The Friends of the Alexander M. Bracken Library

Ball State University Libraries

2006-2007

BALL STATE UNIVERSITY®

ALEXANDER M. BRACKEN LIBRARY

Dear Friends of Bracken Library:

The 30th year of the Friends of the Alexander M. Bracken Library was another successful one. Membership in the Friends continues to be over 2,600 from across the nation and many other countries. Donations by the Friends to existing Foundation accounts supporting the University Libraries during 2006 totaled more than $34,000. That amount is a 36 percent increase over donations to the same accounts last year. Most of the increase was in contributions directly to the Friends account.

In addition to those funds, two new Foundation accounts for the University Libraries were established through generous donations. Dr. Arthur W. Hafner, dean of University Libraries, announced that the Murray M. and Edith C. Wise Library Fund was established with an outright gift of $31,671 from the estate of Edith Croft Wise to provide support for the greatest current needs of the University Libraries.

Mrs. C. Suzette Ditsky, wife of the late renowned John Steinbeck scholar, Mr. John M. Ditsky, gave a generous donation to establish the Steinbeck Research Fund in honor of her late husband. The fund will support research in the Steinbeck Collection of the University Libraries' Archives and Special Collections.

As well as these generous financial gifts, Friends helped strengthen the collections of the University Libraries for teaching, learning, and research by donating books, DVDs, journals, and other materials. We are grateful to all of our Friends for their continuing contributions and support.

In the following pages, you will find reports on the activities and successes of the Friends and the University Libraries over the past year. I invite you to visit the Friends' Web site at **www.bsu.edu/library/collections/fambl** throughout the coming year to keep up on the programs and services of the Friends and the University Libraries. In addition, the University Libraries' online monthly newsletter, *The Library Insider*, provides up-to-date information about the University Libraries and often includes articles on the Friends. You can find it on the Web at **www.bsu.edu/library/virtualpress/libinsider.**

As always, I invite your comments and suggestions. You can contact me at **JStraw@bsu.edu** or by telephone at (765) 285-5078. And you are always welcome to stop by Bracken Library to visit.

Sincerely,

John B. Straw
Executive Secretary

View an online version of this newsletter at:
www.bsu.edu/library/collections/fambl/newsletter

Friends Contribute Funds to Support University Libraries

The following supporters made contributions of $100 or more:

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Abrell
Mr. and Mrs. Francis Arthur
Mr. and Mrs. David Bahlmann
Dr. and Mrs. W. Philip Ball
Mrs. Pat Barnett
Dr. and Mrs. John Beekman
Mrs. Sue Bennett
Miss Karen Blinn
Dr. and Mrs. Otis Bowen
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bracken
Ms. Christina Brynski
Dr. and Mrs. Richard Burkhardt
Ms. Diane Calvin
Mr. John Carmichael, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Carter
Dr. Richard Danner
Ms. C. Suzette Ditsky
Dr. E. Ruth Dunning
Mr. and Mrs. Beatrice Emens Wolper and J. Richard Emens
Mr. Robert Emerson
Mr. and Mrs. John Fisher
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Flowers
Mr. Mark Fowler
Ms. Victoria Fox
Mrs. Donna Gentry
Mrs. Mary Graham
Mr. Edward Guindon
Dr. Robert Habich and Mrs. Brenda Yates Habich
Dr. and Mrs. Arthur W. Hafner
Dr. Charles Hampel
Mrs. Wilma Hartzell
Dr. Tetsumaro Hayashi
Ms. Diane Hill
Ms. Shirley Hipsher
Ms. Teresa Holt-Sleman
Mr. Gregory Huffman
Mrs. Donna Huffman
Mr. Michael Humnicky
Mrs. Gertrude Kane
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kersey
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Koor
Dr. John Koumoulides
Dr. and Mrs. William LaFollette
Mr. Philip Lahr
Mr. and Mrs. Don Lanning
Dr. and Mrs. Victor Lawhead
Mrs. Alma Lescak
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Lesh
Dr. and Mrs. John Lewellen
Dr. and Mrs. B. Thomas Lowe
Dr. and Mrs. Michael Maggiotto
Ms. Linda Caldwell McCleary
Mrs. Betty McMichael
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Mertens
Mr. and Mrs. Hank Milius
Mr. and Mrs. Jon Moll
Mrs. Bonnie Mong
Dr. Lloyd Nelson
Dr. and Mrs. John J Pruis
Mr. John Rhoades
Mrs. Marsha Riggs
Ms. Sharon Roberts
Ms. Terri Rojahn
Mrs. Jessie Mae Sanderson
Dr. Thomas Sargent
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Schnuck
Dr. Emerita Schulte
Mr. Mark and Dr. Anastasia Smith
Dr. Edward Strother
Dr. Peggy Sullivan
Dr. and Mrs. Ray Suput
Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey Tremont
Dr. Mary Ellen Van Camp
Dr. and Mrs. C. Warren Vander Hill
Mrs. Rosamond Wetmore
Mr. J. Frederic Wiese and Mrs. Elizabeth Bracken Wiese
Dr. Sherman Yao and Ms. Tsan-Ru Lee
Mrs. Marjorie Zeigler
Mrs. Carol Zuck

Board of Governors Recognized for Service

The Board of Governors for the Friends of the Alexander M. Bracken Library are a group of dedicated supporters of the University Libraries who give of their time and talents to help establish goals and coordinate functions of the Friends.

Five Board members completed their terms of service in April:

Dr. Jayne Beilke
Mr. Larry Campbell
Mrs. Nancy Carlson
Ms. Gretchen Cheesman
Mrs. Dorothy Danner

Five new members began three-year terms on the Board in April:

Mrs. Marilyn Carey
Dr. Carol Flores
Mr. Hank Milius
Dr. Thomas Spotts
Mrs. Marianne Vorhees

Gifts Build Collections for Teaching, Learning, and Research

In addition to providing financial support, Friends helped strengthen the collections of the University Libraries through gifts-in-kind, such as the following:

Lindsay Bacurin gave 439 digital images and M. C. Nihal Perera donated 257 digital images of the College of Architecture and Planning's 2005 Asia study tour.

Martha Barlow donated records of the Muncie chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons.

The University Libraries received 632 books, primarily on world history, science fiction, religion, and foreign languages from the estate of Lawrence Birken.

Dr. and Mrs. Richard Burkhardt donated 16 books, 99 issues of *Horizon*, and a 6-volume set of *American Heritage*.

Betty Freeman donated the records of the Philomathean Club.

Elizabeth Hague gave 462 pieces of sheet music.

Joseph M. Olah donated a 10" x 8" pastel of Bracken Library that he painted in 1977.

Darrell and Ottavia Heppner presented a collection of 46 historic baby books.

Stephen Johnson deposited the Middletown Area Survey Collection including surveys from 1978 to 2004 and accompanying data sets.

Aileen M. Lightfoot donated the papers of her late father, renowned John Steinbeck scholar Roy Simmonds.

Martin Limbird arranged for the donation of the records of Rotary District 6560.

James McElhinney gave 343 books and periodical issues on higher education.

David Pearson and the Ball State student chapter of the National Strength and Conditioning Association donated a collection of *Physical Culture* magazines from 1914 to 1940.

Charles Sappenfield presented the University Libraries with 62 books on architecture, design, art, history, travel, and literature.

Martin Schwartz donated the papers of his late wife, Helen Schwartz.

Dr. C. Warren Vander Hill was instrumental in acquiring local United Auto Workers materials from Charlie Anderson, Doug Owenby, Mike Jones, and other donors.

Student Assistants Honored

The Friends of Bracken Library Student Recognition Award recognizes library student assistants who have made significant achievements both in academics and in their work for the University Libraries. Applicants are required to have at least a 3.0 grade point average and to have completed three semesters of employment for and be currently employed by the University Libraries. This year three outstanding students were: selected to receive certificates and checks for $100:

From left to right, Amanda Ashton, Stacy Sowder, and Holli Botset

Amanda B. Ashton has worked for the Science-Health Science Library since February 2005. She is a senior in chemistry with a 3.061 grade point average.

Holli R. Botset has been a student assistant in Educational Resources since January 2005. She is a senior majoring in special education and maintains a 3.222 grade point average.

Stacy L. Sowder began working at Bracken Library's Main Circulation desk in June 2005. She is a senior telecommunications major with a 3.105 grade point average.

Friends' Programs Highlight Mental Health, Signers of the Declaration, Labor Unions, and Victorian Muncie

In October, the Friends sponsored "Celebrating 30 Years of Renewing Lives: A History of Community Mental Health through CMHS and Meridian Services" by Ms. Suzanne Gresham, Mr. Al Rent, and Mr. Hank Milius. The program was in conjunction with the opening of the Meridian Services archives that were donated to the University Libraries.

Mr. Tom Schnuck presented "Founding Fathers and Signers of the Declaration of Independence" in November. Schnuck shared some of his outstanding collection of documents signed by the founders of our nation.

In December, the Friends celebrated the opening of the Muncie Labor Archives with a program, co-sponsored by the Center for Middletown Studies, on "Organized Labor in Muncie: An Oral History." Director of the Center for Middletown Studies Dr. Jim Connolly, former Ball State provost Dr. C. Warren Vander Hill, and former Indiana State Legislator Mr. Hurley Goodall spoke about their experiences in conducting oral history interviews with labor union leaders from Muncie.

In February, the Friends sponsored, again with the Center for Middletown Studies, a well-attended program on "Before Middletown: Using Historical Archaeology to View Victorian Muncie." Ms. Christina Blanch from the Ball State Department of Anthropology presented the results of her work on the archaeological dig at the Moore-Youse house in Muncie.

Friends Hear Digital Voices of the Past at Annual Dinner

Seventy-five Friends of the Alexander M. Bracken Library attended the annual dinner at the Alumni Center on the evening of March 28 where they heard about the Middletown Digital Oral History Collection being made available in the Ball State University Digital Media Repository, a project of the University Libraries.

At the 2000 annual meeting of the Friends, then-Provost and President of the Board of Governors Dr. C. Warren Vander Hill announced that "future presentations to the Friends Annual Dinner shall be known as the Kirkham Lecture to recognize Dr. E. Bruce Kirkham's twenty-five years of service as the founding executive secretary of the Friends of Bracken Library."

From left to right, Mr. Hurley Goodall, Dr. C. Warren Vander Hill, and Dr. John Weakland

Following dinner and a brief business meeting, Vander Hill, provost and vice president for academic affairs emeritus, Mr. Hurley Goodall, former Indiana state legislator; and Dr. John Weakland, professor emeritus of history, presented this year's Kirkam Lecture. They shared their experiences in conducting oral history interviews that have now been made available in digital format for global access through the Internet.

Dr. Vander Hill moderated the program. In his remarks, he compared the two Middletown Jewish Oral History projects that he conducted under the sponsorship of Mr. Martin Schwartz in 1978-79 and 2002-03. The two projects generated a total of 45 interviews.

Mr. Goodall spoke passionately about an early experience of not being able to tell young people about the history of his own race and how that motivated him to get involved with documenting the African American experience through oral history interviews and other projects. He related how much he appreciated the work that Ball State University and the University Libraries have undertaken to collect and preserve local African American history.

Dr. Weakland described the process that he and other volunteers followed in conducting recent oral history interviews with the members of the St. Francis of Assisi, St. Mary, and St. Lawrence parishes as part of the local Catholic Churches Oral History Project. The project has resulted in 30 interviews from the three parishes so far and more are planned.

Following each speaker's remarks, a sample audio clip was played of an interview from the collection discussed by the presenter. The audience was able to follow along with the verbal remarks by seeing the accompanying transcription displayed on an overhead screen.

Prior to the speakers' presentations, Mr. John Straw, director for archives and special collections, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Middletown Digital Oral History Collection project that was funded by a $25,125 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) digitization grant. Searchable audio and transcripts are now available for all the interviews in the Ball State University Digital Media Repository at **http://libx.bsu.edu**. This was the second consecutive LSTA grant that the University Libraries received.

Friends enjoy meeting at the Annual Dinner, March 28, 2007