Tours of Library Construction Featured at Annual Meeting of Friends

The Friends will be holding their Annual Meeting on Thursday, October 21, 2004 at 4:30pm in the new MTU Archives at the ground level of the new wing of the Van Pelt Library. Library tours will be conducted, allowing Friends to see the new library addition, including the sunny south-facing atrium as well as portions of the existing building that are under construction.

The Annual Meeting is a time for Board elections. One current Board member is standing for re-election to the Board, Gail Mroz. In addition there is an empty board seat that any member may run for -- please contact Chairman Dee Vincent (dee@mtu.edu) to indicate your interest. Many thanks to all current and former board members for their enthusiastic and much appreciated service to the Friends.

The current slate of Board officer candidates appears below. Others interested in running for a position on the Board or for an officer position may nominate themselves at the meeting.

Dee Vincent, Chairman
Don Durfee, Vice Chairman
Amy Hughes, Secretary
Terry Reynolds, Treasurer

This event is open to the public. Bring a friend interested in becoming a Friend!

Above are two views of the reading room of the new Van Pelt Library Addition. Right now all library services are squeezed into the new addition; once the original library building is renovated, this bright, beautiful space will become the 24-hour study room for students, researchers, and other Library patrons.
Library Renovation Challenges  
Friends during April 2004 Book Sale

by Terry Reynolds and Faith Morrison

The 2004 Friends Used Book Sale was held on April 8 and 9, 2004 under difficult conditions, raising over $1600 for the Library. Turnout was good, and the sale ran smoothly but with the Library construction in full swing, getting to sale day was quite a challenge!

The Friends' usual storage, pricing, and sorting area in the Library had been eliminated the previous year due to construction on the Library addition. The alternative space provided was smaller, less convenient, and very difficult to work in. Making matters worse, the usual sale location in the Memorial Union building was not available, and the 2004 sale was conducted in a smaller adjacent space, making the display more crowded than usual.

Offsetting the negatives, MTU facilities personnel helped immensely by moving the books from storage space in the Chemical Sciences Building to the sale site, student volunteers from campus organizations like Tau Beta Pi and the Society of Intellectual Sisters helped with sorting and sales, and, after the sale, the student-run recycling program disposed of many clearly outdated items in a responsible manner. Items recycled included old computer manuals as well as some books that had not been sold over a number of years.

Despite the difficulties under which Friends volunteers labored, the sale raised over $1600 for library projects. This was substantially lower than the best years of the Friends sale, such as 2001 and 2003, when sales and related membership renewals topped $2500, but it was still a bit above the all time low revenue year of 1999.

The 2005 book sale will be conducted under even more challenging conditions. Continued construction and remodeling work on the library has eliminated all Friends' storage and work facilities there. Board Member Faith Morrison has provided some limited storage in a small enclosure in of her laboratory in the Chemical Sciences building (across from the Library), but this provides no real work space and makes sale preparations just that much more difficult.

The Friends remain enthusiastic about continuing the tradition of the Friends' Used Book Sale. Anyone interested in helping to sort, box, price and move books for the sale is encouraged to contact one of the board members, or better yet, run for a seat on the Board at the Annual Meeting on October 21. The new building is the project of our dreams, but no dream comes without hard work. We welcome all who are willing to share in the hard work of making the Van Pelt Library the best it can be.

Note cards are available on the web

The beautiful Friends of the Library note cards featuring images from the MTU Archives and Copper Country Historical Collection are available on the web. The images may be seen at http://www.chem.mtu.edu/~fmorriso/fvpl/note_cards.html. The note cards are only $12/set plus tax and shipping and handling. Order some today by emailing your order to treynolds@mtu.edu (include credit card number and billing address for payment). We also accept regular mail orders sent to treasurer Terry Reynolds c/o Friends.

The Friends are always available on line through a link on the Van Pelt Library's web page www.lib.mtu.edu/ or go there directly by typing www.lib.mtu.edu/friends/friends.htm
Econo Foods Receipts

by Mary Marchaterre

Time to collect your receipts from Econo to benefit the Van Pelt Library at MTU. Through its Computers for Kids program, Econo Foods donates to the Friends 1% of the sum of all Econo receipts collected. These funds are used to pay for computer systems in the Library. In 2003/2004, the Friends of the Van Pelt Library collected Econo receipts that totaled $57,087. As a result, Econo Foods donated 1% of that total, or $570.87, to the Friends. Econo Foods donated $303.61 in 2001, $431.76 in 2002, and $521.02 in 2003.

Many thanks to those who participated last year, and a big "keep it up" to all collecting receipts for 2004-2005.

Want to help? Please collect your receipts from Econo Foods and send them to us or drop them in the collection box at the circulation desk of the Library. Econo will accept only receipts dated August 30th, 2004, through June 3rd, 2005. Please send your receipts by intercampus mail to either Mary Marchaterre (IT - 209 Admin) 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. There are drop boxes in the chemical engineering office (203 Chem Sci), at the Library circulation desk, in the coffee room on the 2nd floor of the admin building, and in the basement of the EERC. Every little bit helps.

Thank you Econo Foods! Thanks to everyone who is collecting receipts for the Friends.


by Faith Morrison

At the September Board meeting, Treasurer of the Friends Terry Reynolds reported that as of September 8, 2004 the Friends have a balance of $5,081.15 in their Tech Fund account and $9,054.44 in their MTU FVPL account, making for combined assets of $14,135.59. This balance does not include the recently received check from Econo Foods for $570.87, the revenue from the 2003/4 Computers for Kids program. Sales of the Friends blanket were brisk over the summer, and we sold out; Reynolds ordered 25 more FVPL blankets.

The Friends financial condition is audited annually, and the Board heard the report of the 2003/4 Audit Committee at the September meeting.

The audit of the FVPL accounts was completed on Tuesday, August 24, 2004. Audit Committee Member and Board Member Amy Hughes reported that Terry Reynolds has kept excellent records, and that no serious problems were found. However, an inventory of blankets and note cards has not been done for some time because they were moved several times. It was recommended that an inventory be taken of the blankets and note cards as soon as we have more permanent storage.

The Board of Directors of the Friends of the Van Pelt Library

Maria Beardslee (2005)
Don Durfee (2005), Vice Chairman
June Hawthorne (2006)
Karen Hubbard (2005)
Amy Hughes (2005), Secretary
George Love (2006)
Patrick Quimby (2005), Tau Beta Pi
Faith Morrison (2005), Newsletter editor
Mary Marchaterre (2005)
Bette Mongold (2006)
Gail Mroz (2004)
Terry Reynolds (2005), Treasurer
Dana Richter (2006)
Richard Rupley (2006)
Dee Vincent (2005), Chairman
vacant (2004)
W. Kent Wray, University Provost, ex officio
Phyllis Johnson, University Librarian, ex officio