



annotations



ArtWorks mural by John A. Ruthven at 15 E. Eighth Street, Cincinnati, Ohio PHOTO CREDIT: J. MILES WOLF

HIGHLIGHTS...

- **FEATURE STORY:** John A. Ruthven: *On the Painting of a Living Wind By Ron Ellis*
- **People Who Paved the Way:** Sandy Easton
- **Nancy Perry...A Lifetime of Memories at NKU**
- **Steely Library Represents: NKU Regents Distinguished Service Award Nominee and Winner!**
- **Gone Viral: Steely Social Media**

Notes from the Associate Provost for Library Services

Arne J. Almquist, Ph.D.



Greetings!

Much has happened since the last issue of Annotations. We have instituted new services, are working to improve the physical library, and are continuing to be fully engaged in the community.

I am proud to announce that Steely Library has become an official Patent and Trademark Resource Center (PTRC), part of a network of such centers under the U.S. Patent Office. Heading up the Center is library faculty member John Schlipp (also in charge of our Intellectual Property Awareness Center (IPAC)). A ribbon-cutting ceremony, attended by librarians from the Patent Office, members of the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, and members of the community, included training in the specialized database tools that are now available in the library. The PTRC – in conjunction with Steely Library’s extensive Government Documents Department and IPAC -- will be a powerful tool in helping to increase NKU’s production of patents and copyrights and will also serve as an important tool in regional economic development.

Steely Library is also fully engaged in Covington’s technology accelerator/business incubator, UpTech. The library provides a small reference collection at the facility and our IPAC specialists are available onsite by appointment.

On June 30th, our second federally-funded “Bridging the Gap” program concluded. As you may recall, the two “Bridging the Gap” projects were \$1 million+ programs designed to improve the quality of public library services in Kentucky and West Virginia. In the end, we touched the lives of over 100 people, improving education levels and increasing skills, thereby helping to improve library services to the at-risk families in many of the states’ isolated and impoverished rural counties.

Two other grants ending this year are supporting projects aimed at improving the quality of our Special Collections and Archives facility. The grants, from the National Endowment for the Humanities, have funded research and planning projects that will help us to better protect our collections of rare and historical materials by improving environmental and security controls. Through these projects we continue to work toward our goal of creating a state-of-the-art preservation facility.

A significant renovation project occurred this summer on the third floor of the library. A new reading/study space was constructed in an area surrounded by floor to ceiling windows overlooking newly landscaped grounds adjacent to the library. The space contains new computers, comfortable furniture, and a new glass small group study room.

Steely Library continues its strong momentum of innovation and improvement in services. To all of our users and supporters, I extend a cordial invitation to visit us and personally check out our collections and services either at the library or online at library.nku.edu.

Arne J. Almquist, Ph.D.
Associate Provost for Library Services



People Who Paved the Way: The Library Legacy of Sandy Easton

By Nancy Campbell

Editor’s Note: Sandy Easton passed away August 26, 2013. She held many roles in her time at NKU (professor in the College of Business, dean of the College of Business, asst. provost and acting provost) and even served as interim director of Steely Library. Below, Nancy Campbell shares a piece she wrote for Sandy’s memorial service regarding her memories of Sandy and the impact she had on Steely Library

Sandy joined Steely Library as Interim Director for the fall 1999 semester. At that time the library was experiencing quite a downturn in morale and feeling that sense of unknown that forthcoming new leadership can bring.

Library faculty and staff weren’t sure what to expect from a non-librarian in this role. Sandy came in like a breath of fresh air. She succeeded in re-establishing our sense of camaraderie and belonging. She reminded us of our importance to the University and encouraged us to continue with all our successful programs and services. She listened with genuine interest in our projects and planning.



And oh, that laugh! You could hear Sandy all over the floor and that certainly brought a smile to everyone’s faces. Even though she didn’t have a library background, she had a leader’s background. She was able to motivate us and get us all through a difficult time. She established long-standing friendships with a number of library staff.



I think I speak for everyone who worked with Sandy – it was such a pleasure and privilege to have her in our midst. She will forever be special to us.

A few pictures of Sandy over the years, provided by Steely Library’s Special Collections and Archives

NANCY CAMPBELL is Assistant to the Associate Provost for Library Services/Associate Professor at W.Frank Steely Library

John A. Ruthven: On the Painting of a Living Wind

By Ron Ellis



Close-up of the ArtWorks mural, "Martha, the Last Passenger Pigeon" by John A. Ruthven

PHOTO CREDIT: J. MILES WOLF

In *Birds of America*, John James Audubon provides the following eyewitness account of a passenger pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*) migration in Kentucky:

"In the autumn of 1813, I left my house at Henderson, on the banks of the Ohio, on my way to Louisville. In passing over the Barrens a few miles beyond Hardensburgh, I observed the Pigeons flying from north-east to south-west, in greater numbers than I thought I had ever seen them before, and feeling an inclination to count the flocks that might pass within the reach of my eye in one hour, I dismounted, seated myself on an eminence, and began to mark with my pencil, making a dot for every flock that passed. In a short time finding the task which I had undertaken impracticable, as the birds poured in in countless multitudes, I rose, and counting the dots then put down, found that 163 had been made in twenty-one minutes. I travelled on, and still met more the farther I proceeded. The air was literally filled with Pigeons; the light of noon-day was obscured as by an eclipse, the dung fell in spots, not unlike melting flakes of snow; and the continued buzz of wings had a tendency to lull my senses to repose."

One hundred years later, the last known passenger pigeon in captivity, who



John A. Ruthven with "Martha, the Last Passenger Pigeon" (painting-in-progress) in his Georgetown, OH studio

PHOTO CREDIT: RON ELLIS

was named "Martha" in honor of Martha Washington, died at the Cincinnati Zoological Garden. Martha was donated to the Smithsonian Institution where she was mounted and displayed in a glass case for many years with the following description:

MARTHA

Last of her species, died at 1 p.m., 1 September 1914,
age 29, in the Cincinnati Zoological Garden.

EXTINCT

In 1947, Aldo Leopold, the celebrated American conservationist and author of the classic *A Sand County Almanac*, wrote in "On a Monument to the Pigeon" that "Men still live who, in their youth, remember pigeons; trees still live who, in their youth, were shaken by a living wind."

My friend, and the longtime friend of NKU and Steely Library, John A. Ruthven, the internationally recognized wildlife artist, naturalist, lecturer, and author who is often called the contemporary Audubon, is one of those men who lamented the loss of the passenger pigeon and the opportunity to personally experience that "living wind" Leopold writes about in his essay. While Mr. Ruthven had painted the passenger pigeon at least five times during his long and distinguished career, he had yet to make the painting that he felt was a fitting tribute to "Martha" and the passenger pigeon flocks that had darkened the skies above his native Cincinnati throughout the 19th century. For a boy drawn to the tales of those once abundant "wild pigeons" and to the great solace and endless mysteries of the natural world, and who enjoyed sketching the birds he encountered during his outdoor adventures, the need to render "Martha" and her followers in paint would have to wait. It is our good fortune, indeed, that he chose to paint his masterpiece, or so I believe, titled "Martha, the Last Passenger Pigeon," to honor the 100th anniversary of Martha's passing and the extinction of the passenger pigeon.

In a fitting tribute to one of Cincinnati's beloved master artists, ArtWorks (www.ArtWorksCincinnati.org) selected Mr. Ruthven's painting to be rendered as a mural on the side of a building in downtown Cincinnati, as part of its highly successful Public Art program. The Ruthven mural, which was funded by The Otto M. Budig Family Foundation, appears on a 6000-foot "wall canvas," at 15 E. Eighth Street. It was painted on that outdoor canvas by Mr. Ruthven, along with fifteen apprentices, three teaching artists, and lead artist Tim Parsley, all working together on a massive grid of scaffolding, from June to September, during last year's intense summer heat.

I recently sat down with Mr. Ruthven for a conversation about the making of MARTHA—The Last Passenger Pigeon.

Ron Ellis: Well, here we are again chatting about some of our favorite things: the natural world, painting, and writing. The only difference is that instead of being perched on a log out in some beautiful woods, we're here in the city where you spend a good bit of time these days. Readers of Steely Library's *Annotations* are interested in knowing more about MARTHA—The Last Passenger Pigeon. So, how did the idea for this grand painting come to you?

John A. Ruthven: During the course of my artistic career, and in my childhood years while growing up in Cincinnati, I was always interested in the life of the passenger pigeon. As an outdoor enthusiast, I was always aware of the fact that Martha, the last surviving bird, had died in captivity at the Cincinnati Zoo. While I was born too late to have seen her, all through my childhood I thought about the situation. Then as the years went on it occurred to me that there's going to be a revival of interest in this bird and when that happened I knew I certainly wanted to be a part of it. So, those thoughts were going through my head as we were approaching the hundredth anniversary of Martha's death. Then I received a call from the Smithsonian in regards to my participation in this epic historical event, namely that they wanted to discuss with me the possibility of doing a special painting to commemorate Martha.



John A. Ruthven, at work on the Mural PHOTO CREDIT: JONATHAN MEDINA

Of course, I was thrilled with the call and accepted their invitation to come to Washington where I met with all the hierarchy of the Smithsonian, as well as the special people from Cornell University, which is the leading ornithological university in the world. After the meeting with the group, I proceeded with the drawing of Martha and her flock. And as I drew, I knew full well that in order to suggest the magnitude of the flock of birds I was imagining, the size of the painting would have to be quite large—it ended up being 6-feet long by 3-feet high. All in all, my thoughts on finishing up the painting really came into fruition, and so I proceeded to make a detailed sketch, as I do for all of my paintings. As time went on, I showed the painting-in-progress to a number of people and learned that ArtWorks Cincinnati was interested in duplicating my painting on one of the beautiful vacant walls in downtown Cincinnati. I was thrilled with the idea, of course. ArtWorks has a team of young students they pay to do these murals all over the city and they've been very discreet in choosing paintings for the murals. The size and scope of this mural was larger than anything that they'd ever attempted in Cincinnati, so in order to do the painting, they had to put us three-stories high on this massive scaffolding. Believe me it was plenty tough being up there painting Martha in all that hot summer sun. It took me two weeks to paint Martha under those conditions, but it took all summer for the other artists to complete the rest of the mural. In the fall the reception for the painting turned out to be so much more than I expected. Everybody in the city not only loved it when it was completed, but they came by while I was painting and shouted up to me just how much they loved it. It was a great experience to have done that, and so now it'll be up there, on that grand outdoor canvas, for at least 20 more years.

Over the course of executing this massive painting, many people asked me how long the mural is supposed to last. I always told them the paint was especially made to be light resistant and to continue to keep its true color for at least 20 years—it is guaranteed for at least that long. One person did ask me if I was going to come back and touch up the painting when needed, and I told them absolutely!

RE: Aldo Leopold referred to the trees these wild pigeons perched in during their migrations as being "shaken by a living wind." And Audubon described their flight as being "...like a torrent, and with a noise like thunder, they rushed into a compact mass, pressing upon each other towards the centre. In these almost solid masses, they darted forward in undulating and angular lines, descended and swept close over the earth with inconceivable velocity, mounted perpendicularly so as to resemble a vast column, and, when high, were seen wheeling and twisting within their continued lines, which then resembled the coils of a gigantic serpent." Your painting suggests this movement along every line of the composition. Are those "undulating and angular lines" Audubon described at that center of your painting's design?

JAR: Yes, I certainly wanted to show total movement in the painting, not only the swirl of the passenger pigeons but even the curves on the buildings and the movement of the adjacent birds in the flock, all on the same motion.

I didn't want anything disturbing this movement. I even constructed the limbs on the trees in the background to follow the curve of the forward motion of the flight of the bird, so that when you see that you're unaware of the fact that I had thought about and planned every line in this painting. Every line continues this thought in hopes that the viewer would be pleased with this very exciting and motion-filled painting.

One thing I wanted to bring to your attention is the fact that when the undulating flocks moved across the ancient skies of North America during migration, they twisted and turned. In a moment the birds would appear to become a large mass of purple and gray and then as they twisted around the very colorful purple of the males showed prominently as one mass of color and then the duller color of the females would show more prominently. So not only did you get the feeling of movement, you got the feeling of this incredibly colorful movement.

RE: Tell us about the historic buildings Martha and her flock are flying over in the painting.

JAR: In general I wanted to show the masses of the birds flying through Cincinnati, but I was particularly interested in showing a large flock of pigeons flying over the Bird Run at the Cincinnati Zoo. The Cincinnati Zoo is one of the finest zoos in the country and there are some wonderfully designed Japanese pagoda-like buildings called the old Bird Run, one of which housed Martha for 25 years, until she eventually died in 1914. This was a very historic structure and beautiful in scope, so I was compelled to include these important buildings in my painting.

RE: In *Birds of America*, Audubon reveals he abandoned his attempt to make a pencil mark for each flock of passenger pigeons he observed during one migration in Kentucky, after he had made 163 marks in twenty-one minutes. With that in mind, how many passenger pigeons are featured in this painting?

JAR: With the movements of these massive flocks of pigeons always noted in such dramatic descriptions by many early viewers, I had to get this central idea into the painting. People continually ask me how many birds I put into my painting. I always say around a million birds, because Audubon said there were billions of them passing through during migration. So people start counting my birds, beginning with Martha, who is rendered life-size, as she leads her minions into oblivion. Everybody starts counting the birds they can clearly see, but then they get lost in the myriads of birds, down to the smallest dots I've used to represent the distant birds in the flock. So they're there, I tell them, and you can certainly count them, if you're so inclined.

Martha, the Last Passenger Pigeon is available as a signed and numbered limited edition print. For more information about this print, as well as other Ruthven prints and originals, contact:

Wildlife Internationale, Inc.

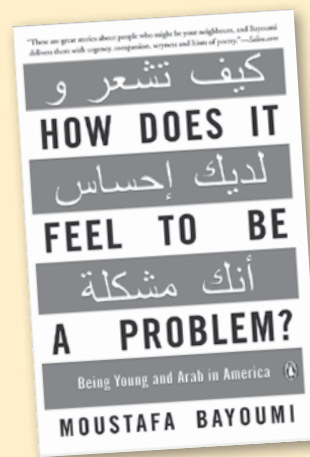
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RON ELLIS (NKU '75) is an NKU retiree and life member of the Friends of Steely Library, past board member and president of the Friends of Steely Library, the author of *Cogan's Woods* and *Brushes with Nature: The Art of Ron Van Gilder* and editor of *Of Woods & Waters (A Kentucky Outdoors Reader)* and *In That Sweet Country (Uncollected Writings of Harry Middleton)*. He is a contributor to *Afield: American Writers on Bird Dogs*, *Astream: American Writers on Fly Fishing*, and *A Passion for Grouse*. His stories have appeared in *Sporting Classics*, *Kentucky Monthly*, *Kentucky Afield*, *Appalachian Life*, *First Draft*, and *The Contemporary Sportsman*. He is a recipient of the Kentucky Art Council's Al Smith Individual Artist Fellowship and is at work on *Conversations with Rick Bass* for the University Press of Mississippi. He lives in northern Kentucky with his wife, Debbie (NKU '74 and '08). (www.ronellisbooks.com)



2014 BOOK CONNECTION SELECTION EXPLORES LIFE FOR YOUNG ARAB AMERICANS



Across campus this fall, first-years students will discuss, research, and write on issues surrounding diversity, the Middle East, racism, and the aftermath of 9/11. NKU's Book Connection Program has unveiled *How Does It Feel to be a Problem? Being Young and Arab in America* by Moustafa Bayoumi as the 2014 reading selection. Now in its 14th year, the program's committee selects one book each year to provide first-year students with a common academic experience.

This year, NKU students will read the stories of seven Arab and Muslim Americans coming of age in New York City before and after the 9/11 attacks. Each story is unique, from a young soldier sent to Iraq to fight in the War on Terror to the teenager rebelling against her conservative upbringing. However, a common theme connects each chapter as these young individuals make the transition into adulthood, searching for independence and identity against a backdrop of racial and religious tensions. Bayoumi's profiles of these seven Arab Americans will leave readers inspired at times, but also unsettled at others as injustices are exposed. NKU freshmen will find connections with these young adults who, like them, are exploring future careers, falling in and out of love, forming friendships, and setting out on their own for the first time.

W. Frank Steely Library is once again proud to be involved with NKU's Book Connection Program. A librarian at Steely Library is a member of the book selection committee, and the library provides an online research guide for those researching topics connected to the book. The guide can be accessed here: <http://library.nku.edu/researchhelp/tutorials/tutorialsforspecificassignments/bookconnectioninformation/beingyoungandarab.html>

ANDREA WILCOX BROOKS is Assistant Professor/Information Literacy Coordinator, W. Frank Steely Library

Nancy Perry...

a lifetime of memories at NKU

By **Mary Todd Chesnut**



Author's Note: Nancy Perry is no longer working in Steely Library (as of July 1) but she will be continuing on as NKU's half-time Director of Planned Giving. I thought it would be a wonderful time to write an article about Nancy's career so far at NKU. I have personally known Nancy since 1990, but I recently interviewed Nancy and learned a lot more about her. I will share what I learned in this short article.

Work History

Nancy Perry was in the first graduating class at NKU in 1973 and began working at NKU following graduation. She was first employed as a Graduation Analyst in the Registrar's/Admissions Office. In this position one of her main duties was to approve everyone for graduation. Since Nancy had a young son, she decided to leave NKU in 1977 to be at home with him. In 1979, she returned to NKU and became the Assistant Dean in the Chase College of Law, which was then located at Parks Hills, Kentucky. Nancy was still employed in this position, when Chase moved to the Highland Heights campus. In 1986, Nancy made a move to the University of Cincinnati and worked as a Business Officer in the Office of Policy Research. After 18 months at UC, Nancy missed NKU and returned as NKU's Alumni Director, a position that she held until 2000 when she became the Associate Dean of Advancement in Chase. In 2004, Nancy retired from NKU. Nancy traveled to Italy, and when she returned home, she realized she couldn't stay away from NKU, and returned as the Director of Development in Steely Library and NKU's Planned Giving Director.

Involvement on Campus and Beyond

Throughout her years at NKU, Nancy has been involved in numerous committees at NKU, and also won several awards. She was an NKU Regents Distinguished Service Award recipient in the 1980s and she also won CASE (Council for the Advancement and Support of Education) KY's Beth K. Fields Outstanding Professional Award in 2002. Nancy also served as Editor of the Gold Times publication for NKU retirees for about five years.

Nancy is currently still involved in a number of community endeavors. She serves on the CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children) Board and The Children's Law Center Board, and works as a volunteer for Legacies (a high-end consignment shop in Hyde Park). She also is very politically

Nancy Perry, through the eyes of others

I asked several people to contribute a short comment about Nancy and her efforts at Steely, but I'll take the liberty as author, to go first.

From **Mary Chesnut, Associate Professor and Lead Faculty Member for the Library Informatics Program**

Nancy Perry is a sophisticated, well-dressed woman who practically oozes warmth and approachability. She is passionate about NKU and Steely Library and it comes as no surprise to me that she was able to help acquire a number of sizable donations to Steely Library in her role as Development Officer. How could someone say no to Nancy? She is the "real deal", an NKU pioneer, and an all-around-nice-lady. I have enjoyed working with her since that time in 1990 when we both served major roles on the NKU Homecoming committee, and I look forward to continuing to see her on NKU's campus.

From **Lois Hamill, University Archivist and Associate Professor**

Nancy has been a steadfast supporter of NKU almost from its founding, serving in many capacities. I have only known her in her latest role as the Development Officer for Steely Library, however, I have learned much from her. We worked together to solicit potential collections and financial support for Special Collections for the last six years. I am sorry to see her leave the library — will miss her.

From **Arne Almquist, Associate Provost for Library Services**

It has been a pleasure working with Nancy Perry over the past 10 years. Nancy has brought a high level of energy, dedication, professionalism, and caring service to Steely Library. Her history with NKU and extensive connections (I have learned that Nancy truly knows everybody!), have made her exceedingly valuable to the library's development efforts. Nancy's approach to development is based on relationship-building that is, building true positive relationships between the people of the library and our donors. As a result, our donors have bought into our mission and become part of the Steely family.

Nancy has a passion for art that was particularly well exhibited in her dedicated work on the Duvenceck and Sawyer exhibitions and in our efforts to add art to the public spaces throughout the library, such as the Stego sculpture. While these projects are the most visible proof of her work, her successful work to bring in new life members of the Friends of Steely Library, and special collections, such as the Stanley Chesley Beverly Hills Supper Club Collection have also greatly enhanced the quality of our collections and support of our services.

I wish Nancy the best as she transitions fully to the planned giving role and look forward to her continuing involvement with the library as a member of the Friends of Steely Library Board.



Nancy in 1975



Nancy, Greg Harper, (who won the 1992 Outstanding Alumnus Award) and former NKU President Leon Boothe.

involved in the community.



Nancy, Mary Ellen Elsbernd, Ken Ramey and Charlene Wray

Down Time

When not at work at NKU or involved in the community, Nancy has a number of interests that keep her busy. She loves to travel and “has been blessed to be able to travel abroad a number of times”. She also loves to read, belongs to a book club and enjoys doing needlework and knitting. She loves spending time with Ray and their blended families, especially her 18 month old grand-daughter Emma. She also loves doting on her two dogs, Phoebe (a Yorkie) and Jake (a Shih Tzu). Nancy is also currently “on a mission” to locate a kidney for her son, Charles.

NKU Memories

When asked about her feelings about NKU, Nancy proudly proclaimed, “NKU has been my life. The people are as close as my blood family.”

Nancy shared that she has seen NKU through all of the presidents, has worked in 3 of the 4 divisions (Student Affairs, Academic Affairs, and Advancement), has worked in 5 different NKU buildings (Nunn Hall, Hermann Center, Lucas Administrative Center, Steely Library, and Hankin’s Hall on Park Hills Campus), and has been at NKU for all of the “ups and downs”. One funny anecdote that she shared was that her first office in 1973 was located on the 5th floor of Nunn; when Chase moved to campus in 1981, her office was almost in the exact same spot, on the 5th floor of Nunn Hall.

She shared that a favorite NKU memory was the first NKU Alumni Lecture Series “with the two Georges” (political pundits George Will and George Stephanopoulos in September of 2000). Nancy said, “There was an aura on campus we had never seen before. The Ballroom was dressed up as a gala.” She also mentioned the Maya Angelou lecture in 1995 as a special moment in her life at NKU.

Steely Library

Nancy shared that she loves Steely Library. She has really enjoyed working with the people so much and has always been passionate about the library, and its fundraising efforts. She shared how much fun it was to broker the long-term loan of Stego (Stegowagenvolkssaurus), a sculpture by artist Patricia A. Renick).

CONVERSATIONS ON COLLECTIONS

[Special Collections and Archives]

By Lois Hamill

Since my last column, Special Collections and University Archives have continued to be busy with interesting activities. In April we collaborated with Instructional Librarian Andrea Brooks to teach thirty middle-schoolers from St. Joseph Academy, Walton, KY for the day. The opening session discussed who creates archival records, why and in what circumstances and how they come to be in an archives. Students were led to contrast the qualities of primary and secondary sources then viewed interesting examples of primary sources from our archival collections. The group then split in two with half coming to the archives to learn how to analyze a primary source and half going with Andrea to learn how to search electronic databases and assess the quality of secondary sources. Students returned to school with sources for their research paper and NKU swag courtesy of Admissions.

In April, I served on a federal grant review panel. After having (co)-written or otherwise contributed to seven grants in the last six years, it was very enlightening to be in the position of evaluating proposals. Speaking of which, both of our National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grants ended on June 30. I have received the Security Assessment report our consultant wrote and will be looking at implementing recommendations. The larger NEH grant to evaluate our heating and cooling system has enabled us to study the current system and determine what does and doesn’t work. At present Special Collections and University Archives is connected to the main campus system, but requires environmental conditions that are more stringent in order to preserve our collections. It is like trying to keep one room in your house cooler than the others while only using your central air system. A dedicated HVAC system for Special Collections would meet the optimum humidity and temperature settings for the archival collections without forcing the rest of campus to meet those same requirements. The main campus system is actually unable to perform at that level, and were it capable, it would increase its energy costs. It is actually more efficient to have a separate system. The original 15 month grant was extended to 21 months to provide time to complete our work. Analysis of a year’s worth of environmental monitoring led the grant project team to recommend a dedicated HVAC system for the archives. The grant is paying for schematic drawings to be drawn up for a separate system. The next step would be to obtain funding for installation of the actual system.

For more than a year now the University Archives has been working with the University Marketing and Communications department on a coffee table book about NKU’s buildings. The book is a blend of panoramic photos by Cincinnati Tom Schiff and historical photos from the University Archives photograph collection. Our department located, identified and provided photographs; conducted photo research; helped review the design layout and verified information. Records Manager Vicki Cooper conducted a significant portion of this work. The book, currently in the review and editing phase, will be published by the University Press of Kentucky.

Nancy Perry has supported and helped advance the work of Northern Kentucky State College, Chase Law School, Northern Kentucky University and now Steely Library for many years. I have had the opportunity to work with her on behalf of Special Collections for over six years now. She was key to helping us obtain our most recent gift of funding from David Trauth to create digital copies of the advertising films he had previously donated. Our thanks to Mr. Trauth for his generous support and to Nancy Perry for facilitating the Trauth gifts.

MARY TODD CHESNUT is Associate Professor and Lead Faculty Member for the Library Informatics Program, W. Frank Steely Library

LOIS HAMILL is the University Archivist and an Associate Professor at W. Frank Steely Library

And the award goes to...

By Allen Ellis



Librarian John Schlipp presents Clare with her award at The Celebration of Research & Creativity.

The winner of the 2014 W. Frank Steely Library Research Award, a part of NKU's Celebration of Student Research and Creativity, is Clare Turner-Collins, a senior in the Department of Psychological Science. Her research was for her Honors in Psychology project, "Does Anthropomorphism of Dogs Affect Pain Perception? Her study examines how ascribing human traits to dogs influences animal-assisted therapy used to increase pain tolerance. Clare's faculty sponsor was Kim Breitenbecher of the Department of Psychological Science.

The Honors in Psychology (HIP) program involves devoting two semesters to designing, conducting, analyzing, and reporting an original research project. Clare wrote that the project was "easily the most challenging, yet rewarding experience of my academic career," and that "throughout the entire process, Steely Library has been integral to my success in producing

interesting and high-quality research... I would have struggled with the task of producing an extensive literature review without the assistance of Steely Library, which not only provided indispensable services, but also caused me to think critically about the research process."

Clare currently works for The Cincinnati Insurance Companies and in the future hopes to pursue graduate school and to work for the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.

ALLEN ELLIS is Professor and Research and Information Services Librarian, W. Frank Steely Library

Commemorative Chairs Program

The Commemorative Chair Program provides you the opportunity to support NKU's W. Frank Steely Library while enjoying permanent recognition of your commitment. You can honor or memorialize a loved one with chairs which will be located in the Schlachter Family Archives or in the Eva G. Farris Reading Room, a beautiful study, gallery and special events area. Your inscription can include names, significant dates or meaningful quotes. Prices for the chairs are \$250 and \$500.

For more information about Commemorative Chairs, contact Sandi Rodgers Webster at (859) 572-6152 or email websr@nku.edu.

Legacy of Books Program

Legacy of Books is a program to enhance the book collection of W. Frank 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, if desired.

For more information about the Legacy of Books Program, contact Sandi Rodgers Webster at (859) 572-6152 or email websr@nku.edu.

Where are they now?



Shane Winslow, winner of Steely's first Student Research Award in the Celebration of Student Research and Creativity figures prominently in this article from the British publication *The Times Higher Education*, "North Kentucky More Inspirational than the Ivy Leaguers." (September 5, 2013, by

Filepe Fernandez-Armesto, <http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/comment/columnists/north-kentucky-more-inspirational-than-the-ivy-leaguers/2006971.article>). The article also makes mention of Winslow's in-progress book with fellow NKU alum Andrew Boehringer, *Descent: A History of the Cincinnati Steps*.

Allen Ellis recently caught up with Shane via email and learned that he is currently working in the AmeriCorps program under Notre Dame Mission Volunteers of America. This program is dedicated to education in areas that are especially under-represented or impoverished. One of the two places he works for is Venice on Vine, a restaurant and catering company located in downtown Cincinnati, whose mission is to improve lives in the Over The Rhine community and its surroundings. Venice on Vine provides work experience and a stepping stone to those who are faced with unique employment barriers, such as history of addiction, dealings with the court system, felonies, or generational impoverishment. Trainees are allowed the chance to gain employment history and skill development in a non-traditional educational setting.

The second organization Shane has been working for is the International Welcome Center, an organization designed to provide a support system to immigrant communities in the Price Hill area of Cincinnati. The support may be nutritional, legal, health, or educational experience in English, to name a few.

Additionally, Shane has been accepted to the University of Cincinnati Master of Geography program with a teaching assistant opportunity. He will continue his research on the stairway systems of Cincinnati and how these connectors link the community together through the dichotomy of the rich and the poor. Additionally the stairway systems act as culturally important indicator which can be studied through various themes, such as religion, transportation, economy, recreation, residential systems, and inevitably their decline.

Steely Library Represents: NKU Regents Distinguished Service Award Nominee and Winner!

By Mary Todd Chesnut



This year, Steely Library had two very deserving employees nominated for NKU's Regents Distinguished Service Awards. The Regents Distinguished Service Award "recognizes individual staff employees who have made exemplary contributions to the growth, image, or efficient operations of the University..." and are "evaluated based upon exemplary performance in one or more of the following: service above and beyond

the call of duty, initiative and creativity, peer recognition, contributions to the work environment, and personal characteristics such as enthusiasm, loyalty, good attendance, leadership and cooperation, courtesy, and fairness to other employees."

CRAIG PERSON was nominated for the Professional/Research Assistants category and **MILLIE McLEMORE** was nominated for (*and won!*) the award for the Service Maintenance-Skilled Crafts-Technical/Scientific category. The winners were announced at NKU's Annual Employee Appreciation Day Breakfast on Thursday, March 20, in the Student Union Ballroom.



Millie McLemore (left) pictured with the two other 2014 Regents Distinguished Service award recipients, Jackie Marsala & Tina Altenhofen.

PHOTO CREDIT:
TIMOTHY D. SOFRANKO/NKU

Human Resources shared this statement that was read about Millie at the breakfast:

The recipient of the 2014 Regents Distinguished Service Award in the Service Maintenance-Skilled Crafts-Technical/Scientific category has served the University for six years. Enthusiasm and cheerfulness are two of the personal characteristics most cited about this nominee followed by professionalism. As one nominator claims she is a "bright ray of professional sunshine". She remains cheerful and patient while resolving technology issues for those of us who may not be so patient with our computers keeping in mind we are her customers. Her supervisor notes, and I quote, "she is open to new ideas and is able to effectively contribute to the future technology needs for the library. She continually seeks ways to improve efficiencies in the division which benefits her individually as well as the library as a whole."

Congratulations to Craig and Millie for this university-wide recognition of what everyone in Steely already knows... Craig and Millie are Steely superstars! Also, as Millie so humbly acknowledged when I was discussing this article with her, "everyone in Steely Library works hard... others deserved this award as much as I did."

MARY TODD CHESNUT is Associate Professor and Lead Faculty Member for the Library Informatics Program, W. Frank Steely Library

Steely's IPAC Now Official Center for U.S. Patent & Trademark Office

By John Schlipp



Steely Library was honored with an official PTRC designation plaque during the 36th Annual PTRC Training Seminar at the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office in Alexandria, Virginia. John Schlipp accepted the decoration at the seminar on behalf of

Steely Library on 24 March, 2014 as shown in the photo here. USPTO officials (from left to right), John B. Owens II, Chief Information Officer, and Bruce Kisiuk, Deputy Commissioner for Patent Administration, presented the commemoration token to John Schlipp (holding the plaque in the center). PHOTO CREDIT: U.S. PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Steely Library's IPAC: Intellectual Property Awareness Center was designated as an authorized Patent & Trademark Resources Center (PTRC) representing the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office (USPTO). There are only 84 PTRCs in the nation. To celebrate the occasion, Steely Library hosted a public grand opening event on Thursday, 5 December 2013.

Expert librarians, Tom Turner and Neil Massong, from the Patent & Trademark Resource Center Program at the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office, presented to over fifty guests attending from as far as Sidney, Ohio (north of Dayton, OH) and Louisville, Kentucky (to the southwest). The attendees were predominately inventors, entrepreneurs, and newer small businesses, while NKU students, established businesses, and attorneys specializing in intellectual property were also present.



Former Provost Gail Wells lead the grand opening ribbon cutting ceremony

NKU's President Mearns provided an official greeting before the midday lunch break. Later, the former Provost Gail Wells lead the grand opening ribbon cutting ceremony (pictured here), before a local resources panel presentation which included representatives from Chase Law + Informatics Institute, NKU INKUBATOR, Small Business Development Center, and the Inventor's Council of Cincinnati.

Those attending learned about intellectual property to support their professional needs. The PTRC designation supports Steely Library's IPAC as it helps our library customers in learning more about patents and trademarks with one-on-one assistance and training workshops. This designation also places the IPAC as a local face of the USPTO, and helps to cultivate a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship.

For a schedule of future related intellectual property awareness programs, see the IPAC Services section at <http://ipac.nku.edu/ipacservices.html>. The success of Steely Library's PTRC grand opening further supports our IPAC and its role as the first stop for both campus and community constituents requiring information and awareness of any of their intellectual property needs. Likewise, it also demonstrates the IPAC's leading role in civic engagement and community outreach.

JOHN SCHLIPP is Associate Professor /Intellectual Property Librarian, W. Frank Steely Library

LIN Capstone Projects

By Mary Todd Chesnut

In the spring of 2014, there were six Library Informatics students enrolled in the Senior Capstone class, LIN 496. This class allows each student to obtain experiential experience in some area of the information field, in an independent study type of capacity. There was such a diverse set of projects this semester, that I asked the students who were interested to summarize their experiences here.

On the Job Experience: Interning in an Academic Library



ROSEANNA NOEL worked as a library intern for Gateway Community & Technical College to complete her LIN 496 Capstone Experience. As an academic library intern, she was able to participate in the planning and hosting of events, give library instruction and information literacy presentations to students, and provide reference and technology assistance to students (in-person, online, and through Blackboard). In her time at Gateway, she "learned to appreciate that each patron has a different skill set and to adjust my approach for each individual. It can be startling to realize something that seems natural and obvious to yourself is completely alien to others. Often, instructors assumed that students already possessed the technology and info literacy skills they needed to succeed but many students needed guidance from library staff to develop sufficient research skills." She left the internship with a reinvigorated appreciation for the power of librarians to perform essential but sometimes overlooked instruction that has the potential to change lives.

Roseanna Noel graduated from NKU spring 2014. She will pursue Graduate Studies in Library and Information Science at the University of Kentucky beginning this fall. She lives in Independence, KY with her boisterous family and one haughty tuxedo cat.

Employing Graphic Novels to Design Unconventional Lesson Plans



MELODI PULLIAM was fortunate to collaborate with Steely Library's Professor John Schlipp for her senior LIN 496 Capstone project. It was a virtual project, making lesson plans for 8th and 11th graders centered on two graphic novels. The idea was to get kids learning by using graphic novels as a valid format for teaching the students, and connecting to them on a more personal level because the format (the graphic novel) is one that they would have read anyway. Since Ms. Pulliam is also a lover of all things that have to do with graphic novels (and comic books, and manga, and anime, etc.) this was the perfect project for her to do! Ms.

Pulliam learned many things about not only teaching, but about how her future role as a teacher will play out. She is very glad that this experience was a positive and uplifting one, because in the end, it allowed Ms. Pulliam to reaffirm her goal of teaching future library students and helping them on the path to become librarians themselves.

Melodi Pulliam was born and raised in Lexington, KY, but now makes her home in Bourbon County. She is the mother to an 11 year old smart as a whip autistic son, and fiancée to the most wonderful man and step-father in the world. She graduated with her Bachelors in Library Informatics this summer, and will be marching right along as she partakes of even more of the wonderful information stew that is the library in UK's SLIS Master's program. She will be forging straight ahead to complete her goal of becoming an Instructor Librarian and (hopefully) Professor of Library Information and Science. All of this while working part-time at a gas station (it's a wonderful job that helps to hone those customer service skills!) and taking care of her small, yet blessed family. With all the support and love around her, everyone who knows and talks to Ms. Pulliam is confident that she will definitely reach all the goals she has set for herself!

Chase Law Library: Exploring New Digital Endeavors



HOLLY RITCHIE did her LIN 496 capstone field experience at Chase Law Library at Northern Kentucky University. She shared that this was a wonderful experience because she "was able to further explore the cataloging side of libraries as well as learn how to develop an informational guide for patrons". She believes this experience will help her in her future career and her new knowledge of the cataloging of electronic resources will be beneficial with the growing technological side of library science.

Holly is a recent graduate from the Library of Informatics program at Northern Kentucky University and resides in Olmsted Falls, OH. She plans to attend Indiana University within two years to gain her Masters in Library Science.

Preserving and Digitizing History for Future Generations

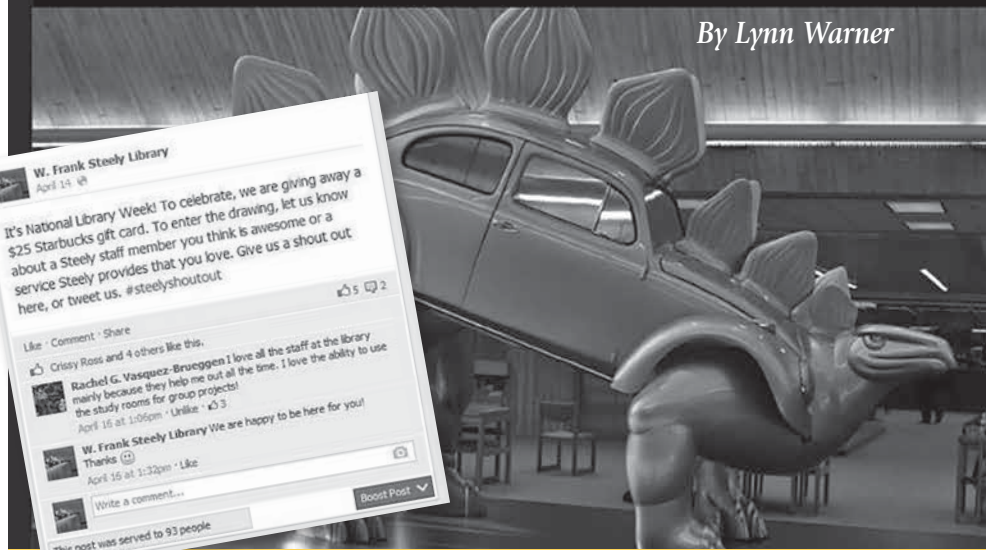
EDDIE TACKETT'S capstone field experience was one that had a very personal meaning for him because it "hit close to home". Eddie's project involved digitizing four large volumes of newspaper articles and clippings from all over the world (over 700 clippings) concerning the Buffalo Creek Disaster of 1972 that occurred near the town where he lives. Eddie is currently employed at the library that was named the Buffalo Creek Memorial Library in memory of those who lost their lives in the terrible disaster. As part of his capstone project, Eddie also created a Facebook page entitled "Memories of the Buffalo Creek Flood Disaster" where he placed information concerning the disaster and allowed others to post comments, pictures or share any information concerning the flood. The Facebook page has proven to be very popular. All of Eddie's hard work on this project will help to preserve the history of the Buffalo Creek Disaster for many generations to come.



Eddie Tackett is a recent graduate of NKU (summer 2014). He resides in Man, West Virginia. He is employed as a Library Associate at The Buffalo Creek Memorial Library.

GONE VIRAL: Steely Social Media

By Lynn Warner



Robert Downey Jr
November 6, 2013

"Stegowagenvolkssaurus" by Patricia Renick.




Sorry Transformers, you're doing it wrong.

Like · Comment · Share

91,855 people like this.

9,678 shares

View previous comments 6 of 1,554

- 
Trace Etherton This is (or at least used to be) in the middle of the library at NKU. Very cool to see in person. And then years later almost cooler to see on this page haha
May 17 at 11:40am · Like
- 
Lyle Harris Slug-Bug!
May 20 at 3:03pm · Like
- 
Jenny Vust Its cause they didn't turn it to wambo
May 21 at 11:53pm · Like

What do President Means, JSTOR, and Robert Downey Jr. have in common? They have all connected with Steely Library's Facebook and Twitter sites! 89% of college students own a smartphone, and of those users, 92% use their phone to access social media sites. Take a stroll around NKU - students can be seen checking their phones, tapping out tweets, taking "selfies" to post to Instagram, or updating their Facebook page on library computers. Now students can also connect with Steely Library.

During the summer of 2013, Steely Library's Marketing Committee began to look to social media as another way to engage with our users. Utilizing social media, Steely Library can enter into a conversation with not only students, but the entire NKU community.

A social media committee was formed, comprised of Steely Library faculty and staff: Kyle Biggs, Andrea Brooks, Anne Ryckbost, and Lynn Warner. Policies and procedures were written up, posting schedules assigned, and off we went, officially taking over Steely Library Facebook and Twitter accounts October 1, 2013. The committee's stated goals are to create awareness of library resources, increase traffic (physical as well as virtual), and to connect with the Northern Kentucky University community. Ten months later, it is clear Steely Library's online presence is flourishing. We have grown from 362 followers (as of October 1, 2013) to 588 followers, as of August 25, 2014.

There have been many highlights during this new social media adventure. The most popular link among our Twitter followers is a brief video by Andrea Brooks. This video is targeted to specifically welcome incoming freshman to Steely Library.

There was also a flurry of retweets (and excitement) when it was discovered actor Robert Downey Jr. is a fan of Steely's beloved Stegowagenvolkssaurus. Downey posted a picture of Stego with the caption "Sorry Transformers, you're doing it wrong" on his Facebook page. After thousands of likes and shares, Stego had gone viral. As one student tweeted, "Robert Downey Junior just shared a photo of a sculpture in my school library on his Facebook page. LOOK AT US." Look at us indeed - NKU and Steely were shared around the world.

While we certainly enjoyed the celebrity attention, we have found that Steely's Twitter feed has been a great way to inform our users. While we often tweet or Facebook reminders of the services Steely has to offer, the immediacy of social media allows us to update our followers quickly when necessary. When the printers went down, we immediately went to Twitter in order to send out the announcement across campus, saving students from

coming to the library, only to be frustrated when they wouldn't be able to print out a paper. When the Wi-Fi was on the fritz, we let students know they could use desktops - but would not be able to access the internet via laptops or mobile devices. When one student griped on Twitter about printing charges for a job gone wrong, we tweeted out how to appeal printing charges - something this student (and probably many others) was not aware was an option.

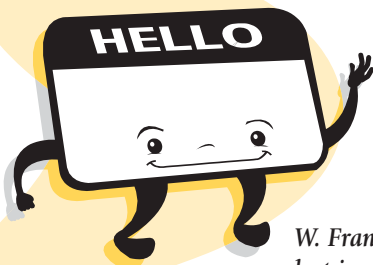
We all felt our clout rise when we were retweeted by JSTOR, the shared digital library. The day after an episode of Neil deGrasse Tyson's Cosmos aired, featuring Edmund Halley, we tweeted: "Following #Cosmos? You can read Halley's An Account of Several Extraordinary Meteors or Lights in the Sky via Steely." Between JSTOR and Robert Downey Jr., social media has allowed Steely and NKU to be showcased to a wide audience.

Many followers interact with us often; those in the building let us know about cold spots or strange smells we should investigate. Students schedule "hot dates" to study at Steely. We have power users who love to tweet pictures of themselves studying in the library. To encourage interaction, the committee has organized two contests via Twitter and Facebook. In honor of National Library Week, we ran our first contest, the Steely Shout Out, where followers were encouraged to let us know what they love about the library. We had several responses, and the randomly drawn winner won a Starbucks gift card. When we were approaching 500 followers, we planned a second contest to gift a Starbucks card to the lucky 500th follower.

Many plans are in the works for Steely Library's social media networks. The committee just introduced special Twitter treasure hunts during the first week of the semester to encourage familiarity with the library. Trivia contests will appear occasionally. Currently, the social media sites the committee focuses on are Twitter and Facebook, but we may branch out into Instagram in the future.

Great connections and publicity have come out of utilizing social media networks. We are able to listen to what our users are saying, and respond quickly. We are also able to inform our users about what Steely Library has to offer. It has been a great way to keep up with other departments around campus. Please join us in the online conversation - follow us on Twitter @Steelylib and like us on Facebook at facebook.com/SteelyLibrary.

Lynn Warner is an Instructional Services Librarian,
W. Frank Steely Library



New faces in the crowd

By Mary Todd Chesnut

W. Frank Steely Library welcomed six new employees since the last issue. Read their profiles below.



Shanna Aliq

RIS Division Assistant

When did you start working in Steely Library?

September 30, 2013

Where did you work prior to this position?

I worked for the Kentucky state government in the Cabinet

for Health and Family Services.

Where is your hometown? Union, KY

What do you like most about Steely Library?

The people that I work with. It's a great team effort by everyone.

Name a book you have recently read, or are currently reading?

Besides the many, many, many kids books I'm currently reading to my son, the last book I read was, *And the Mountains Echoed*.

Do you have any interests, outside of work?

I love sports watching and playing. I am a fast pitch softball coach at a local H.S.



Joey Cucchiara

Library Specialist

Describe your current position?

I do a little bit of everything in Knowledge Management Services.

From copy cataloging, to check-in of new government document items, to assisting

with paying invoices.

When did you start working in Steely Library?

September 9th, 2013

Where did you work prior to this position?

Prior to accepting the full time staff position here, I worked as a student worker in KMS. I was in the student worker position for about a year before the staff position became available.

Where is your hometown? I was born and raised in Foster, KY (Bracken County) and still live there today. It's a small town about 40 minutes southeast of NKU.

What do you like most about Steely Library?

What I like most about the library is what I like most about NKU as a whole. We are quite a young institution in a growing metropolitan area which gives us many capabilities for our future. It is exciting for me to be a part of NKU's growth, not

only as a staff member, but also a student. The same goes for the library. I like the opportunity of growth that working in Steely Library offers.

Name a book you have recently read, or are currently reading?

Duck Commander Devotional
Do you have any interests, outside of work? Although I don't do it nearly as much as I would like at the moment, I really like to fish (and be outdoors in general).



Kyle Biggs

Knowledge Management Specialist II (Cataloging)

Where did you work prior to this position?

Library Assistant (Night Supervisor; Public Services)

Where is your hometown? Newport, KY

What do you like most about Steely Library?

The people that I get to work and interact with every day!

Name a book you have recently read, or are currently reading?

Memories of Ice by Steven Erikson, part of a series that is very similar to *A Game of Thrones*

Do you have any interests, outside of work?

I am a huge football fan. I love the Bengals, but I like watching college football more than the NFL.



Jane Hammons

Instructional Services Librarian

When did you start working in Steely Library?

June 2, 2014

Where did you work prior to this position?

Previously worked at the University of

Pikeville in Pikeville, KY

Where is your hometown? Norwood, OH.

What do you like most about Steely Library?

What I like most about Steely Library is how friendly and helpful everyone has been

Name a book you have recently read, or are currently reading?

The Wise Man's Fear by Patrick Rothfuss

Do you have any interests, outside of work?

Outside of work I love spending time with my two dogs, Zoey and Mia.



Danielle Sturdevant

Library Assistant/Supervisor

When did you start working in Steely Library?

August 26, 2013

Where did you work prior to this position?

Boone County Schools and P&G

Where is your hometown? Born in Eustis, Florida

What do you like most about Steely Library?

I enjoy working with students, faculty, and staff at Steely. The access to books is a major plus.

Name a book you have recently read, or are currently reading?

12 Years a Slave and *Wuthering Heights*

Do you have any interests, outside of work?

I enjoy spending time with my son, family, and friends. I like to go for walks, do Pilates, yoga, and hip hop classes at the YMCA, and being outside.



Steven Wease

Library Assistant/Evening Supervisor

Describe your current position?

I manage stacks maintenance projects and serve as staff supervisor during evening/late hours.

When did you start

working in Steely Library?

I returned to Steely on May 12, 2014.

Where did you work prior to this position?

Prior to this position, I worked as a mental health therapist at Pathways, Inc. in Mount Sterling, Kentucky. I have also been a student supervisor at Camden-Carroll Library (Morehead State University) in addition to my previous work in Knowledge Management here at Steely.

Where is your hometown? I grew up in Upton, Kentucky, which is a small town of approximately 650 residents located near Elizabethtown. I most recently relocated from Morehead, Kentucky to the Highland Heights area.

What do you like most about Steely Library?

Thus far, I am enjoying the flexibility and calm work environment I have encountered at Steely. It has been wonderful to become acquainted with my coworkers and reconnect with those I knew before.

Name a book you have recently read, or are currently reading?

One of the most enjoyable books I have read recently is *Let's Pretend This Never Happened: A Mostly True Memoir* by Jenny Lawson. I'd recommend this book to anyone who enjoys a good laugh!

Do you have any interests, outside of work?

My current interests include getting a much delayed start on Dexter (no spoilers please!), visiting the Campus Rec Center, and touring the parks of Cincinnati.



Catching Up with Judy Brueggen



Judy enjoying some pool time

Judy shared the following update on what she's been doing since retiring from Steely Library:

In spite of many health challenges in our family we are enjoying retirement very much. We have been doing some traveling. John and I celebrated our 50th anniversary last year with a lovely dinner with family and friends. Afterward we joined a Road Scholar trip to the barrier islands of Georgia. It was a great trip. We highly recommend the Road Scholar program.

I spend a lot of my time doing aqua fitness, yoga, playing cards with high school classmates and watching grandsons. We have 5 grandsons and one on the way.

I have many good memories of my time at Steely. I enjoyed the people, the students and the work. I always felt respected and appreciated. I am especially proud of the fact that I was part of the retro download of Government Documents Marcive records. One of the fun memories is the "Library Olympics" during National Library Week.

NKU was a great place to work and an even better place from which to be a retiree. I visit campus for special events and sometimes just to walk around and appreciate how far we've come and I am proud that I was a part of that.

Library Informatics

News

▶ There were 6 spring graduates who received a Bachelor of Science Library Informatics degree, May 2014: **Amanda Conners, David Kent Harbold, Tara Irvan, Roseanna Noel, Holly Ritchie, and Bethany Spencer**; and 3 graduates in summer 2014: **Eddie Tackett, Melodi Pulliam, and Laura Willcut**

▶ **Roseanna Weaver Noel** and **Melodi Pulliam** were both recently accepted into the University of Kentucky's graduate program in Library and Information Science.

▶ **Roseanna Weaver, Hillary Worrix, and Donna Bodner** were elected by NKU's Faculty Senate in April as winners for the 2014 Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges

▶ May graduate, **Holly Ritchie**, was recently named Library Informatics Outstanding Student for 2014! Holly was also recently featured in a wonderful article on NKU's main homepage: <http://www.nku.edu/features/2014/may/hollyritchie.html>

▶ **Donna Crocker** has been promoted to director of the Morgan County Public Library, in Berkeley Springs, WV. Her director retired and Donna began her new position on July 1!

▶ There were eight LIN students recently named to the President's Honor List: **Donna Bodner, Donna Crocker, Pamela Mann, Melodi Pulliam, Franklin Shook, Mellissa Stephens, Alexandria West, and Hillary Worrix**

highlights and happenings



Craig Person (Head of Access Services, W. Frank Steely Library) receives his Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Leadership, December 2013. Note: Craig graduated August 2013, but walked in the December ceremony.

PHOTO CREDIT: TIMOTHY D. SOFRANKO/NKU



October 23, 2013, the Friends of Steely Library hosted and welcomed author, Lynn Hightower. Ms. Hightower read from and signed copies of her latest book, The Piper. Lynn Hightower (center) with FOSL Board Member Sheila Williams (left) and Past FOSL President Pat Brennan (right).

PHOTO CREDIT: SANDI RODGERS-WEBSTER

From the President

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FRIENDS OF STEELY LIBRARY



Ken Gunkel

As I begin writing this letter I realize I don't know the majority of folks reading it. And I'm quite certain most of you do not know who I am either. So, I'd like to introduce myself. Not because I am anyone special, but it may give you some insight into what I have to say.

I grew up in a college town. Whenever I hear someone say that it is normally followed by places like Ann Arbor, New Haven, Columbus, Boston, or East Lansing to name some. Well, I grew up in Highland Heights, Kentucky. And I am proud to have been in the first graduating class of NKU (actually Northern Kentucky State College back in 1973).

Since then NKU has evolved immensely. I've been fortunate to have witnessed some of the growth first hand by being involved in different volunteer positions. For the past six years I have had the privilege to serve on the board of the Friends of Steely Library. On July 1st it was my honor to become president of FoSL.

It is not an exaggeration to say the board of FoSL is one of the strongest and most engaged boards I have been part of. Our fiscal year is July 1 – June 30. Board members' terms are two years. We strive to have 18 - 25 members on the board. There is natural attrition and term limits. So, on June 30th we said good-bye to four board members that will be missed: Mike Murray, Andy Miller, Libby McCord and Mary Anne Reese. Thank you for your commitment to FoSL and service you provided. Now on July 1st we welcomed five new members to the FoSL board: Tom Kruer, Christina Cook, Nancy Perry, Kelly Moffett and Bonnie Meyer. The addition of these folks will bring new ideas to continue to advance the mission of FoSL.

Last year was a banner year for FoSL under president, Patricia Brennan. The Literary Committee with Vicky Schooler, Richard Hunt, Bob Wallace, Meredith Singleton, John Campbell, Mary Ran and Shelia Williams brought an accomplished author- Lynn Hightower- to campus; as well as, the premier of a documentary drama based on interviews of veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan. The Government Affairs Committee chaired by Steve Hoffman initiated efforts to identify opportunities locally, regionally and statewide for Steely Library to become a preeminent resource for all the communities it serves. The FoSL is in a strong financial position. Thanks in part to the generosity of Oakley Farris. Oakley agreed to make a "challenge pledge". He would match the first \$100 donation per board member if we achieved 100% participation. Working together we supported each other and raised the funds. In addition to the money this created a stronger, cohesive and united team. Rock Neely headed up a Constitution Review team to make modifications to this important document that is a cornerstone of the FoSL. A student, Erik Pederson- president of the Student Government Association, served on the FoSL board, as did Pat Moynahan and Jennifer Proud Mearns. And going forward Nancy Bender has agreed to chair the new Sponsorship Committee.

As you can see I've named a lot of folks that make the FoSL a terrific organization. However, I'd be remiss to not mention two more: Sandi Webster who provides the much needed office support and Arne Almquist, Associate Provost for Library Services, who is responsible for Steely Library.

My father had a saying, "Ken, if you don't know how to do something then you need to know people who can do it." I assure you the FoSL has plans to achieve even more than those accomplishments listed above. Consequently I am thrilled with the fine people we have on our board who know how to get things done. This is an exciting time for FoSL. If you are interested in learning more about what is planned and want to be part of it don't hesitate to contact me. I'd be happy to share how you can get involved and direct you to the right person. Until then,

Enjoy

Ken Gunkel, president
Friends of Steely Library
 kengunkel@gmail.com



FRIENDS OF STEELY LIBRARY

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Ken Gunkel, president

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Arne Almquist

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 The E. W. Scripps Company
 Nathan and Mary Lee Smith
 Gerry and Peggy St. Amand
 William G. and Betty Verst
 Jim and Rachel Votruba
 Robert Wallace and
 Joan Ferrante
 Charles and Gail Wells
 Geraldine Williams
 John and Linda Winkler
 Marian C. Winner

DECEASED LIFE MEMBERS:

Margaret T. Fulford
 Gladys R. Harding
 George and Nancy Martin
 Danny Miller
 Judy Ruthven
 Stuart Sprague
 Frank Stallings
 W. Frank Steely



From The Editor

Mary Todd Chesnut

While putting together this issue of *Annotations*, I was again struck by how easy my colleagues in Steely Library and the Friends of Steely Library make my job. They initiate new projects; bring in best-selling authors; win awards; hire top quality faculty and staff for the library; acquire, create, and maintain excellent resources; and as Steely's mission states "partners with its users in their quest for information—through access, through innovation, and through its people." I continue to be proud to be a part of Steely Library and I love sharing a small piece of what we do via the platform of *Annotations*.

I want to take a second to acknowledge Nancy Perry, who approached me several years ago and asked me to consider being editor of *Annotations*. Thanks to all you have done for Steely Library, Nancy, I will miss you in the building, but am glad to know you'll still be on campus!

MARY TODD CHESNUT is Associate Professor and Lead Faculty Member for the Library Informatics Program, W. Frank Steely Library

ON DISPLAY

By Michael Providenti



Philip's LaVelle's "Gleaming the Cube", 24" x 24", Spray paint, inkjet prints, acrylic medium, 2011-2012.

During the spring of 2014, the first of two anthropology-based exhibits curated by Judy Voelker, Associate Professor of Anthropology at NKU, was on display in Steely Library's Eva G. Farris Reading Room. The exhibit "Crafted By Hand: Artisans and Continuing Traditions" presented photo essays documenting wood carving in British Columbia and hand-made textile production in Ghana. We are looking forward to her next exhibit "Southeast Asia: Past and Present" which will be on view in 2015.

This coming academic year promises many interesting exhibits including works of Philip LaVelle which combines landscape photography with geometric abstraction; Lisa Schafer's abstract watercolor and mixed-media works; and a show curated by NKU senior Emma Thompson assembling works inspired by Melville's "Moby Dick" and the poetry of Emily Dickinson. Watch for updates and information about upcoming exhibits in the Library News and Events section of Steely Library's homepage.

Michael Providenti is Associate Professor of Library Services and Web Development Librarian, W. Frank Steely Library

THE FRIENDS OF STEELY LIBRARY

Steely Library is a true 21st century library that well serves the needs of NKU and the community. Your gift provides us with the margin for excellence, helping to provide more of the services and information resources that are needed to meet the increasingly sophisticated needs of our clientele.

Your contributions will enable The Friends of Steely Library to support the efforts of the W. Frank Steely Library in its quest to reach the next level.

For more information about joining the Friends of Steely Library, contact Arne Almquist at 859-572-5483 or email almquista@nku.edu.

Please check here to receive information about leaving a legacy at Steely Library through your estate plans.

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W. Frank Steely Library
Nunn Drive
Highland Heights, KY 41099



Steely Library partners with its users in their quest for information – through access, through innovation, and through its people.

<http://library.nku.edu> | PHONE 859.572.5483 | EMAIL chesnut@nku.edu



John Ruthven applying sealant to two of his eagle portraits, during his September 2013 visit to Steely Library PHOTO CREDIT: RON ELLIS

On November 8, 2003, The Friends of Steely Library sponsored an event called John A. Ruthven: An Exhibit of Original Paintings, with a portion of the sales from the evening benefitting NKU's Friends of Steely Library. Dennis and Joyce Griffin generously purchased three of Ruthven's eagle paintings and donated them to Steely Library. One eagle painting is prominently hanging near the glass elevator on the 2nd floor of Steely Library. Stop by and see it the next time that you are visiting the W. Frank Steely Library.