

The Friends of the Alexander M. Bracken Library



Ball State University Libraries

2005-2006

Dear Friends of Bracken Library:

I am pleased to report that the Friends had another productive year in 2005–06. Membership in the Friends is now over 2,700 people who reside in most of the 50 states and 40 other countries. Donations by the Friends to foundation accounts supporting the University Libraries during 2005 totaled almost \$25,000.

In addition, 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.

You will find a new item in your mailing this time. We have prepared a brochure promoting the Friends and ways to give to the University Libraries. You may still use the enclosed envelope for donating to the Friends account. As noted in the brochure, anyone who gives to any of the funds or donates any materials to the University Libraries is eligible to be a Friend.

In addition to giving directly to the Friends account or any of the other funds supporting the University Libraries, a new program called "Tribute with Books" is being initiated to allow you to honor a special person or celebrate an occasion through your donations. More information about this program can be found in the accompanying brochure or by visiting the University Libraries Web site at www.bsu.edu/library and selecting "Giving to the Libraries."



Friends enjoy the annual dinner and meeting.

The value of Friends to the University Libraries was highlighted this year when I was asked to contribute an article about the organization and its history to *Indiana Libraries*, the journal of the Indiana Library Federation and the Indiana State Library. "Friends Make A Difference" was published in September 2006 in Vol. 25, No. 3, of the journal. Friends who would like to see a copy can contact me.

The Friends have many exciting programs and other activities planned for next year. I invite you to visit the Friends Web site at www.bsu.edu/library/collections/fambl for more information. Dean Häfner and I look forward to working with the Board of Governors to explore new opportunities for the coming year. We hope you will all join us throughout the year and support the efforts of the Friends to strengthen the collections and services of the University Libraries.

Sincerely,

John B. Straw Executive Secretary

In B. Straw

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. William Bock Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bracken Mrs. Margaret Bumb

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Dr. Emerita Schulte Dr. Michael Seretny Ms. Lori Smith

Dr. and Mrs. Ray Suput

Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey Tremont

Mr. Clyde Watkins

Mr. J. Frederic Wiese, Jr. and Mrs. Elizabeth Bracken Wiese

Mrs. Marjorie Zeigler

Friends Sponsor Programs and Events

The Friends sponsored four entertaining and informative programs that attracted members from the university and local community this past year.

In October, Wayne A. Wiegand, professor of library and information studies and professor of American studies at Florida State University, presented "Books on Trial: Witch Hunt in the Heartland and a Nation's Response." The program, which was co-sponsored by the Center for Middletown Studies, described the confiscation of the entire contents of a bookstore in Oklahoma City in 1940 and the subsequent trials and convictions of the proprietors. Wiegand's visit to Ball State was funded by the "What Middletown Read" Enhanced Provost Initiative grant.

Newspaper feature writer and humor columnist John Carlson entertained a sizable audience of university and local people in November with his humorous look at "My Niche in the Newspaper Business." The program included readings from his book *Individually Wrapped*.

Bracken Delivers Kirkham Lecture

At the 2000 annual meeting of the Friends, then-Provost and President of the Board of Governors C. Warren Vander Hill announced, "future presentations to the Friends Annual Dinner shall be known as the Kirkham Lecture to recognize E. Bruce Kirkham's 25 years of service as the founding executive secretary of the Friends of Bracken Library."

This year, 66 Friends attended the annual dinner on March 30 to hear Frank Bracken deliver the Kirkham Lecture on "Civil War Battlefield Preservation." Ball State University President Jo Ann M. Gora introduced Bracken. Near the end of the presentation, Bracken gave President Gora's husband, Roy Budd, a replica of a red shirt that would have been worn by Budd's ancestor General A.P. Hill, the last Confederate general killed in the U.S. Civil War. During the reception prior to the dinner, attendees enjoyed seeing several Civil War artifacts that belonged to Bracken's relatives who fought in the war.

Bracken's talk was videotaped and can be seen at www.bsu.edu/library/collections/fambl/kirkham.



President Gora speaks with Frank Bracken at the annual Friends of Bracken Library Dinner.

On May 23, 2006, the Friends welcomed to campus noted Steinbeck scholar and Ball State alumnus Stephen George, co-editor of the new *Steinbeck Review*. George was recognized for a significant Steinbeck donation that he presented to the University Libraries. A program sponsored by the Friends was held in the Archives and Special Collections Research Center, followed by a luncheon at the Alumni Center. During the luncheon, Tetsumaro Hayashi, professor emeritus of English at Ball State and noted Steinbeck scholar, presented George with the John J and Angeline R. Pruis Award for the Outstanding Steinbeck Educator and Leader for 2006–07.

On June 1, 2006, members of the Middletown Arts Project presented scenes of Madge Dishman's play *Shedtown* in the lobby of Bracken Library. The program, which was part of the Bracken Matinee Musicale series, was sponsored by the Friends of Bracken Library.

Gifts Strengthen Collection

In addition to providing financial support, Friends helped strengthen the collections of the University Libraries through gifts-in-kind. The following examples illustrate their generosity and support.

Otis Bowen gave his papers related to his tenure as United States Secretary of Health under President Ronald Reagan, as well as materials from his terms as Governor of Indiana and from his political campaigns.

Martin and Helen Schwartz donated a three-volume boxed set of Leslie Stephen's *Hours in a Library*; a Norton facsimile of the *First Folio of Shakespeare*; additions to the Schwartz Papers; and 1,156 books and periodicals on Jewish history and culture, world and U.S. history, politics, the arts, and other subjects. With the support of the Martin and Helen Schwartz Fund, Archives and Special Collections acquired the Folio Society facsimile of the *Lutrell Psalter*, a rare 1743 copy of *Orthopaedia, or the Art of Correcting and Preventing Deformities in Children*, and the 1766 edition of Tobias Smollett's *Travels Through France and Italy*.

Stephen George presented the University Libraries with a collection of original materials related to author John Steinbeck, including a painting of Steinbeck and letters from noted authors and scholars such as Arthur Miller, Gore Vidal, John Updike, Studs Terkel, and Tom Wolfe.

Ned Griner donated several local history items including a unique satin edition of an 1895 issue of *The Muncie Times*, Muncie Exploring Club minutes from 1886, unpublished memoirs of S. H. Hartley, and a diary of Tom Ryan.

C. Warren Vander Hill obtained the records of United Auto Workers Local 499 and placed them in the Archives and Special Collections Research Center.

Betty Freeman gave Farmington and Farmington Meadows records and the Freeman Family Papers.

Donors to the C. William Barnett Fund helped to purchase a 1919 printing form for an issue of *The Muncie Morning Star* newspaper and an 1838 Delaware County land deed.

Heather Shupp donated 89 books on art, travel, architecture, literature, and history.

Carol Flores provided 184 architecture slides to the University Libraries for digitization.

Joseph Scagnoli presented the University Libraries with 330 books and pamphlets, 103 periodicals, and 14 CDs on music, university marching bands, and musical instruction.

William Cyrus Reed donated 385 books and periodicals on politics, culture, literature, and Africa.

Student Assistants Receive Recognition Awards

In 1995, the Friends established awards to recognize library student assistants who have made significant achievements both in academics and in their work at the University Libraries. The 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 four outstanding students were selected to receive certificates and checks for \$100.



Lindsay Bacurin has worked in the Architecture Library's Visual Resources Center since August 2002. She is a Landscape Architecture major with a 3.75 gpa.



Amanda Pollard has worked in Circulation and Periodicals/Reserve/Microforms since August 2004. She is an Undergraduate Fellow studying both English Literature and Spanish and maintains a 3.8 gpa.



Jeffrey Rukes has been employed as a student assistant in the Educational Resources Center since January 2004. He is studying telecommunications and has a 3.9 gpa.



Kallay Swihart has worked as a student assistant in Digitizing and Physical Processing in Collection Resources Management since February 2005. She is pursuing a degree in social work and has a 3.63 gpa.

Staff Members Receive FAMBL Scholarships

In addition to sponsoring programs and activities, the Friends organization supports the University Libraries, its collections, and its personnel in a number of ways. In 1991, the Friends implemented a scholarship program to support University Libraries employees pursuing graduate degrees in library science.

To qualify for the award, the applicant must be a current employee of the University Libraries with no less than two calendar years of satisfactory performance, be enrolled in a Master of Library Science degree program (or its approved equivalent) at an accredited institution in Indiana, and have completed at least 18 graduate hours with a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.6 on a 4.0 scale. The employee must also continue working in the University Libraries no less than one year subsequent to the award. The \$3,000 scholarship is awarded in two parts: \$1,500 upon satisfactory completion of 18 credit hours and the balance upon completion of the degree.

This past year, the Friends' Board of Governors approved awarding scholarships to two excellent employees of the University Libraries: Kevin Brooks and Michael Twigg.

Brooks has worked for the University Libraries since 1999, starting in Physical Processing. Since 2002, he has been manager of the Science Health-Science Library. He has successfully completed more than half of his course requirements for the MLS at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.

Twigg has been with the University Libraries since 1998. He began as a bibliographic searcher and then moved to the Archives and Special Collections technician position. In April 2001, he became monograph acquisitions supervisor and is currently assistant head of acquisitions. In December, Michael completed his MLS degree at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.



Dean Häfner (far left) and John Straw (far right) present scholarships to Michael Twigg and Kevin Brooks.

FAMBL Board Members Honored

The Board of Governors for the Friends of/the Alexander M. Bracken Library consists of 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.

Jack Carmichael and Frank Felsenstein completed their terms

as FAMBL Board members in April 2006. Nicole Etcheson and Joe Duncan began their terms on the Board. Etcheson recently joined the Ball State faculty as the Alexander M. Bracken Professor of History. Duncan and his wife, Dorothy, have been contributors to the University Libraries through their exceptional work in preserving the history of Center School in Delaware County.