Lucas Papers Add Prestige to Archives.
Not even Arctic cold and accumulating snow could keep the friends and admirers of longtime NKU friend and retired U.S. Congressman Ken Lucas from their “appointed rounds”, which, on the evening of January 22nd, meant coming together as guests of the Friends of Steely Library to celebrate the donation of Lucas’s Congressional papers to the Schlachter Family Archives.

The Lucas Collection, consisting of forty-nine boxes of memos, notes, and other correspondence must be scanned, organized and preserved according to Archivist Jennifer Gregory. However, the papers will become available to the public after an inventory has been made.

Arne Almquist, Associate Provost for Library Services, told the audience that the donation of the Lucas papers “definitely gives prestige to the library and provides an excellent resource for researchers.” He also said, “we’re very interested in building a collection of political papers from Northern Kentucky politicians.”

Retiring Representative Jim Callahan, who served in the Kentucky Legislature for sixteen years, has also donated his papers to the Steely Library, joining those of Lucas and former Congressman Gene Snyder, who served Kentucky admirably in the U.S. Congress for twenty-two years.

Lucas, one of the founding regents responsible for the establishment of Northern Kentucky State College, served NKU for twenty-three years as a member of the Board of Regents, thirteen of those years as chairman. He was honored with an honorary doctorate (the only Regent to hold that distinction) and he has had the singular honor of having his name placed on a campus building, the Lucas Administrative Center.

NKU President James Votruba told the crowd, “For the past twenty-five years, Northern Kentucky has benefited from a generation of civic entrepreneurs who built a future, not only for themselves and their families, but for the entire region. Ken Lucas is one of those leaders...”

NKU President James Votruba with Congressman Lucas.

one of Northern Kentucky’s “greatest generations”. Ken has demonstrated what it means to devote oneself to a lifetime of civic engagement. There are few significant regional developments over the past twenty-five years that Ken has not played a significant role. Ken helped shape the University and we continue to benefit from his vision.” Votruba noted that Congressman Lucas secured more than $2 million on behalf of the region during his tenure in Washington. He spoke about the latest of those, a

Lucas continued on page 2

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

Life Members
Dennis and Joyce Griffin
John and Judy Ruthven
William and Betty Verst
Oakley Farris
Our cover story on the January Friends event highlights Ken Lucas and the donation of his Congressional papers to the Schlachter Family Archives. Lucas’s gift is a quite valuable addition to the Archives and one that will benefit students, scholars and the community researcher. This spring, the Friends will celebrate the donation of Jim Callahan’s papers to the Archives. Callahan, a long-term Representative in the Kentucky Legislature, is another person who was instrumental in the growth of NKU and left an indelible mark on our region.

Speaking of the Schlachter Family Archives, make special note of Mark and Rosemary Schlachter’s gift to Steely Library. We appreciate their financial support and understanding of the importance of the Archives to Northern Kentucky. For news on the redesign of the reading room, peruse Notes From the AP.

We welcome a new staff member, Nancy Perry, to Steely Library. In addition to being the Director of Development for the library, Nancy serves as an advisor to the Board of the Friends of Steely Library.

New to this issue are a literary “first lines” quiz and a book review. For those of you who enjoy reading “novels of place”, checkout Ron Ellis’s review of Jim Wayne Miller’s His First, Best Country. If you are in the mood for a brain teaser, see how many first lines you can match with the correct book.

This issue continues spotlighting the members of the Friends Board. Meet the board, and features Rachel Votruba, Michael Murray, and Mary Ellen Elsbernd. Other columns such as On the Horizon and What They Are Reading are back due to no one throwing eggs at us.

Now for a confession. I am a magazine junkie. One of my favorite literary mags is The Oxford American and in case you missed it, The OA came roaring back in December 2004. Its new home is on the campus of the University of Central Arkansas and the editor, Marc Smirnoff, promises new theme issues e.g., southern food, southern music with CD, southern art and architecture and best of the south. So if you enjoy reading literature by new and established southern authors, buy a copy or better still subscribe! Two other magazines for bibliophiles that I read are Bookmarks, “For everyone who hasn’t read everything”, and Pages, “The magazine for people who love books”.

The Friends of Steely Library has several unique events coming up. If you are a current Friend, please share this issue with someone who is not and encourage them to join by completing the membership form on this issue. Join us for a spectacular bibliophelic ride!

The celebration was lightened when Lucas took the podium. Lucas told many humorous Congressional stories including one that he said he was one of two “Conservative Democrats in Congress, until the other person switched parties.” As one who was key to the future of the developing Northern Kentucky State College, Lucas shared his thoughts about his early involvement with the university as a Regent. He also spoke with great pride and admiration for his wife, Mary, and her leadership role as the President of the Congressional Women's Club in Washington. To honor Mary, Lucas treated the audience with clips from the video that highlighted her introducing the First Lady, Laura Bush, at one of the club's gatherings.

As the Friends departed into the frigid evening, they left thinking about Ken Lucas and recognized him as an individual who had the tremendous vision, energy and dedication required to form an university that would enhance the lives of many people in the region.

[Signature]
Frank Stallings, President
The Schlachter Family Archives

"Some find libraries intimidating. I have always found them to be more like a combination of the toy store and the candy store. There is no other single place where you can find so much knowledge and entertainment—books, recordings, print, film, the web, and of course great advice from trained staff." — Mark Schlachter

On the night of Saturday, November 6, 2004, the W. Frank Steely Library at Northern Kentucky University celebrated a grand gift from donors Mark and Rosemary Schlachter. The Schlachters have given the lead gift in the campaign to renovate and upgrade the Archives. The Library marked their generosity with the unveiling of the Archives’ new name: The Schlachter Family Archives at Northern Kentucky University.

On hand for the occasion was a crowd of about 100 people. A pre-event dinner was held for the Schlachters in the 2nd floor reading area in the Library—an area that has some of the most spectacular views on campus.

Wine and hors d’oeuvres were accompanied by the sounds of a faculty-led jazz ensemble, supplied by the NKU Music Department. All in all, it was a wonderful evening.

“Mark has explained why we chose the library. We chose Northern Kentucky University because we fell in love with the campus when we first saw it in the 1970's. Our thousands of experiences with the University’s professors, administrators, students and extended family of benefactors and volunteers over the intervening years has reinforced our early affection for NKU. Our daughter, Abby, now an NKU alumna, confirms our high regard.” Rosemary Schlachter
Meet The Board

Name: Rachel Votruba
Occupation: Retired part-time faculty member from the College of Education; In Michigan, a high school counselor with a specialization in classroom discipline.
Connection to NKU: Spouse of Jim Votruba, NKU President
What I like about Steely Library: I love the archives, history, antiques and especially the history of this region.
Favorite Writers: Barbara Kingsolver
Book(s) that Made a Difference: The books that made a huge difference in my career were Teaching with Love and Logic by Fay and Funk and Parenting with Love and Logic by Cline and Fay. The book I have read over and over is High Tide in Tucson by Kingsolver.
What I do for Fun: I run, play tennis, do yoga, ski, hug and kiss grandsons and enjoy our two dogs Oscar and Traverse.

Name: Mary Ellen Elsbernd
Occupation: Retired Librarian from Steely Library; Fiction reviewer for Library Journal
Connection to NKU: Librarian at Steely Library 1971-1999
What I like about Steely Library: The people who work at Steely Library make it an exciting place to learn about anything one needs to know.
Favorite Writers: Reynolds Price, Barbara Kingsolver, Gretel Erlich, Maya Angelou, Sue Monk Kidd, Marianne Williamson
Book(s) that Made a Difference: A Match to the Heart by Gretel Erlich, Lives of the Trappists Today by Frank Bianco, Everyday Grace by Marianne Williamson. Little Women by Louisa May Alcott triggered my love of books as a child.
What I do for Fun: Swimming with our son Matthew, travel, yoga, photography, gardening, reading, and exploring nature.

Name: Michael Murray
Occupation: Director of Major Gifts, Chicago Province Jesuits
What I Like About Steely Library: Steely Library provides materials that supplement students' learning opportunities, and serves as an important tool for members of the NKU community. I also appreciate the fact that the library staff is service-oriented and friendly. Steely Library is also a regional resource and has many users from the greater Cincinnati area. Steely Library is, in my opinion, central to the education mission of the university.
Favorite Writers: George F. Will, Jerold Panas and NKU alum, Ron Ellis
Book(s) that Made a Difference: The Greatest Generation by Tom Brokaw and Heroic Leadership by Chris Lowney
What I do For Fun: I enjoy family time with my wife and two boys, listening to music, golfing with friends, and reading a good book to expand my horizons.
In my last message, I wrote about our plans to bring the Archives at Steely Library to a new, higher level of operation. You may recall that our Archives houses the unique, special collections of the Library, including rare and historically interesting materials as well as those representing the history and heritage of the Northern Kentucky Region.

Over the past few months, a number of things have happened to bring our plans to reality. First, we received the lead gift in our campaign to upgrade and redefine the Archives. Mark and Rosemary Schlachter stepped forward to provide the gift, and in honor of their generosity, the Archives are now known as “The Schlachter Family Archives” at Northern Kentucky University.

The Schlachters’ gift is making possible the complete redesign and outfitting of the Archives’ reading room. The room will be redesigned to provide an atmosphere reflective of the value of the materials housed in the Archives. New furnishings and décor will suggest a very traditional setting while harmonizing with the colors and style of the nearby Welcome Center and the Library itself. Wood tones and rich colors will be the order of the day. Lighting will be redesigned to provide a comfortable reading level, an enhanced ambiance, while also preserving the materials on display.

In addition, the new space will have upgraded security systems. In all, the changes will create a space that will be a point of pride for the Library, the University and the Community, while providing an atmosphere which will encourage respect and careful treatment of the historical treasures housed within it.

Another important milestone has been reached in the development of the Archives with the receipt of the papers of two prominent Northern Kentucky political leaders. Ken Lucas, recently retired from his tenure in the United States Congress, formally passed his papers to Steely Library’s Schlachter Family Archives in January. A gala event was held in the Library to mark the occasion.

Representative James Callahan recently retired from long service in the Kentucky House of Representatives. The Archives has received his papers with a formal ceremony to be held in the near future.

The papers of these two leaders will join the papers of former Congressman Gene Snyder to form the nucleus of a major new collection. The collection will be of great interest to historians, political scientists, and other scholars into the future. The Library plans to pursue the papers of other politicians as they retire from office.

The Schlachter Family Archives continues its rise to a new level of excellence. With the new reading room and the addition of this important new collection there are additional reasons to visit. I hope that you will take the opportunity to visit the Archives and see for yourself what it has to offer.

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Why Libraries Matter

"I have found the most valuable thing in my wallet is my library card."

>>> First Lady: Laura Bush
1. “I have been afraid of putting air in a tire ever since I saw a tractor tire blow up and throw Newt Hardbine’s father over the top of the Standard oil sign.”

2. “My wound is geography.”

3. “The Rambler’s headlights caught a scrap of paper nailed to a tree, a handwritten sign: REPENT.”

4. “A Catholic orphan of sixty years is not apt to forget the day he first learned that he was born Jewish.”

5. “I was born twice: first as a baby girl, on a remarkably smogless Detroit day in January of 1960; and then again, as a teenage boy in an emergency room near Petoskey, Michigan, in August of 1974.”

6. “Whenever my mother talks to me, she begins the conversation as if we were already in the middle of an argument.”

7. “If you really want to hear it, the first thing you’ll probably want to know is where I was born, and what my lousy childhood was like, and how my parents were occupied and all before me, and all that David Copperfield kind of crap, but I don’t feel like going into it.”

8. “It was inevitable: the scent of bitter almonds always reminded him of the fate of unrequited love.”

9. “We came on the wind of the carnival.”

10. “Nuns go by as quiet as lust, and drunken men and sober eyes sing in the lobby of the Greek hotel.”
The late Kentucky Poet Laureate Jim Wayne Miller gave us one of our finest novels of place with *His First, Best Country* (Gnomon Press, 1993), the sequel to his celebrated first novel *Newfound*. On leave from a Virginia university, professor-writer Robert Jennings Wells returns to Newfound, Miller’s fictional enclave in North Carolina, to work “on coming home” and a new book. After a twenty-five year absence, he finds the landscape altered and populated by “solar carpenters,” “spiritualists,” and even an “artisan in fudge,” and he soon discovers much of the change can be traced to his old adversary, a real estate man so set on unbridled progress his “mind wouldn’t leap.” In remembering how it used be, Wells meditates on how he had “lived for woods and waters” (Miller writes about the simple beauty of the outdoor life and a commitment to place as well as any writer I have ever read), and he remembers a lost love and welcomes a new one; while learning that “coming home is a tricky business,” something you have to work at, no matter how badly you seem to want it.
INTRODUCING Nancy Perry

We are happy to announce that Steely Library has a Director of Development, Nancy Perry, on board! Nancy has been associated with the advancement segment of NKU since 1988. Arne Almquist told me in a recent meeting “Nancy brings to the Library and the Friends of Steely Library a wealth of knowledge and experience in development and will be a significant asset in our effort to increase support for the Library and its programs.” I had a recent chat with her about her new position that I want to share with you.

Mary Ellen: “You have an extensive background in fundraising at NKU. Tell me what was rewarding in both jobs, Director of Alumni Affairs and Associate Dean of Advancement, Chase College of Law.”

NANCY: “As Director of Alumni Affairs, my role related more to friend raising than fund raising. However, in the early 1990’s the Office of Alumni Affairs directed the annual solicitation of alumni that included managing the phonathon. As Associate Dean for Advancement, my role included fundraising as well as working with the Alumni Board of Governors and Communications. I was responsible for the annual solicitation that included letters and phonathons and for obtaining major gifts. I am a relationship builder and truly believe in the mission of NKU. I provide people opportunities to give to a very worthy cause, and it is one that I am truly committed to.”

Mary Ellen: “Now you are wearing two hats, Director of Development for Steely Library and Director of University Planned Giving. What are your plans for assisting Steely Library?”

NANCY: “There are so many opportunities for people to give to the library, and I see the Friends of Steely Library as integral to my success. My job will be to get the message out about the great things that are going on in Steely Library and how their gifts will make a tremendous difference in the lives of students. Raising money for a library is quite different than raising money for the Colleges. No one graduates from the library, however, no one graduated WITHOUT the library so I will spend time identifying alumni and friends who are interested in giving back and who have a special affinity for the library. I have already met with several alumni who told me that they spent more time in the library than in any other place on campus. The annual mail solicitation will be the first organized appeal of the year and meeting with prospective donors will be ongoing. I will be working with Arne Almquist and his staff in identifying priorities and matching prospective donors with the priorities. We will place an emphasis on finding alumni and friends who are interested in making major gifts and for whom there will be naming opportunities.”

Mary Ellen: “Let’s talk about your life outside the job. What do you like to do with your free time?”

NANCY: “High on my list is travel. I spent three weeks traveling through Italy in the fall and would like to return for an even longer visit. Plans include a visit to Mexico this summer and then Europe again in the winter. I love to read and belong to an esoteric women’s book group. We have great fun and it is not a conventional book club. The members read whatever they choose to read instead of an assigned book. Then we gather at the monthly meeting place in one of our homes and report on our books, recommending them or not. I am also an avid knitter.

Mary Ellen: “We are fortunate to have someone as qualified and versatile as you are promoting Steely Library! Thank you for what you are doing for the library and of course for all that you will do in the future.”
What are they reading?

Mark Schlacter, Writer and Photographer
Freethinkers by Susan Jacoby
At a time when our administration is encouraging government support of faith based initiatives, Jacoby states and defends the premise that our founding fathers were very sincere in quest for a wall between church and state. Our "godless" constitution was a deliberate decision made by founding fathers who, far from being religious enthusiasts, were often deists, agnostics and atheists. Freethinkers is a dense, demanding and intriguing read.

Rosemary Schlacter, Development Consultant
It Is Getting Better All the Time by Stephen Moore and Julian L. Simon
It is Getting Better All the Time confirms my innate optimism by citing thousands of statistical examples supporting the basic premise that there has been more improvement in the human condition in the past 100 years than in all the previous centuries combined since humans first inhabited the earth. Television news broadcast consumers may be skeptical of the premise because of negative news features which bombard us continuously. However, the facts and statistical analysis overwhelmingly support that over the course of the twentieth century almost every measure of material human welfare - ranging from health, wealth, nutrition, education, speed of transportation and communications, leisure time gains for women, minorities and children to the proliferation of computers and the internet - has shown wondrous gains for Americans, and to a lesser extent, all of humanity.

Dan Hassert, Editor, Kentucky Post Editorial Page
Meet Me in the Green Glen by Robert Penn Warren
This is an oldie but I’m on a Robert Penn Warren kick and I just can’t stop. It is classic Robert Penn Warren, with a complex plot, brilliant insight into the how and why of the human condition and a rich collection of characters who evoke awe and pity. With one excruciating climax after another, Meet Me drains you emotionally and spiritually. But unbelievably this book - a tale of murder, revenge, despair, betrayal, violence and loneliness - ends on an optimistic note. That’s a testament to Warren's writing skill and his strong belief in the triumph of the human spirit. If all you’ve ever read of his is All the King’s Men, you simply must go back for more. After all he did win three Pulitzers.

James Ramage, Professor of History, NKU
Ulysses S. Grant by Josiah Bunting
I am enjoying a new book in the American President’s Series edited by Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. The book is Ulysses S. Grant (2004) by Josiah Bunting, former superintendent at the Virginia Military Institute. Bunting focuses on Grant as president, and he joins the rising tide of re-evaluation of Grant’s eight year tenure in the White House. He agrees with a growing number of scholars today that Grant is the most underrated president. Rather than being a failure as he appears in history textbooks, Grant was quite successful and very popular.

Rebecca Kelm, Associate Professor of Library Services, NKU
The Librarian by Larry Beinhart
David Goldberg, a university librarian, stumbles into a devious plot to secure the presidential election for an incumbent, taking it from a serious female contender. If you are at all disturbed by the events of the last two elections and the Patriot Act, this compelling thriller is for you. Its credibility is chilling. Beinhart has also won an Edgar and other praise for his earlier trio of mysteries: No One Rides for Free; You Get What You Pay For; and Foreign Exchange.

Gail Wells, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost of NKU
Mother Without a Mask by Patricia Holton
This is an account of a thirty-year relationship between an American born English woman and an Arab family from the United Arab Emirates. Her story begins in the mid-70s as two young Arab brothers, sons of a Gulf Sheikh, arrive at her London home for a summer visit with her family - a visit that forever changes her life. Over the next 34 years she visits their home numerous times and establishes a relationship so strong that she becomes their "mother without a mask." She gains admission into the inner circle of the women in the boys' extended Arab family and through her expert story telling and observations, the reader develops a better understanding of the culture, traditions, history, beauty, and challenges of life in the Gulf. Covering a period of infusion of great wealth and Western influence and the inevitable changes to their society, this book explores the juxtaposition of rich tradition and 21st century influences, creating a compelling story.
Booking it on the Web
So many good web sites for books, so little time to discover them. We hope you will find some new sites to enjoy from our list.

http://library.nku.edu  Home page of Steely Library provides research resources, access to NKUIRE (the online catalog), databases, journal subscriptions, reserves, ask a librarian, other library information e.g., hours and maps and campus links.

www.bookbrowse.com  "Selects the most interesting books and provides multiple reviews and a substantial excerpt of each book”. Win books by entering giveaways and quizzes.”

www.allreaders.com  “Features book reviews from all genres and highlights authors”. Unusual feature - “Anyone can submit a book review and become a paid scholar.” Yes, you too can make $1 per review but you are warned that not everyone is “intellectually positioned to be an allreaders.com scholar.”


www.AuthorYellowPages.com  “A directory where authors list their official and publisher websites and other items they want to share with their readers.”

www.authorsontheweb.com  Another source for book and author news. Has author roundtables that groups several authors by genre and conducts a question and answer interview.

www.abebook.com  Claims to be “the world’s largest online marketplace for books. Whether it's new, used, rare or out of print books, you can find it here.” Contains an interesting feature, Booksleuth. If you know a book you want to read but cannot remember its title and author, post a brief description and one of the “sleuths” will help you!

www.kidsreads.com  “A place for kids to find information about their favorite books, series and authors. Also features trivia games, word scrambles and contests.”

www.bookreporter.com  “Offers readers book reviews and excerpts, author interviews and bio’s, reading polls, contests and more!”

Legacy of Books
Legacy of Books is a program to enhance the book collection of Steely Library and a thoughtful way to honor or memorialize alumni, family, faculty, staff or friends. For as little as $50, you can recognize someone with the name of the honoree and donor inscribed on a book plate inside the book’s front cover and in the online catalog entry, if desired.

Planned Giving
Remember the Steely Library in your estate plans. Be a part of an NKU tradition as a friend of Steely Library by making a planned gift. For information, please contact Nancy Bratton Perry, Director of Steely Library Development and University Planned Giving, (859) 572-5722.
On the Horizon
In this column we want to share with you selected titles that will be published in late Spring and Summer 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
• The Diezmo. Rick Bass, Author Bass, a noted nature writer, pens his second novel on a tale of men in a Texas border patrol in the early days of the Texas Republic, their capture and ultimate fate.
• Follies and New Stories. Ann Beattie.
• Act of War. Dale Brown. International terrorists attack the world’s oil refineries.
• Let It Rain Coffee. Angie Cruz. “For Dominican immigrant Esperanza Colon, it’s bad news when her father-in-law moves in. An in-house favorite.”
• Gods in Alabama. Joshilyn Jackson. “When she went off to college, Arlene promised to be good (no lying, no formulation), but there’s that little issue of the corpse she left behind.”
• The Historian. Elizabeth Kostova. A strange medieval text sets an American girl on the quest that wrecked her father. Publisher aiming for The Da Vinci Code and adult Harry Potter crowd. Author on a ten-city tour!
• The Franklin Affair. Jim Lehrer.
• Making It Up as I Go Along. Maria T. Lannon. Highly touted debut!
• The Good Priest’s Son. Reynolds Price. “This ground zero left uninhabitable after 9/11, air conservator Malory Emancid instead tries connecting with his father and then his daughter. More priceless Price.”
• Cross Bones. Kathy Reichs. Forensic anthropologist, Tempe Brennan’s case takes her to Israel.

NONFICTION
• Lavoisier in the Year One: The Birth of a New Science in an Age of Revolution. Madame Smartt Bell.
• The Pirates LaFite: The Treacherous World of the Corsairs of the Gulf. William C. Davis.
• The Unfolding of Language: An Evolutionary Tour of Mankind’s Greatest Invention. Guy Deutscher. “Linguists scholar explains why the French say on the day of this day instead of today and other fun stuff.”
• Becoming Justice Blackmun: Harry Blackmun’s Supreme Court Journey. Linda Greenhouse.
• Fantastic: The Life of Arnold Schwarzenegger. Laurence Leamer.
• Booking Passage: We Irish and Americans. Thomas Lynch.
• 1776. David McCullough. “Pulitzer Prize winner McCullough re-creates the year America won independence.”

WHOABABY!
• Ten Men. Alexandra Gray. “Heroine hunts for happiness by bedding ten very different men, e.g. the Virgin, the Lord, and Mr. Cerebral. Fiction.”
• Killing Yourself to Live: 85% of a True Story. Chuck Klosterman. “Klosterman travels 6,557 miles to check out the spots rock heroes died.” Nonfiction
• Direct Action: A Covert War Thriller. John Wims. “What happens when the CIA turns over the war on terror to private contractors—supposed to be based on fact.” Fiction

WHOABABY! WINNER!

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

name

address

city state zip
telephone

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

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)

Friends of Steely Library, 505 Nunn Drive, Highland Heights, KY 41099.