Although the Dow Chemical of Midland is well known, the Clarke exhibit opening in February will tell the story of Dow’s facilities in Mt. Pleasant. What brought Dow to Mt. Pleasant was brine. Brine is water trapped underground that is mixed with various salts. At the beginning of the twentieth century, Dow had ten brine wells operating in Midland County. Bromine was extracted from the brine and turned into bromide, which unlike pure bromine is easily shipped and used. Bromide, mixed with other chemicals, is a versatile chemical that was eventually found in a wide variety of applications, including use as a sedative, a fire retardant, a gasoline additive, in pesticides, as part of the process through which chemical photographs were developed, and even, as brominated vegetable oil, in the original formula for Mountain Dew. Although many of the original uses for bromides have today been superceded by other chemicals for safety and environmental reasons, in the first years of the twentieth century bromide use was rapidly expanding.

To meet this expansion, Dow needed more brine than was available in Midland. Thus, in 1903, Dow drilled brine wells and built a bromide plant in Mt. Pleasant. By early 1904, bromide was being shipped from Mt. Pleasant to Midland.

In 1907, chemical operations in Mt. Pleasant expanded when Dow began to sell waste brine, which formerly had been dumped into the Chippewa River, to Robert Van Schaack. Van Schaack built a new “calcium” plant adjoining Dow’s, where calcium chloride and sodium chloride (common table salt) were extracted from the brine. Calcium chloride, like bromide, has wide applications, ranging from serving as a desiccant, to a de-icer, to a firming agent in food such as tofu, or as an electrolyte in sports drinks. The Calcium plant operated until approximately 1918.

In the mid to late 1920s, Dow seemed about to expand operations in Mt. Pleasant. A huge increase in the demand for bromide, spurred in part by “ethyl” gasoline, which required bromide in its creation, led to the belief that 100 new brine wells might be drilled in Isabella County. Anticipating the wells, major new equipment was installed in the Dow Mt. Pleasant plant in 1929. Despite this, in 1930, the doors of the Mt. Pleasant plant were closed.

In addition to documenting the history of Dow in Mt. Pleasant, the exhibit also celebrates the accomplishments of the American Chemical Society’s Midland chapter, which was organized in 1919, with the support of...
Drilling for Brine
Continued from Page 1

of H.H. Dow. The chapter has not only promoted the growth of science in mid-Michigan but has also served as an important catalyst for promoting innovative education about the chemical sciences in schools and among the general public.

Dr. Robert Kohrman, who curated the exhibit, spent a 38 year career at Central Michigan University, serving as a member of the Chemistry Department faculty, chair of the Chemistry Department, Dean of the College of Science and Technology, and Interim University Provost. He has published 22 journal articles and presented at more than 30 conferences. In addition Dr. Kohrman is an active member of the American Chemical Society’s Midland Section and is a past chair of that organization. Dr. Kohrman holds degrees from a number of institutions including a doctorate in Organic Chemistry from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Visit the library to see “Drilling for Brine: The Dow Chemical Plant in Mount Pleasant 1903 – 1930,” and join us for a presentation on the subject by Dr. Robert Kohrman on March 13.

Two New Endowments Created

During 2012 two new endowments were created to benefit the Clarke Library.

Eunice Sutherland Burgess established the David M. and Eunice Sutherland Burgess Endowment. The endowment will enable the library to annually bring to campus authors, scholars, or storytellers focusing on the enduring art of story, including storytelling. The hope is that through this endowment, CMU students, faculty, staff and community members will gain insight and enjoyment from the opportunity to engage with experts on the important role of story, primarily in children’s literature. Betsy Hearne presented the inaugural lecture in this series. Professor Hearne’s presentation can be read at www.clarke.cmich.edu/past_presentations.html.

Retired CMU English Professor Christa Kamenetsky established the Ihor and Christa Kamenetsky Library Endowment. The endowment will support the acquisition of new material for the Lucile Clarke Memorial Children’s Library, itself a gift of the late Dr. Norman Clarke, Sr. given in memory of his wife. The Kamenetsky endowment will have a special focus on building the collection’s historical and international children’s literature resources.

We are deeply indebted to the founders of these two endowments and are extremely grateful for the support the endowments will give to the Clarke Library’s ever growing collection of material and our efforts to bring interesting and informative speakers to campus.
The library will sponsor four presentations during the spring semester. Each presentation will begin at 7:00 pm in the Park Library Auditorium and will be followed by a reception in the Clarke Library. All are open to the public without charge.

Individuals in need of an accommodation should contact the Library at Clarke@cmich.edu or by phone 989.774.3352.

**Wednesday, March 13**

Dr. Robert Kohrman will discuss his research, which made possible the Library’s spring exhibit, “Drilling for Brine: The Dow Chemical Plant in Mount Pleasant 1903 – 1930.”

Dr. Robert Kohrman, spent a 38 year career at Central Michigan University, serving as a member of the Chemistry Department faculty, chair of the Chemistry Department, Dean of the College of Science and Technology, and Interim University Provost. In addition, Dr. Kohrman is an active member of the American Chemical Society’s Midland Section and is a past chair of that organization.

In 1947, Vandenberg became chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. In that position, he cooperated with the Truman administration in forging bipartisan support for the Truman Doctrine, the Marshall Plan, and NATO—the first mutual defense treaty that the United States had entered since its alliance with France during the American Revolution. Vandenberg began fading from the Washington scene in 1949, as he struggled with cancer. Vandenberg died at his Grand Rapids home on April 19, 1951.

The heart and soul of the production lies with Hank Meijer, the CEO and co-chairman of Meijer, Inc. For the past 15 years, Meijer has been writing a biography of Vandenberg in his spare time. It is a project he began after publishing a biography of his grandfather, Hendrik Meijer. “Hank Meijer knows more about Arthur Vandenberg than any living person,” says Mike Grass, the film’s producer.

**Monday, March 25**

A video documentary about the life of U.S. Senator Arthur Vandenberg will be followed by a panel discussion with Mike Grass, the film’s producer, and his principal historical consultants Hank Meijer and Gleaves Whitney.

Born and raised in Grand Rapids, in 1928, Vandenberg left his job as editor and publisher of the *Grand Rapids Herald* when he was appointed to a vacant seat in the U.S. Senate.

During the 1930s, Vandenberg became a leading proponent of isolationism, determined to keep the United States out of another world war. But the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor ended his isolationism. During the Second World War, he grappled with the potential international role for the United States. On January 10, 1945, he delivered his most memorable speech in the Senate, “the speech heard round the world,” confessing that prewar isolationism was the wrong course, calling on America to assume the responsibilities of world leadership, and endorsing the creation of the United Nations.

**Wednesday, April 3**

Award-winning author Gloria Whelan, who has written more than 50 books in her career, will reflect on her experience as an author, as well as discuss her most recent publication project in a presentation entitled “Two Ways of Writing.” She will reflect on her writing for young readers as well as writing for adults.

Of her career as an author, Ms. Whelan has written, “I began making up stories before I could write. I would tell a story to my baby sitter and she would type it out. When I got to elementary school I began writing poetry. In high school I edited the school paper. I never

*Continued on Page 4*
stopped writing. I think all the books I read when I was young had a lot to do with my writing.”

She has described her typical day this way, “After breakfast, I’m at my computer or writing in my secret garden. I usually work until noon when it’s time to explore the frig. After lunch I’m out walking along Lake St. Clair. That’s when I solve any problems that have come up that day in my writing. I’m also thinking about what I’ll be writing next. Getting a story down for the first time is the hardest part because you have to make up everything: the weather, the people, their clothes and the food they eat. Revision is my favorite part. It’s when you get to make the story more and more like the story as you imagined it.”

Available for purchase at the presentation will be Ms. Whelan’s newest book, Living Together: Short Stories and a Novella, which will be released by Wayne State University Press in March. This presentation is made possible in part by the John and Audrey Cumming Endowment.

**Wednesday, April 10**

Producer Dr. David Schock will premiere his documentary film about a Native American unit in the Civil War, Company K, First Michigan Sharpshooters. The Unit was made up largely of Native Americans from Michigan’s Little Traverse Bay. The video will be followed by discussion with Dr. Schock.

In May 2010, a group of Native Americans from southwestern Michigan travelled to the site of the infamous Confederate prison at Andersonville, Georgia, to perform traditional burial ceremonies for seven of their own who died there while prisoners. David Schock travelled with the group, and throughout the trip chronicled both the meaning of the ceremonies for those who performed them and the story of the 139 Anishinabe who served in Company K. In addition to those who made this journey, the film includes the commentary of two leading scholars who have written about Company K and the First Michigan Sharpshooters, Ray Herek, whose book, These Men Have Seen Hard Service, documents the history of the First Michigan Sharpshooters and Chris Czopek, author of, Who Was Who in Company K.

This presentation is made possible, in part, by a grant from the Michigan Humanities Council, which funded the completion of the film through a grant to the Clarke Library.

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**Library Begins National Digital Newspaper Project**

Continuing the library’s long tradition of preserving and making available for use newspapers published in Michigan, in August, the National Endowment for the Humanities awarded the library a $274,000 grant to participate in a nationwide project to digitize America’s historic newspapers. Coordinated by the Library of Congress, the National Digital Newspaper Project (NDNP) will make available online sample newspapers from all fifty states on a website maintained by the Library of Congress. The Clarke Library staff was extremely pleased to be selected to coordinate NDNP activity within Michigan. The first Michigan newspapers will appear in Chronicling America, the newspaper website of the Library of Congress, this summer (http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/).

As a result of this project the Library is also pleased to announce that Angelo Moreno has joined the Library staff for the life of the project. Mr. Moreno will assume responsibilities for microfilming and digitizing for library staff temporarily devoting their time to NDNP.
CMU Archives Online

For many years, the Clarke Historical Library staff has been working to digitize documents relevant to the study of Central Michigan University history. Pat Thelen and her student assistants have digitized a wide variety of paper-based resources, including the Board of Trustee minutes (1964-99), the entire run of Chipewa yearbooks (1910-2003), and historical materials from the Student Government Association (2003-09) and made them freely available to anyone in the world via the CMU Online Digital Object Repository (CONDOR) website. We are always adding to these resources. Currently, we are in the process of digitizing each Bulletin, including those issued for undergraduates, graduate students, and CMU’s Global Campus. Currently, Undergraduate Bulletins from 1963 to 2011 can be accessed via CONDOR.

Among these digital records is a major resource for studying Central’s history - the CMU student newspaper. We are happy to announce that we have recently completed the digitization of the entire run of Central Michigan Life (and its previous incarnations - Central State Life and Central Normal Life). All of the issues from 1919 until 1999 are now available on the CM Life page of the CONDOR website. For over two years, our Preservation Microfilming unit, led by Kim Hagerty, has digitally scanned the microfilm of CM Life, cleaned up the images, used computer software that “reads” the text, attributed identifying information to the files, and finally uploaded the completed issues to CONDOR.

The result is a fully searchable collection of 80 years of newspapers chronicling the major and minor events in Central’s history. There are first-hand accounts of the fire that burned the Old Main building and CMU’s Division II National Championship in football, which led to the decision to seek Division I status.

To use these resources visit CONDOR at http://condor.cmich.edu/

Thanks to Our Donors!

During 2012 the Library benefited from the gifts of many individuals. Thanks to all those who are listed below (an * denotes a memorial gift):

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Every year the library publishes the list of the individuals whose generosity benefitted the library. Every year as I read through the list I am reminded of old acquaintances and new friends. Material that sometimes money literally cannot buy walks through the door in the arms of a generous person who is donating it to the library, and through us for the use of the public.

Those gifts are many and varied. Some examples include:

- Letters about northern Michigan that came to the library as a result of last year's International Hemingway Conference in Petoskey.
- Information about Clare County assembled as part of one person's life-long interest in the county's history and development.
- Thirty-nine vintage Detroit Tiger yearbooks that recall another era in the Motor City.
- Wonderful material about the history of Central Michigan University itself, added to the University Archives.

The gifts the library has received goes on, literally, for pages in our accession book.

Of course there are some things, money can buy, and I am equally grateful to those who help us do so. Every year there are a few extraordinary gifts, endowments that help us in ongoing activities. Elsewhere in the newsletter we have acknowledged two such gifts, from Eunice A. Burgess and Christa Kamenetsky. Each year an interesting presentation will be supported by one endowment, and each year new books will be added to our children's collection through the other endowment.

Beyond endowments, outside funds help support a wide range of library activities. Acquisitions almost always benefit from supplemental funds made available to us through gifts. This year, the purchase of new presidential campaign biographies to add to our ongoing collection of that material, as well as a few new campaign pieces relating to Lewis Cass, the only 19th century Michigan politician to be nominated by a major party for the presidency, was helped by your giving. Outside funds also help support an active speakers program.

And some of that outside money helps fund student employees. Much of what we accomplish is made possible by the work of our student employees, and some of what they do is made possible through your generosity. Helping students help us is a true win-win situation. The library gains invaluable enthusiasm and assistance. And the students, working their way through college, earn some of the money they need to pay their bills while gaining valuable experience.

Thank you, each of you, for your concern about the library, your generosity towards the institution, and your help in making the Clarke better able to serve both the Central Michigan University community and the public generally. I have written it before, and likely I will write it again – we could not do what we do without you.

Frank Boles
The CMU Friends of the Libraries is a membership organization that supports, through financial and other gifts, the programs of the Charles V. Park Library, home to the University Library, the Clarke Historical Library, and Off-Campus Library Services.

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