often searched for historical items at auctions and antique stores around the state. In a typical year, he traveled an estimated 28,000 miles chasing down leads. And he discovered some precious gems along the way.

“I used to hold my paycheck up every two weeks and say to myself, ‘What’s this for?’” Cumming says. “I was having so much fun. … I was ashamed to be paid for it.”

State 2008 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient

The 93-year-old Cumming recently received the 2008 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Historical Society of Michigan, which honors those who dedicate efforts toward the preservation and promotion of Michigan’s history.

The Clarke Historical Library was founded in 1954 through a gift from Norman E. Clarke Sr. to his alma mater. With Cumming’s help the historical library has become one of Michigan’s leading research libraries.

Frank Boles, current director of Clarke Historical Library, says Cumming took a

From the book cellar

John Cumming, a self-taught printer, holds open one of the 28 books he printed in his basement.

He says his print shop took up so much space that his wife drew a line on the basement floor so she would have enough room to do laundry.

Among the books Cumming printed there were several from the diaries of men who traveled west during the California Gold Rush.

“There was just something about printing that always fascinated me,” he recalls.

At 6, Cumming printed cards with his hand-operated printing press and in high school he printed tickets for athletic events.
personal collection of material that Clarke donated and developed it into an extensive library of material documenting Michigan and the Old Northwest Territory.

“John possesses an unerring eye for a good acquisition and a pretty good sense of when the possessor of a potential acquisition might be willing to cut a deal,” Boles explains. “The historical resources available on CMU’s campus, and really the resources available to the people of the state, are richer because of John’s years of work here.”

In addition to his work at CMU, Cumming, a former journalism teacher for Detroit Public Schools, also has a special talent for writing. He’s brought his historical perspective into many newspaper, magazine and journal articles and two books – “The First Hundred Years: A Portrait of Central Michigan University 1892-1992” and “This Place Mount Pleasant.”

Most recently, Isabella County established the John Cumming Award, of which he was the first recipient, to recognize people for work done to preserve the county’s history.

‘Celebrating 200 Years of Newspapers in Michigan’
Exhibition detailing Michigan’s vital role in the newspaper industry
• Through July 31
• Clarke Historical Library, Park Library

‘Revisit the Horizon’
Paintings that convey a sense of nature through abstractions
• Through May 12
• Baber Room, Park Library

Afghan Women’s Project
Photos and excerpts of Afghan women who withstood repression
• March 17 through April 16
• Third Floor Exhibit Area, Park Library

Central Michigan International Film Festival
Festival celebrating more than 20 domestic and international films
• March 26 through April 5
• Auditorium, Park Library; Broadway Theatre and Celebration! Cinema, Mount Pleasant
• For event information call 989-774-2694 or visit cmfilmfestival.com

‘Spoken’
Portraits and audio testimonies of survivors of sexual aggression
• April 1 through April 30
• Extended Hours Study, Park Library

Friends of the Libraries luncheon
Invitation-only event featuring keynote speaker Marie Arana, writer-at-large for the Washington Post, editor of the Washington Post’s recently discontinued Book World section, and author of books including “Lima Nights” and “American Chica”
• 11 a.m. June 6
• Auditorium, Park Library
• For information call 989-774-3500
Service ensures Michigan newspapers’ posterity

Kim Hagerty is committed to preserving Michigan’s newspapers so they are available for current and future generations to read and enjoy.

On any given day, the preservation microfilm specialist at Clarke Historical Library can microfilm up to 1,200 pages of newspapers. Preservation microfilming is important for many reasons, Hagerty explains.

“Most importantly, newsprint will deteriorate from usage where preservation microfilm is designed to last for hundreds of years,” she says. “A user copy of the film is provided for research and master copies are stored.”

User copies of each newspaper on microfilm are sent to the Library of Michigan in Lansing and the newspaper’s local library or historical society. A third copy is available in the Clarke Historical Library.

The historical library recently added two new microfilm viewers for patrons to scan the film and produce electronic and print copies of the newspapers.

In addition, the libraries recently purchased a scanner that converts roll film to electronic images. Library staff members currently are working to digitize back issues of Central Michigan Life and hope to make them available online via the Clarke Historical Library Web site. The digitizing service for other newspapers will be offered in the near future.