Stories for the children
Karen Adams’ gift leaves a legacy of literature

One of Karen Adams’ greatest loves in her life was children’s literature. Now her legacy is living on through her planned gift to University Libraries. Adams’ collection of children’s books – a staggering count of 2,158 volumes – is starting to hit the library shelves.

“It’s quite the addition,” says Pamela Grudzien, head of technical services for the library. “Right now we’re working on processing the items and putting them into the Betty McDonald Children’s Literature Collection so her books can be enjoyed by all.”

Community members forever will remember Adams, who died unexpectedly in 2009, as an inspirational and visionary leader of CMU and its education and human services programs. The College of Education and Human Services dean led the efforts behind the new Education and Human Services Building and was a vocal advocate for the value of international experiences as part of an academic education as well as one’s life education.

She also was passionate about literacy and had co-hosted “Children’s Books: The Dean’s List” with former College of Communication and Fine Arts Dean Sue Ann Martin on CMU Public Radio.

Adams’ children’s book collection was donated through her partner, Linda Ferreira. Grudzien and other staff members have started cataloging and integrating the collection into the Libraries’ resources. Some of the books – consisting of first editions, award winners and other volumes of significance – also are being appraised and integrated into Clarke Historical Library’s collection.

Tom Moore, dean of libraries, believes the donation represents Adams’ love for childhood education and is a strong representation of Adams’ life.

“We’re very grateful to have the Karen Adams collection to strengthen even more our already fine holdings of children’s books,” Moore says. “I feel sure Karen would be pleased that her love for children’s literature is being shared every day with others, especially students.”

This gift will benefit elementary education majors, as well as anyone who is looking for their favorite childhood story. •

Give a gift to educate, to remember

Gifts to the University Libraries support quality education at Central Michigan University and can serve as a valuable asset to current and future students. Many alumni and other private donors have given gifts of books, artwork and other materials to the libraries.

To learn more about giving a gift to the University Libraries:
• Visit library.cmich.edu/gift
• Call the Office of the Library Dean at 989-774-3500
Paper or electronic?

Libraries incorporating all forms of books

Frequently I’m asked about electronic books and, of course, e-book readers such as Amazon’s Kindle. The questions come from contemporaries and older friends and colleagues, never from students and young people. Sometimes such questions arrive with implied disapproval and eager glances searching for agreement. After all, I’m a librarian.

But I don’t agree. On the contrary, I think e-books are wondrous, in all their forms. They’re readily accessible to the minimally techno-hip and, with recent advances in portable readers and wireless networks, available and usable almost everywhere.

In libraries e-books are already established as reliable and useful resources. While they don’t sit on our Park Library shelves, they are no less conveniently available through the library’s computers and, even more valuably, through the office and home computers of CMU’s faculty and students in Mount Pleasant and elsewhere.

The CMU Libraries own thousands of digital books, with subscription access to multitudes more. Some we select and purchase individually; others we buy, or subscribe to, in large collections. Our Gale Reference Collection of 246 e-books – spanning a range of subjects – is used more than 5,000 times per month. The electronic edition of the “Oxford English Dictionary” is consulted frequently with little effort and great satisfaction by students and faculty.

‘Hurrah for all of them!’

While e-books clearly occupy an important place in library research, obviously they’re also rapidly finding a place in the homes and personal lives of literate and busy people who read for pleasure as well as for work. For me, the success of the Kindle and similar products is quite a happy development, not a situation warranting glum anxiety about the fate of the printed book.

The printed book is a most marvelous and durable invention. As a device for transmitting knowledge and for creating worthwhile experiences in readers, it has served remarkably well and will continue to do so. Its simplicity and convenience, aesthetic qualities, and multi-sensory appeal can never be truly replicated by technology no matter what impressive features e-books and e-readers present.

At Park Library we’re surrounded by the warm physicality of books printed on paper and by the cool utility of electronic books and resources accessible instantly. Hurrah for all of them!

In this issue of Reference Point you’ll catch views of people and developments in the CMU Libraries. The story about the recent donation of the Karen Adams collection of children’s books is especially meaningful to me since Karen was a CMU dean colleague and friend who died unexpectedly last year. Her love of books will benefit many.

Let me know if you have questions or want to learn more about topics found in this issue.

Tom Moore
Dean of Libraries
Annual luncheon is May 22

Dava Sobel, an award-winning author who explores history of science topics, is the 2010 CMU Friends of the Libraries Luncheon speaker.

The invitation-only event is scheduled for 11 a.m., Saturday, May 22, in the Park Library Auditorium.

Sobel’s writing has appeared in numerous magazines, including Harvard Magazine, Omni, Science Digest, Discover, Audubon, Life and The New Yorker. She also worked as a staff writer for the science news department at The New York Times.

Her most famous book is “Longitude,” which won the 1997 British Book of the Year Award and was made into a cable network miniseries starring Jeremy Irons. Her book “Galileo’s Daughter,” published in 1999, also was a success and was made into a NOVA television presentation.

To learn more about this annual event or how you can become a member of the CMU Friends of the Libraries, contact the Office of the Library Dean at:

- 989-774-3500
- cole1se@cmich.edu

Children’s literature class also benefits from speaker

There was more to award-winning children’s book author Shutta Crum’s recent visit to campus than her public presentation sponsored by Park Library.

Hours before discussing the art of writing books for children with more than 100 people in the Park Library Auditorium Feb. 2, Crum was in an Anspach Hall classroom sharing her insights into children’s book publishing with students enrolled in English professor Susan Stan’s “Children’s Literature” course.

“I like to hear from people who are studying children’s literature,” said Crum, who also is a retired children’s librarian.


As Crum took the students through her experiences in getting her books published, she stressed that perseverance is key in submitting and finding the right fit for their stories.

“You just have to get used to rejections,” said Crum, explaining she’s received more than 300 rejections for her manuscripts.

Megan Toarmina was one of the students in the “Children’s Literature” course who benefitted from Crum’s presentation.

“One of the things I learned was don’t give up on your dreams just because one or two people don’t like your idea,” said Toarmina, a junior from East China, Mich., who is majoring in special education.

To learn more about Crum and her work, visit www.shutta.com •

Award-winning children’s book author Shutta Crum, who lives outside of Ann Arbor, shares her writing insights with students in Susan Stan’s children’s literature class.
At their service

Libraries play distinctive roles in all students’ learning

Few, if any, students graduate from Central Michigan University without using the resources and services that the University Libraries provide.

Not that it’s an actual degree requirement that all students tap into the University Library, the Clarke Historical Library or Off-Campus Library Services during their education at CMU. Rather, however, most find they can significantly expand their learning opportunities through the books, journals, librarians, meeting rooms, learning environment and countless other onsite and online resources available through the Libraries.

Here is a look at how three students – an on-campus undergraduate, an on-campus graduate student and an off-campus graduate student in Atlanta, Ga. – have used and benefited from the University Libraries.

Park Library left the biggest impression on Bianca Fernandez when she visited campus for CMU and You Day during her final year at Berkley High School in metro Detroit.

“The library is such a fascinating place, and honestly I couldn’t wait to come here and use it as a student,” says Fernandez, who also is a multicultural advisor in Wheeler Hall and is starting her research project as a McNair Scholar.

The McNair Scholars Program aims to prepare scholars successfully for entrance into graduate school. Fernandez says she hopes to become a university professor in the area of developmental psychology.

Fernandez spends several nights each week in Park Library gathering research for a psychology class project as well as for the McNair project she is working on with psychology faculty member Mark Deskovitz. With computers to search online databases and reference librarians to help Fernandez locate the materials she needs, Park Library is her preferred location to study.

But Fernandez says there’s more than the help with research that keeps her coming back to the library.

“There’s so much happening on campus, and the library provides a great atmosphere to get away from other distractions and focus on my work,” says Fernandez, who often encourages the freshmen she advises to join her at the library. “I’m amazed at how much work I can get done here.”

On-campus undergraduate
Bianca Fernandez

Majors: Psychology and Child Development
Year: Junior
Emma Kelly had more than three decades of teaching mathematics behind her when she retired from a metro Atlanta middle school in 2007. But she had an unfinished dream to complete at CMU’s Off-Campus Programs center in Atlanta. Kelly wanted to finish the master’s program that she started several years earlier but had put on hold to focus on some health concerns.

“I always wanted a master’s degree and, even though I had retired from teaching, I was motivated by the words of my Grandma Gertrude who told me, ‘Half of anything ain’t worth nothing,’” Kelly says. “CMU wasn’t going to send me half a degree, and I was determined to finish it.”

Enrolling in the program was the right fit for Kelly, whose career included teaching middle school and high school math, as well as working as a freelance computer systems developer. Kelly says that in addition to working with great faculty members, the assistance she received from Off-Campus Library Services was key in helping her complete her graduate research.

“My research topic was to find a way to bridge the gap between middle school and high school math,” Kelly says. “CMU’s library services were great in helping me find the information and resources I needed for my topic and even made suggestions for what books and articles would be helpful.”

In her retirement Kelly serves as a mathematics tutor and volunteer teacher and also enjoys being a grandmother to her two grandsons.
Every gift adds up

Your support impacts learning at CMU

There are some donors who may not think their $100, $300 or $500 annual gifts make a difference, but they do!

Annual gifts from alumni and supporters are vital parts of the CMU Libraries’ development. Your continued annual support is essential and is needed now more than ever.

Have you ever considered taking the next step of support beyond annual gifts? Your gift giving can have benefits long after your life. A charitable gift annuity or planned gift in your will or estate would guarantee the CMU Libraries will be strengthened by your generosity and support for years into the future. An amount as small as $5,000 given to the University Libraries through a charitable gift annuity or planned gift offers valuable benefits for future CMU students when they use library collections and services.

For example, such gifts can provide for growth of our book and journal collections or for purchasing technologies perhaps unknown to us today to ensure the Libraries can serve new generations of library users.

Your donations can benefit the library area you prefer. Whether you select the general library endowment, the Clarke Historical Library, journals for a specific college or department, or choose to support the speakers and events the Libraries offer, your thoughtful gift is appreciated.

Thanks to all who already contribute to the CMU Libraries. We appreciate you!

We’d be pleased to chat with you about your interest in CMU and the University Libraries, as well as address any questions you have. Feel free to contact the Office of the Library Dean at:

• 989-774-3500
• cole1se@cmich.edu

Building bridges

Library connects CMU and Mount Pleasant communities

Park Library has established a niche in town that is bringing together members of the university and Mount Pleasant communities.

This is exactly where it needs to be, according to Dean of Libraries Tom Moore. In a recent interview he discussed the thoughts that went into the library renovation and expansion project 10 years ago.

“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,” Moore said.

And since the library project was completed in 2002, it truly has become the place where CMU students and faculty go to study and do research as well as the place that connects CMU with the broader community.

Most recently the library served as one venue for the annual Central Michigan International Film Festival, for which Park Library Auditorium was open for community members to view an assortment of films from many countries.

Other events include partnering with PBS to air a show in the series “American Experience” and hosting CMU events such as Martin Luther King Week programs.

There also are exhibits throughout the library that are open to the public. Clarke Historical Library presents exhibits featuring items from CMU collections as well as other sources. The Baber Room displays works of art to enjoy and provides community members a place to relax and study. But the library offers more than events and exhibits to those in the community.

“We have many community outreach efforts, such as the fact we are open to the public, and the public can check out books from us and get library information help from our reference desk,” says Richard Cochran, associate dean of libraries. “We oftentimes have many grade school classes and groups come in for tours and sessions in the Clarke Historical Library.”

Park Library is truly a welcoming and valuable educational resource for the university and the wider community.
Conference to address library service needs of a growing population

There are thousands if not millions of reasons the CMU Libraries are paying attention to the national trends and local numbers for off-campus learning enrollment at CMU.

According to the 2009 Sloan Survey of Online Learning, fall 2008 online enrollments were up 17 percent nationwide from a year before, with about 4.6 million students taking at least one class online.

CMU Off-Campus Programs reports that nearly 7,000 students are enrolled in CMU classes online and at more than 60 locations throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico.

To better explore issues related to delivering library resources and services to online and off-campus students and faculty, the Libraries and Off-Campus Programs again this year are co-sponsoring the biennial Off-Campus Library Services Conference.

This international event is scheduled for April 28 through 30 at the Cleveland Marriott Downtown at Key Center in Cleveland.

The conference, which began in 1982, brings together librarians, administrators and educators to discuss, demonstrate and champion the techniques and principles for providing library services to students and faculty participating in instruction either away from a main campus or online.

“This conference is focused specifically on online and distance library services,” says Timothy Peters, director of Off-Campus Library Services. “It’s an opportunity for us all to learn together, and you can always pick up some good tips on ways to help students and faculty.”

Peters says integrating library services into online classes and making online library services friendly for mobile devices are among the top issues that will be addressed at this year’s conference.

American Library Association President Camila Alire is the keynote speaker for this year’s conference. Alire is dean emerita at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, N.M., and Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colo.

To learn more about the conference, visit lib.cmich.edu/exhibits.

CMU Libraries’ exhibits and events calendar

‘Going Places in Michigan with Leonard Gas’
Exhibit documenting how a regional gasoline company played a key role in promoting state tourism in the 1950s and 1960s
- Through July 31
- Clarke Historical Library, Park Library

Transcending Boundaries: Mixed Media Fiber Art by Boisali Biswas
Contemporary designs displaying the beauty of cultural diversity
- April 6 through May 13
- Baber Room, Park Library

The Library Collage Series
A series of two-dimensional collages by Karen Gallup
- May 17 through July 15
- Baber Room, Park Library

Friends of the Libraries Annual Luncheon
Invitation-only event featuring award-winning author Dava Sobel
- 11 a.m. May 22
- Auditorium, Park Library

Selections from the Park Library’s Permanent Art Collection
- July 17 through Aug. 19
- Baber Room, Park Library

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Annual Luncheon
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Tracing family history

Class project influences Cochrans career choice

When Richard Cochran was 14 years old, he knew little about his family history and yearned to know more.

A high school class project presented Cochran the opportunity to delve deeper into his familys past, and this eventually led him to make two life-changing discoveries:

- Cochran was destined to pursue a library-related career; and
- His great-great aunt Katerina Tsielka was at the center of an event that one book has described as America’s first modern hostage crisis.

Following through on these library and genealogical passions, Cochran today is associate dean of the CMU Libraries, and he also maintains a family genealogy Web site that to date has had more than 2 million hits.

“There is absolutely no question that my looking into my family’s history led me to working in a library,” Cochran says. “I did a lot of my family research in libraries. I hung out in libraries, and I met with and talked to many librarians.”

Throughout his career Cochran has worked in libraries at higher education institutions including Otterbein College and Muskingum College in Ohio and the University of Notre Dame. Prior to coming to CMU in July 2009, he served as dean of libraries at Ferris State University.

Cochran says he felt connected to CMU years before he started working here. In addition to his wife, Jennifer, serving as director of CMU Off-Campus Programs’ M.A. in Education Program, he served with Tom Moore, dean of CMU Libraries, on several statewide library committees while working at Ferris State.

There is something very rewarding that comes with working in a library and having a role in everything it does to benefit the community it serves, Cochran says. But he explains that there are invaluable benefits that come with working at a university library.

“It’s really something to see the transformation of the students from when they first come to college to when they graduate. To a certain extent the library should take some of the credit for helping them get there,” Cochran says.

Cochran says he is excited to be here at CMU and that the Libraries are poised to continue expanding resources and improving levels of service to library users – both on campus and off campus – in key areas including online and digital resource availability.
International family crisis

Genealogical search reveals great-great hostage story

Through his genealogical search, Richard Cochran stumbled upon a family misfortune that is known as the “Lindbergh Baby” of its time. Here’s what the associate dean of CMU Libraries discovered about his family.

In 1901 his great-great aunt – a Bulgarian woman named Katerina Tsilka – and an American missionary named Ellen Stone were kidnapped and held for ransom by Macedonian revolutionaries seeking to overthrow Turkish rule.

Tsilka was five months pregnant, which triggered international outrage and became a target for sensational journalism. The incident was featured in newspapers worldwide and made the front page of over twenty New York Times issues.

The ransom demanded was $66,000 – equivalent to more than $1 million today – and it became the cause for a national fundraising drive. Thousands of people, even school children collecting their lunch pennies, donated money toward the ransom.

The women eventually were liberated, but the Turkish government targeted the Tsilka family and they soon fled to America. For the next 2½ years Tsilka, her husband and baby daughter crisscrossed the United States sharing her story on an extended speaking tour.

A 1978 letter seeking information from Tsilka’s alma mater, the Columbia Presbyterian Hospital School for Nurses, connected Cochran to the school’s retired associate dean, whose father, a Massachusetts Congregationalist minister, hosted a Tsilka lecture in 1905. The retiree vividly recalled entertaining Tsilka’s little daughter, while Cochran’s remarkable relative spoke to a packed assembly.

Visit cmich.edu/tsilka to learn more about the story of Katerina Tsilka.

Following his longtime genealogical interests, Richard Cochran discovered his interest in a library career as well as the information, documentation and photos of his family’s storied history. Cochran is associate dean of the CMU Libraries.

Genealogy tool box
Help to trace your family history

In addition to conducting your genealogical research at local libraries, such as the Clarke Historical Library, Richard Cochran says there are many online resources to help you trace your family’s history. He recommended starting with some of the following sites.

Free sites

www.cyndislist.com
A classified list of more than 270,000 Web sites relating to genealogy

www.familysearch.org
Contains a vast amount of extracted information

www.rootsweb.com
Largest free genealogy site

usagenweb.com
Information gathered by a large network of volunteers

Subscription-based sites

www.ancestry.com
Largest commercial genealogy site on the Internet

www.genealogy.com
Home to thousands of World Family Tree files
Behind the scenes

Crews mount signs on a Clarke Historical Library wall. Workers adjust accompanying artwork.

It’s crunch time for setting up the “Going Places in Michigan with Leonard Gas” exhibit.

But the atmosphere in the room doesn’t feel as though the deadline is quickly approaching. In fact, as Moreno sets up placards throughout the display cases, she calls the working environment anything but intense or stressful.

“At this point, when everything is coming into place, there isn’t much left to do except put it all together and continue to have fun with it,” says Moreno, the Libraries’ coordinator of exhibits and projects.

In addition to the Clarke, Moreno handles all the displays in the Third Floor Exhibit area, as well as installations in the Baber Room and the Extended Hours Study Room. She’s also responsible for planning many events in the library.

“I coordinate the exhibits in the library, and also help with planning the special projects that go on with those exhibits,” says Moreno. “Here in the Clarke, I help research the items that are going to be shown in the exhibit.”

Moreno, along with Clarke Director Frank Boles and artist Rebecca Zeiss, is a key member of the team behind the Clarke exhibits. With Boles’ inception of ideas and research and Zeiss’ work related to visual interpretation, Moreno focuses on written portions and items in the exhibit and helps to make the installations come to life.

“Megan’s work enriches individuals and the community to provide a greater education,” Boles says. “She helps to present a rich environment in a university setting and helps to promote our image as a center of cultural heritage.”

Moreno began working for the University Libraries in 2006 shortly before she graduated from CMU with an art major and a museum studies minor.

“It was probably pure luck that this job at the library opened up right as I graduated from college, and I have enjoyed it ever since,” Moreno says. “I couldn’t have asked for a better fit right here in Mount Pleasant. I get to put my education to use every day at my job.”

In library areas from the Clarke Historical Library to display space on Park Library’s third floor, library patrons have experienced and been impressed by some captivating exhibits in recent years. And Megan Moreno has had her hand in all of them.
Remembering an oil industry pioneer

A local success paved way for budding tourism industry

“Pure Michigan” was the latest of many campaigns that have focused on Michigan’s best attractions to boost state tourism and its economy. But who pioneered such a concept?

The Clarke Historical Library’s current exhibit introduces and celebrates the local company that first came up with the idea more than 50 years ago.


Though Leonard Refineries is not a household name today, it was one of the first gasoline companies in Michigan to focus its advertising campaign by reaching out to a related industry: tourism.

In 1956, before other gasoline companies explored the idea of selling gas by selling travel, Mount Pleasant resident and company founder, J. Walter Leonard, decided to distinguish his company by launching the “Going Places in Michigan” campaign.

“It was really one of the pioneering travel campaigns in the nation. No gasoline company had focused on travel this explicitly,” says Frank Boles, director of the Clarke Historical Library.

In 1956, before other gasoline companies explored the idea of selling gas by selling travel, Mount Pleasant resident and company founder, J. Walter Leonard, decided to distinguish his company by launching the “Going Places in Michigan” campaign.

“It was really one of the pioneering travel campaigns in the nation. No gasoline company had focused on travel this explicitly,” says Frank Boles, director of the Clarke Historical Library.

Until the company was sold in 1970, Michigan tourism and Leonard gasoline were synonymous. In addition to hunting and fishing, Leonard’s advertising campaign featured scenic drives, historical sites and a wide range of special events from rodeos to golf tournaments.

The keystone to the campaign was a television show, “Michigan Outdoors.” The show became a statewide hit at 7 p.m. Thursdays when nearly one and one-half million Michiganders regularly tuned in to watch the host, Mort Neff, cover outdoor activities and interview guests.

“Everyone watched Mort Neff,” Boles says. “If you were a kid in the 1950s into the early 1970s, you likely still remember the show and Mort Neff.”

J. Walter Leonard ushered in a new era of advertising and paved the way for related campaigns – such as “Pure Michigan” – to be successful. Though the company eventually merged and the new owners ended the advertising campaign, the Clarke exhibit captures a success story of a local pioneer who transformed an industry nationwide. •

‘Going Places in Michigan with Leonard Gas’

• Through August 2010
• 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at Clarke Historical Library
• clarke.cmich.edu
Celebrating CMU faculty and staff publication efforts

One student found a way to gratify Amy Ransom last semester during a course the assistant professor of French was teaching about Quebec literature and culture.

In her class PowerPoint presentation the student referenced “Science Fiction from Quebec: A Postcolonial Study,” a book Ransom wrote that was published in 2009.

“It was a great moment because, of the books she could have chosen, she chose mine,” Ransom says. “This was a great experience because the students have the opportunity to see your work as a researcher beyond the classroom.”

“Science Fiction from Quebec” is Ransom’s second book, but it will be her first featured at Park Library’s Annual Book Recognition event. The sixth annual event is scheduled for 3:30 to 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 21, in the Park Library Baber Room.

The event recognizes faculty, staff and emeriti who authored, co-authored, edited, illustrated or translated a book published in 2009. There will be 29 people honored at this year’s event.

“I am thrilled that the colleagues I go to meetings with throughout the year will have the chance to see my published work,” Ransom says.

While Ransom is one of the 13 authors who will be recognized at the event for the first time, others such as philosophy professor John Wright are among those featured in past events.

Wright’s book “Hume’s ‘A Treatise of Human Nature’: An Introduction” will be his third piece recognized. Two of his other books were honored at the inaugural event in 2005, which included publications that were printed between 2000 and 2004.

“I have always found that the CMU book recognition event has given me the opportunity to learn about the excellent books that are produced by faculty in many different departments throughout the university,” Wright says.

“Hume’s ‘A Treatise of Human Nature’: An Introduction” is a book that Wright wrote during the time he also was serving as a visiting professor in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland.

John Wright’s recent book is among those that will be honored at CMU Libraries’ annual book recognition event April 21.