Friends Welcome Ruthven Exhibit

Our first year since the reactivation of the Friends has been a triumph for Steely Library. With an executive Board filled with supporters of the Library (some for more than 20 years), we produced a highly successful event featuring paintings by John A. Ruthven, and raised $33,000 that will help improve the Library’s status as a resource for scholars as well as browsers. Not only that, Mr. Ruthven generously gave the Library prints of many of his paintings of birds, which for the present may be seen hanging on the walls of the Library’s fifth floor hall.

Mr. Ruthven also donated a percentage of the sale income of three magnificent eagle paintings, two that now hang in the foyer of the Corbett Theatre and one in the office of President Votruba. One morning in February Mr. Ruthven sat down with me and told stories of how each of his eagle paintings was made. The video of this conversation will soon be available in the Archives for those who are interested in hearing about the adventures of an artist.

The three eagle paintings were purchased by Dennis Griffin as a gift to his wife, Joyce, for her many years of support of NKU. Joyce is currently secretary of the NKU Board of Regents. The Griffins donated the paintings to the University. Such generosity is what will be, we hope, encouragement for others to support the work of the Friends.

To all of you who have supported the Friends for many years, and to those of you who are new to the Friends, we wish you much joy in knowing that what we do to enhance the Library is also strengthening the whole University.

As President of the Friends, I extend an invitation to you who are already members, and to those who will be joining us (soon, we hope), to enjoy being associates in this vital and newly reinvigorated organization.

Sincerely,
Frank Stallings

Board Members
Arne Almquist, ex-officio
Ron Ellis
Mary Ellen Elsbernd, Secretary
Danny Miller
Mike Murray

Margery Rouse
Frank Stallings, President
Rachel Votruba
Michael Walker
The hiatus is over! Welcome back to Annotations, the voice of the Friends of Steely Library. With each issue we will update you on Friends events, Steely Library activities, and toss in some fun columns that we hope you as a book lover will find entertaining.

The leading article written by Frank Stallings, President of the Friends, broadcasts the successful return of our group with the John A. Ruthven event. What a comeback! Meet the Board features several of our Board members, and it will be a column each issue until all of the members are highlighted. In Notes from the AP, you will learn about major developments taking place in the Archives and Special Collections area from Steely Library's Associate Provost, Arne Almquist. In What They are Reading, you will discover the titles that some of our Friends are reading. If you have a book that you found irresistible (meaning you stopped doing everything but breathing to read the book), please e-mail the scoop about it to us at elsbermd@nku.edu. In On the Horizon, selected forthcoming books will be highlighted. Since we cannot cover all genres in a single issue, we may inadvertently omit your favorite. If this happens e-mail us at the aforementioned address and tell us which genre you would like covered in upcoming issues. Booking it on the Web will feature book sites that we have found compelling enough to share with you. Again, let us hear from you if you know some great book web sites not listed. You, our readers are important to us, so deluge us with your thoughts and suggestions.

I would be remiss if I failed to mention the Friends membership form in this issue. If you are a current Friend, please share the issue with someone who may want to join us. If you are a lapsed Friend, we would love to have you back! If you have never been a Friend, you don’t know what you are missing out on! So join in the fun is the salient message of our newest issue.

Why Libraries Matter

"I'm of a fearsome mind to throw my arms around every living librarian who crosses my path, on behalf of the souls they never knew they saved.""
Meet The Board

Name: Arne J. Almquist
Occupation: Librarian
Connection to NKU: Associate Provost for Library Services
What I like about Steely Library: The wonderful people that work here
Favorite Writers: Booth Tarkington, Roald Dahl, Walter R. Brooks
Book(s) that Made a Difference: Grammatical Man, by Jerome Campbell; The Crater, by James Fenimore Cooper
What I do for Fun: Reading, attending symphony concerts, volunteer work, fishing and hiking

Name: Danny Miller
Occupation: Professor of English and Chair, Dept. of Literature and Language
Connection to NKU: Teaching at NKU
What I like about Steely Library: The librarians; they are so helpful!
Favorite Writers: Harriette S. Arrow, Lee Smith, Fenton Johnson, Jeff Mann
Book(s) that Made a Difference: (nationally) Uncle Tom's Cabin, (personally) Geography of the Heart by Fenton Johnson
What I do for Fun: genealogy and gardening

Name: Ron Ellis
Occupation: Writer
Connection to NKU: Alumnus (Journalism/English, Class of 1975) and retired assistant vice president for Advancement (Years of Service: February 1975-August 2001)
What I like about Steely Library: It's a place where everything has always seemed possible to me.
Favorite Writers: Rick Bass, Nick Lyons, Harry Middleton, Ernest Hemingway, Gretel Ehrlich, Norman Maclean, Richard Ford, Jim Harrison
Book(s) that Made a Difference: The Deer Pasture (Rick Bass), Spring Creek (Lyons), The Earth Is Enough (Middleton), The Nick Adams Stories (Hemingway), The Solace of Open Spaces (Ehrlich), A River Runs Through It (Maclean), Just Before Dark (Jim Harrison), An Outside Chance (McGuane)
What I do for Fun: Fly-fishing and bird hunting, hanging out in book stores with my wife and son, reading and writing, traveling

Name: Frank L. Stallings, Jr.
Occupation: Very busy retiree
Connection to NKU: Professor Emeritus in English
What I like about Steely Library: The helpful staff; of course, but also the feeling that it is a place where one can find anything you want to know about
Favorite Writers: Mark Twain, Henry David Thoreau, Walt Whitman, Robert Frost, to name a few of those whose works I taught for 35 years
Book(s) that Made a Difference: The Lives of a Cell and others by Lewis Thomas; Strictly Speaking by Edwin Newman
What I do for Fun: Read more than one book at a time; attend plays, concerts, work in the yard, write in my journal
Libraries have undergone radical change over the past three decades, much of it technology-driven. Steely Library has participated in this change by building electronic collections, looking at new ways of providing access to information, and changing the way that we approach the task of building the information literacy skills of our clientele. However, while formats and services have changed, one thing has remained constant: the Library’s role as guardian of the intellectual and historical heritage of the University and the region.

Steely Library has long had an Archives and Special Collections area. Its collections are rich, containing rare first edition books, historical documents, oral history recordings, and artifacts representing chapters in the colorful history of Northern Kentucky and its people. Major events in the development of this collection include the hiring of the Library’s first permanent Archivist, Ms. Jennifer Gregory, and reconstruction and reconfiguration of the space, improving physical access to the Archives and moving its presence to the University’s “front door”.

Plans are underway to bring the Archives to a much higher level of operation. The Library has been raising funds for the refitting of the Archives to create a facility that better serves the needs of our students, faculty, and community and that reflects the high value that we assign to our rare and historic materials. Within the next few weeks, we will be announcing a major lead gift in this campaign. We are hoping that the momentum that this creates will propel us toward fulfillment of our goal.

As a group that works to build links between the Library and the community, the Friends of Steely Library has been wholeheartedly behind our efforts. FOSL has provided funding for the purchase of important historical resources such as 19th Century African-American Newspapers, a database that we recently made available to faculty and students, as well as several years of Godby’s Lady Book, a 19th century women’s magazine that had a powerful effect on the fashions and values of the time. Both titles are in electronic format, making available powerful search capabilities unavailable in their original print versions.

We hope that you take the opportunity to visit our Archives in the near future. There are always interesting exhibits on display and Archivist Jennifer Gregory or her assistant, Cynthia Valletta, will be happy to show you some of the more interesting items contained in the collection.

January Event

In January 2005 the Friends will celebrate the acceptance of Congressman Ken Lucas’s congressional papers. Mr. Lucas, a long time friend of NKU, will be acknowledged for donating his papers that will be an eminent addition to our library’s research collection. We will notify you of that date this fall. It will be a joyous evening and you will want to celebrate with us!
What are they reading?

Dr. James Votruba, President of NKU
Educating Citizens: Preparing America's Undergraduates for Lives of Moral and Civic Responsibility
Edited by Anne Colby, T. Ehrlich, E. Beaumont and J. Stephens
The book focuses on how universities can better prepare their students for a lifetime of civic participation as well as support their moral development. Many universities assert their interest in these outcomes but few move beyond the rhetoric. The authors offer tangible examples of how campuses can act to support these important outcomes.

Dr. Frank Stallings, President of the Friends of Steely Library and Professor Emeritus, NKU
That Old Ace in the Hole
by Annie Proulx
By the time I finished reading That Old Ace in the Hole, I was convinced the author was a native of Texas. She had the language down almost perfectly and told a story about a real problem in the state (natives of the area vs. country). It is a really funny and melancholy romp with the idea of the search for happiness vs. the search for “success” whatever that means. I’m now listening to the CD of the book to get the sounds of the language where I was raised.

Ron Ellis, Writer and member of the Friends of Steely Library Board
Buffalo for the Broken Heart
by Dan O’Brien
I loved this memoir of converting The Broken Heart, O’Brien’s South Dakota cattle ranch, into a place where buffalo could again thrive. O’Brien, a biologist, rancher, writer, falconer, and teacher, is an excellent guide and holds nothing back when telling his story. This includes fist fights spawned by O’Brien’s numbing fatigue and frustration while trying to save the ranch and return it to the buffalo and native plants; long, bumpy rides across the plains in pickup trucks; adapting the ranch to accept the strength and protect peregrine falcons in Utah, while on a trip to buy more buffalo. Climb in to the pickup with O’Brien and enjoy the ride. You won’t be sorry. For more about The Broken Heart and buffalo, go to www.wildideabuffalo.com.

Dr. Danny Miller, Chairman of the Literature & Language Dept. and member of the Friends of Steely Library Board
Jim the Boy
by Tony Earley
I have just finished reading Tony Earley’s Jim the Boy. It is one of the most beautiful books I have read in a long time. Jim the Boy is a book that could be read by young adults as well as older readers. The story is set in western North Carolina during the Depression. It begins on Jim Blass’s tenth birthday and follows him through a year or so of his life. Jim’s father died before he was born and he is reared by his mother and her large extended family, including her three bachelor brothers, Zeno, Coran, and Al McBride. These three uncles are among the most interesting characters in the book, They greatly love Jim and teach him well about life. Jim learns many things. He learns about selfishness and the value of work and honesty. Jim the Boy teaches its readers about virtue, honesty, love, and it does so in a beautiful and truthful way.

Arne J. Almquist, Associate Provost for Library Services
Boons Island
by Kenneth Robers
What better book to read during the long hot summer months than the story of a ship's crew, wrecked on a small, barren rock island off the coast of Maine, and their survival during the brutal months of December and January 1710-11. The book is well researched and provides an interesting study of character types as well as a gripping story.
Booking it on the Web

So many good web sites for books, so little time to discover them. If this describes how you feel about booking it on the web, perhaps you will find some new sites to enjoy from our list.

www.lemurianbooks.com Web site of the independent bookstore, Lemuria in Jackson, Mississippi. A source for new books, fine first editions, it features Southern writers and covers titles in most subjects. You may subscribe to its weekly e-mail newsletter.

www.jsfbooks.com The Jesse Stuart Foundation's site that offers access to books by Stuart and other Kentucky writers. Claims to be “a major source for writers, educators, collectors and readers of all ages.”

www.josephbeth.com Many of you are familiar with the local bookstore but in case you haven’t perused it online, we urge you to do so! Includes author events, book club information and staff book recommendations plus all of JB’s books.

www.elephantbooks.com An “independent bookseller in out-of-print, rare, and used books.” Covers many subjects.

www.alibris.com A portal to “over 40 million used, new and hard to find books from its worldwide network of independent sellers.” E-mail newsletter, Alibris News, updates the reader with “special offers, news and promotions.”

www.booknotes.com Offers “online links to comprehensive reviews of popular literary works found on the web.” Chapter summaries, character analysis and study questions are included.

Discount Book Sites

www.alldirect.com Provides access to over a “half million discounted books, music and movie titles.” Most books are discounted at 38% off the list price.

www.booksaremagic.com Internet bookstore that includes over “2 million book and audio book titles.” Offers 35% off of titles found in its bestseller list.

www.Half.comBooks The EBay subsidiary site devoted to books that include new and used titles at discount rates.

www.a1books.com “Carries a huge selection of professional and high end books from all major publishers at some of the lowest rates on the planet.” Need we say more?

Need a book bag?

Now you can purchase a book bag from the circulation desk on the 3rd floor of Steely Library for only $3.00. This money goes to help support the Friends.
On the Horizon

In this column we want to share with you selected fiction and nonfiction titles that will be published in October unless otherwise noted. A special category, Whoa Baby! Covers books that are designed to titillate, surprise or to be plain outrageous. Book comments are from Library Journal’s prepub reviewers.

FICTION
Losing My Espanish  Carrillo, H. G. 
 "Oscar Delosantos gives a fantastical final history lesson on Cuba after being shoved from his teaching position at a Jesuit boy's school." 
About Grace  Doerr, Anthony 
The Red Queen  Drabble, Margaret 
Cheat and Charmer  Frank, Elizabeth 
"This debut stars an ordinary housewife caught between her husband and her sister. Written by Pulitzer prize winner, Frank (Louise Bogan) early comparisons cite Hemingway's The Sun Also Rises and Fitzgerald's The Last Tycoon."
The Book of Secrets: Unlocking the Hidden Dimensions of Your Life  Chopra, Deepak 
Ask Not: The Inauguration of John F. Kennedy and the Speech That Changed America  Cantor, Norman P. 

NONFICTION
The Story of a Life  Applefeld, Aharon 
The King and I  Breslin, Herbert & Anne Midgett  "Pavarotti's manager joins with New York Times music critic in a tell-all about the opera star's career." 
Alexander the Great: Journey to the End of the Earth  Cantor, Norman P. 
The Book of Secrets: Unlocking the Hidden Dimensions of Your Life  Chopra, Deepak

WHO'S GOT GAME? The Mirror or the Glass?  Morrison, Toni & Slade Morrison "A new take on Aesop's The North Wind and the Sun, a boy named Sim learns to conquer his fears."
The Unfinished Twenty-First Novel in the Aubrey/Maturin Series  O'Brien, Patrick 
Melancholy Baby  Parker, Robert B. 
Shoulder the Sky  Perry, Anne
The Fearless Man: A Novel of Vietnam  Parrer, Donald 
The Double  Saragomo, José 
Nobel prize winner Saragomo writes a "novel about a droopy high school teacher who gets caught up in questions of identity."
A Bit on the Side  Trevor, William
Villages  Updike, John
Honored Guest  Williams, Joy

Face the Nation: My Favorite Stories from the First 50 Years of the Award-Winning News Broadcast  Schieffer, Bob.
West of Then: A Mother, a Daughter, and a Journey Past Paradise  Smith, Tara Bray. "Smith searches for her reckless junkie mother when she goes missing in 2002."
Unforgivable Blackness: The Rise and Fall of Jack Johnson  Ward, Geoffrey C.

WHOA BABY!
How I Paid for College: A Novel of Sex, Theft, Friendship and Musical Theater  Acito, Marc. "A funny debut about a New Jersey teenager who goes to great lengths to pay his juilliard tuition."
Missy Fit  Andrews, Mary Kay. "If you caught your husband-to-be in flagrant delicto, you'd throw a hissy fit too."
The Know-It-All: One Man's Humble Quest To Become the Smartest Person in the World  Jacobs, A. J.
Women I Have Dressed (and Undressed!)  Sassar, Arnold. "A behind-the-scenes look at fashion great Sassar's business."

WHOA BABY! WINNER
Liberating Paris  Thomason, Linda Bloodworth. "Six Arkansas friends getting ready for middle age are torn apart by one friend's adultery."

YES! I want to join the Friends of Steely Library.

name __________________________________________
address _________________________________________
city __________________________ state _______ zip _______
telephone __________________________

I wish to join the Friends of Steely Library, Northern Kentucky University, as indicated below:

___ Student ($10 / yr)
___ Individual ($35 / yr)
___ Family ($50 / yr)
___ Assoc. Provost ($100 / yr)
___ Corporate ($250 / yr)
___ Life ($1,000 / yr)

My check for $_________, made payable to Friends of Steely Library is enclosed.

All contributions are tax-deductible as provided by law. All memberships can be sent to: NKU/Steely Library, 505 Nunn Drive, Highland Heights, KY 41099.