Our favorite event of the year is just around the corner: the Friends of the Van Pelt Library invite you to come to our annual Book Sale, Friday 9 April 2010 from 10:00 AM until 4:30 PM. The day before we also host the Friends’ Pre-Sale, Thursday 8 April from 5-7pm. The popular Pre-Sale is for Friends only, so plan to come and renew your membership at the Pre-Sale. The sale will take place in the Ballroom of the Memorial Union Building on Michigan Tech’s campus, and memberships will be available at the door: $15 for individuals, $25 for families, and $10 for students and seniors.

Several big changes are in the works this year. First, Michigan Tech’s Department of Public Safety and Police Services is sponsoring FREE PARKING for Friends Book Sale patrons. The system is this: bring this newsletter with the coupon with you to the sale. Park in any legal spot on campus – in an open parking lot or at a parking meter. Put the parking pass on your dashboard, so the campus police know you are attending the book sale. You do not need to feed the meter. Come to the sale! If you find a ticket on your car (hopefully not), take the ticket and the pass to the Public Safety Office (on Macinnes Drive, near the stop light on Townsend Drive, up the road that leads up to the SDC and the Hockey Arena), and they will nullify the ticket. You can also bring the ticket back to the sale, and we’ll take care of it for you. For the pre-sale parking continues to be free on campus since it is after business hours. Please do not park in handicapped spots or in areas designated “no parking.” Many thanks to Chief Bennett for this accommodation!

A second big change to the sale is in the area of pricing. This year we will be changing our pricing policy to make pricing more uniform and attractive. Unless otherwise noted the prices will be:

**Thursday and Friday until noon:**
- $2.00 Hardbacks
- $1.00 Soft-cover, Trade Paperbacks
- $0.50 Mass Paperbacks, Children’s books, VHS

**Friday, noon until 3:30 PM - Half-price:**
- $1.00 Hardbacks
- $0.50 Soft-cover, Trade Paperbacks
- $0.25 Mass Paperbacks, Children’s books, VHS
Friday, 3:30 – 4:30 PM: Bag Sale
$5.00 for a bag of books

Book donations are still actively being sought for the sale. Is it time for some early spring cleaning? Do you need more room on your shelves? Is your office closing in on you? Donate your books to the FVPL Book Sale. Book donations may be dropped in the collection box in the entry of the Van Pelt Library or at the Circulation Desk. If you have boxes of books to donate, call 906-487-2500 for assistance. Email Dana Richter (dlrichte@mtu.edu) to arrange for pick-up of donations. The Friends accept books on any subject, software, CDs, DVDs and videos. Sorry, but we do not accept Readers Digest Condensed Books, vinyl records, or magazines.

As usual, the sale is only possible because of the hard work of the Friends and the many student volunteers from SIS, AChE, SFSE, Forestry, Tau Beta Pi, ASO and NSLS who spent hours moving, unpacking, setting up and repacking boxes of books, as well as running the registers at the sale – we cannot do it without them. We also gratefully acknowledge the help of Michigan Tech’s Facilities Management Department, who help move the books to and from storage, and the Baraga County Center – Copper Country Mental Health for picking up our leftover books to recycle.

The 2009 Book Sale netted over $4,000 for the Van Pelt and Opie Library - and this year’s sale promises to be even bigger and better, with a larger variety of books. See you there!

Mining History in Felt

A great honor has been bestowed on the Library’s art collection, the University, and the Friends, in the form of recognition for one of our most striking pieces. The piece, ‘Miner’s Ascent,’ by Phyllis Fredendall, illustrates an article in the current issue of ‘Surface Design’ Winter 2010, published by the Surface Design Association. The beautifully photographed piece is featured in an article on Fredendall’s ‘shaft series’ by Daniel Schneider. The article focuses on works in felt.

A large-scale piece, ‘Miner’s Ascent,’ hangs in the Opie Reading Room of the J.R. Van Pelt/Opie Library at Michigan Technological University in Houghton, MI. This eleven-feet tall, colorful work was commissioned for this space in 2008 by the Friends of the Van Pelt Library. Phyllis Fredendall is a fiber artist and an Associate Professor in the College of Art and Design at Finlandia University in neighboring Hancock, MI. ‘Miner’s Ascent’ is the largest in a series of felt works by Fredendall that are based on mining shaft maps. Fredendall looks at mining shafts from the perspective of the miner’s ascent to the light at the end of a long day in the mine. The issue of Surface Design featuring the article may be seen in the Maki Library at Finlandia University and soon will be added to the collection of the Van Pelt and Opie Library, compliments of the Friends. A color image of ‘Miner’s Ascent’ was published last year in the on-line version of this newsletter:

A Letter of Thanks to the Friends: Making “Sense of Place” Possible

Wow, a whole month has already passed since the Feb. 4 opening of the "Sense of Place" exhibit here in the Library. We had a nice turnout for the event - - including Friends' board members Terry Reynolds and Dana Richter -- and even greater numbers of people have strolled through the exhibit in the last four weeks. If you haven't yet come by, what's keeping you?

The physical exhibit is available any time that the main part of the Library is open. Have a look at our blog site for information about exhibit and the opening event: http://blogs.mtu.edu/archives/2010/02/03/archives-premieres-new-exhibit-a-sense-of-place/
We were also able to stretch Friends' funding to 'repurpose' the exhibit content into a web-based exhibit which is available via any web browser: www.lib.mtu.edu/mtuarchives/exhibits/SenseofPlace/index.html

During the opening event, both Julie [Julia Blair, Assistant Archivist] and I acknowledged the financial support provided by the Friends, and you'll see that we’ve linked from our blog entry directly to the Friends' page. Hopefully you'll snag a few more memberships.

Thanks again for your support of this project, it really excelled my expectations.

Erik Nordberg, University Archivist
Michigan Tech Archives & Copper Country Historical Collections

Friends’ Funds Benefit Student Work Areas

Ellen Seidel, Interim Library Director

Students often practice their class presentations or work on group-projects in Library study rooms. It can be a bit awkward gathering a group around a laptop screen. Enter the Friends of the Van Pelt Library. The Friends stepped in and purchased presentation technology for study rooms 302 and 303 in the Van Pelt and Opie Library.

Each room is now equipped with a 42” Toshiba Regza 1080p widescreen HDTV mounted on the wall. Connecting to a laptop is so easy and convenient that students can be up and running in under a minute. Using wireless connections for the laptops, the students can draw on the Library’s electronic resources to double-check facts and verify information as they craft their presentations and outline their projects. The large screens, great color and built-in sound enable student groups to do online research, edit documents and scripts, and fully test-drive presentations before they get to class. Thanks, Friends!

Save Your Receipt: Econo Foods Computers for Kids Program Benefits Library

Submitted by Mary Marchaterre

It’s always time to collect your receipts from Econo to benefit the Van Pelt and Opie Library at Michigan Tech. Through its Computers for Kids program, Econo Foods donates to the Friends one percent of the sum of all Econo receipts collected. These funds are used to pay for computer systems in the Library. In 2008-2009, the Friends of the Van Pelt Library collected Econo receipts that totaled $53,773. As a result, Econo Foods donated $537.73 to the Friends.

Econo will accept receipts dated end of August 2009, through the beginning of June 2010. Please send your receipts by intercampus mail to either Mary Marchaterre (Admin 212) or Faith Morrison (Chemical Engineering - 304A Chem Sci).

Want to help more? Put out a collection box in your area and encourage your coworkers to bring in their receipts for our library. Every little bit helps.