Annotations

Friends of Steely Library/Northern Kentucky University | Volume 7, Issue 3 | Spring 2007

Bettering Life In, Bettering Life Out

Jail library positively affecting the lives of prisoners

The idea was simple: Encourage inmates at the Kenton County jail to read. Reading would help pass the time; inmates would become better readers; and they might learn something. In short, books would improve inmates' lives.

Using a grant and money provided by Northern Kentucky University and the Kenton County Detention Center, $167,000 was raised and a partnership formed among the detention center, NKU's Steely Library and NKU's Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice. They called the program "Library Link: Bettering Life In, Life Out." Steely Library would stock the shelves; jailers would pass out books to inmates. Two years into the program, the jail library is positively affecting the lives of prisoners, said Laura Sullivan, associate professor of library services and the grants coordinator for Steely Library.

"Three fourths of the jail population were non-readers," added Leslie Hammann, research and instructional services librarian. "Five weeks after the program began, 56 percent of inmates were checking out books."
"Books combat tensions," Sullivan said. "Our goal is to get the inmates to read more."

Inmates are also learning life skills in areas such as employment, personal finances, stress and productive use of leisure time, said Threasa Wesley, head of the library's research and instructional services.
All the books are paperback, "So they fall apart," Hammann said. Jailers say hardbacks and magazines are a security issue. More than 200 new books were recently purchased with a gift from Friends of Steely Library. Since the partnership began, an effort has been made to stock the library with books inmates request and to expand on reading programs. "Inmates often request books on poetry, history, biographies on celebrities, and personal relationships," Sullivan said.

Sullivan and her colleagues answered a few more questions about the program.

Leslie Hammann.

Threasa Wesley.

Laura Sullivan.

Q: ***Are you pleased with the jail library's progress?***

A: **One of the most gratifying developments has been the enthusiastic response to programming and book circulation. We regularly have inmates checking out more than one book per week. Every program is enrolled heavily. A recent survey showed 68.3 percent of inmates were checking out books from the library.**

Bettering Life continued on page 2

NKU
FRIENDS OF STEELY LIBRARY

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Nancy Perry

Ron Ellis and Frank Stallings.

Bettering Life continued from page 1

Q: *Was there a library at the jail before NKU became involved?*
A: Yes, originally established in 2002, the library operated for a year or so, but inadequate procedures and collections were in place to continue. With the grant, regular circulation was renewed. Moreover, grant funds allowed the collection to be expanded, particularly in the areas of life skills.

Q: *Any new programs?*
A: We are beginning a two-month program focusing on stress and anger management. Inmates will be offered selected readings on those subjects. In December, programming included *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens read in four installments.

Q: *What was the biggest surprise when the program started?*
A: The transient nature of the population with the large numbers of inmates coming and going on a regular basis. This had an unexpected impact on the progress we hoped to make in programming and the volume of data we were able to collect.

PROFILE OF A JAIL BOOK USER

Average age: 32
Race: White
Education: 39 percent have GED or diploma
Jail time: 7 percent of inmates will serve up to five years

Q: *What was the biggest challenge?*
A: Meshing the work culture of the jail with the expectations and goals of an academic endeavor.

> "A book a day keeps boredom at bay."
> >>> Jill Ball

MOST REQUESTED BOOKS

***The Da Vinci Code* by Dan Brown**
***Harry Potter series* by J.K. Rowling**
***The Color Purple* by Alice Walker**

Q: *Has the two-year partnership been renewed?*
A: The grant period ends in May. This grant is not renewable; however, the detention center will continue circulating the books on a regular basis. We are hoping there will be ways to grow and sustain the collection as well as offer new programming.

Q: *What can the community do to help?*
A: Monetary donations can be designated for the Kenton County Detention Center and sent to:

Friends of Steely Library
Steely Library
Northern Kentucky University
Highland Heights, KY 41099

Donations of paperback and soft-cover books can be made by contacting:

Leslie Hammann, Instructional Services Librarian
Steely Library
Northern Kentucky University
E-mail: hammannl1@nku.edu
Phone: (859) 572-6157

FAVORITE AUTHORS

John Grisham
V.C. Andrews
Stephen King

Life Members

Arne and Sharon Almquist
Cincinnati Bell
Ron and Debbie Ellis
Steve and Mary Ellen Elsbernd
Oakley and Eva Farris
Dennis and Joyce Griffin
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Nancy B. Perry
Procter & Gamble
Ken and Dianne Ramey
Republic Bank & Trust Co.
Lois and Richard Rosenthal
John and Judy Ruthven
Gerard and Peggy St. Amand
Mark and Rosemary Schlachter
Nathan and Mary Lee Smith
Dr. Frank Stallings
Dr. W. Frank Steely
William G. and Betty Verst
Jim and Rachel Votruba
Charles and Gail Wells

Vice President for Advancement Gerard A. St. Amand and his wife Peggy.

Literary Series

Jack Kerley, author, and Danny Miller.

Silas House, AUTHOR

October 2006

Author of: the books *Clay's Quilt, Parchment of Leaves* and *The Coal Tattoo* and the play *The Hurting Part.* His fourth novel is scheduled to be released in spring 2008. He is working on a fifth novel set in the Civil War.

Favorite author: Thomas Hardy, especially *Jude the Obscure.*

At Steely Library: He read *A Place of Noble Trees,* his essay about family vacations on Dale Hollow Lake. He wrote the work especially for *Of Woods and Waters: A Kentucky Outdoors Reader,* edited by Ron Ellis, president of Friends of Steely Library.

Oakley and Eva Farris.

Rachel Votruba and Oakley Farris.

"I like libraries. They are an integral part of the education system."
– Oakley Farris, life member of Friends of Steely Library

Meet The Board

Name: Kevin McGehee

Occupation: President, MGI Inc.

What I like about Steely Library: It is the hub and heart of the university.

Favorite Writers: Ron Ellis, of course, and Dan Brown.

Book(s) that Made a Difference: *Golf is Not a Game of Perfect* by Robert J. Rotella and Bob Cullen.

What I do for Fun: Watch my daughter beat me at golf.

Name: Danny Miller

Occupation: Chair, Department of Literature and Language, and Professor of English, Northern Kentucky University.

What I like about Steely Library: I've always liked the exceptionally friendly and helpful staff (in all areas, but especially the reference area).

Favorite Writers: In my area of expertise and teaching, Appalachian literature, my favorites are Harriette Arnow, author of *The Dollmaker* and *Hunter's Horn;* Jesse Stuart, one of Kentucky's most famous sons; and Lee Smith (my favorites are *Fair and Tender Ladies, Black Mountain Breakdown and Oral History).* I also love Robert Frost and William Wordsworth.

Book(s) that Made a Difference: Jim Wayne Miller's collection of poetry *The Mountains Have Come Closer* because these poems assume the persona of the Brier, an Appalachian transplanted to an urban area, who must come to terms with himself, how he sees himself and how others see him. As an Appalachian migrant to this area, I feel very much like Miller's Brier.

What I do for Fun: Genealogy. I love making connections to other people. My goal is to prove I'm related to everyone in Appalachia.

Name: Jennifer Adkins Reynolds

Occupation: Director of Publisher Relations and Events, Joseph-Beth Booksellers and Davis-Kidd Booksellers

What I Like About Steely Library: Special Collections and Archives, specifically, the regional collection. Since I was a young child, I have loved the whole magical concept of the library! Our small public library in West Liberty, Ky. (where I grew up), was next door to my school and across the street from my grandmother's house, where I stayed after school every day. As a result, I became a library junkie. It's always been amazing to me that one can just walk in and take home whatever books one wants (as long as you bring them back, of course!). As an undergraduate student at Centre College, I worked at both the library and the bookstore, so I think that I was destined for a life in books!

Favorite Writers: This is too hard! I'll divide them into groups.

Deceased: Faulkner, Joyce, Eudora Welty, Flannery O'Connor, Jane Austen, Larry Brown, Federico Garcia Lorca, Yeats, Harriette Arnow.

Living: Silas House, Dan Chaon, Stephenie Meyer, Jasper Forde, Lauren Willig, Gabriel Garcia-Marquez, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Barbara Kingsolver, Wendell Berry, Ron Rash, Tony Earley.

Book(s) that Made a Difference: *Curious George, Harold and the Purple Crayon, The Monster at the End of This Book, The Dollmaker, Absalom, Absalom! All the King's Men, What Are People For? A Three Dog Life, Starting from San Francisco.*

What I do For Fun: Read, of course! And, take my two dachshunds, Groucho and Goodtime Charlie, for walks around Lakeside Park. A devoted music lover, I spend a lot of time seeing live folk/acoustic/rock/ Broadway shows in the region. My husband and I are both passionate movie fans, as well, so we spend many hours at the movies.

Name: Ann Welch

Occupation: I'm working on a Master of Fine Arts in creative writing at Spalding University.

What I like about Steely Library: To me Steely Library is a living entity: evolving, exciting and embracing.

Favorite Writers: Annie Dillard, Anne Lamott, Annie Proulx, Anne Tyler, Anna Quindlen, Kaye Gibbons, Barbara Kingsolver, Ivan Doig, Tom Robbins, Bobbie Ann Mason, Eudora Welty, David Sedaris, Robert Louis Stevenson, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Billy Collins, Mary Oliver, Rumi, Emily Dickinson, Robert Frost, James Campbell, David Abram, Thich Nhat Hanh.

Book(s) that Made a Difference: Joseph Campbell's *The Power of Myth* and *The Hero with a Thousand Faces;* David Abram's *The Spell of the Sensuous;* Ralph Waldo Emerson's *Self Reliance;* Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings' *The Yearling;* Anne Tyler's *The Accidental Tourist;* and my mother's notebook of unpublished poems.

What I do for Fun: Outside adventures with Rocky, my full-of-jokes (and they're all on me) Portuguese water dog.

NOTES FROM THE AP

ARNE O. ALMQUIST, Associate Provost for Library Services

As I write these words, 2006 is rapidly drawing to a close. From wonderful events sponsored by the Friends of Steely Library to numerous construction projects to the implementation of new technology and techniques, Steely Library continues to make great progress in its development as a first-class complement to our maturing university.

One longstanding project that is very close to completion is the reading room for the Eva G. Farris Special Collections and Schlachter Archives. The early rendering that appeared in Annotations, Vol. 6, No. 2, does not do justice to the reality of the finished room. Dark cherry, warm neutral walls and elegant lighting have turned the space into a dignified but comfortable facility for research and preservation of our rare and historical materials.

The Farrises have more recently given the library a substantial gift to create a beautiful new reading area on the second floor. The space selected for the renovation overlooks both the fountain and the lake and is one of the more popular reading areas in the library. Wood, leather and rich color will combine to create an exciting area for study and collaboration. In addition, lighting and color will be used to create a gallery setting for the display of faculty and student artwork.

A recently completed construction project resulted in the creation of a new compact storage area, which will allow us to more efficiently manage our book and microform collections as well as a new state-of-the-art classroom and a consultation area for our information desk.

Rosemary Schlachter and Phillip Kaplow at the archives dedication.

Student access to technology was greatly increased with the addition of more than 60 PCs and Macintosh computers in two new computer labs. The new labs are staffed throughout the library's full hours of operation.

The heart of any library, of course, is its book collection. We are applying advanced technology to the maintenance of the collection. This fall, we began affixing RFID (radio frequency identification) tags to all new books coming into the collection. The system that we are using was specifically created for use by libraries and contains minimal information, notably an item number and an on/off security bit, to address privacy concerns.

The new technology will allow us to perform inventory checks on a much more frequent basis than has been previously possible. This will result in a reduction of books that are "lost" due to mis-shelving – a serious problem with large academic collections. Fewer patrons should be charged for lost books. Steely Library is a leader in the use of this technology in Kentucky – to our knowledge we are the first academic library in the commonwealth to implement the technology.

Arne Almquist, Ron Ellis and Jim Claypool

Our faculty and staff continue in their efforts to make the library the best that it can be. Three of our faculty members, Laura Sullivan, Threasa Wesley and Leslie Hammann, have worked to build a library serving the inmate population of the Kenton County Detention Center. Partnering with the center and faculty from the criminal justice department at NKU, the library is proving its worth as a vehicle for increasing reading, encouraging the development of life skills and serving as a tool for research. The project was funded through a University Community Partnership Grant. The Friends have also supported the effort through a generous gift to purchase additional books for the library.

All in all, it has been a very successful year for the library. We thank the Friends of Steely Library for its work both in direct financial support of the library and for the events that help to connect the library with the community while enhancing the cultural life of that community.

Dear Friends, I joined the board of the Friends of Steely Library a few years ago at the invitation of **Dr. Frank Stallings,** who was serving as the Friends' president at the time, and Dr. Arne Almquist, who was also just beginning his duties as Northern's new associate provost for library services. We met at Perkins Restaurant, across from the Highland Heights campus, on a snowy January morning. It didn't take much coaxing on that cold morning to convince me to join the Friends (that stack of pancakes they served me might have helped some, too), since for me the library has always been, as I am fond of saying, "a place where all things seem possible."

As a new retiree, I was happy to be of help to the library and to work again with Dr. Stallings, my friend and colleague for whom I have the greatest respect. Frank Stallings worked hard at pulling the Friends back together after a period of inactivity, and he recruited another friend and retiree, Mary Ellen Elsbernd, who helped establish the Friends back in 1985, during her tenure as the director of Steely Library. And so quite soon we had a dedicated board assembled and working hard on behalf of the library's many programs and services.

During Dr. Stallings' presidency, and with Dr. Almquist's continuing support and guidance, the board focused on growing the membership and supporting the library's broad-based mission through limited fundraising events, solicitation of gifts and annual memberships. Also, joining in these efforts and providing counsel was **Nancy Perry,** who began serving as the first director of Steely Library development and university planned giving.

With the team assembled, the Friends celebrated early achievements, including generous gifts from the **Mark and Rosemary Schlachter Family** for a much-needed renovation of the archives and from **Oakley and Eva Farris** to enhance the library's special collections and to establish a dedicated reading area; a first-ever showing at Northern of the original artwork of one of the university's great friends, the internationally recognized wildlife artist **John A. Ruthven;** and the acceptance into the archives of the papers of former U.S. Rep. **Ken Lucas** and state Rep. **Jim Callahan.**

This past April, at the inaugural dinner, I was elected to follow Dr. Stallings as the Friends' new president along with president-elect **Ann Welch** and secretary-treasurer **Mary Ellen Elsbernd.** We thank Dr. Stallings for his service and we take seriously the legacy passed to us that evening as we continue to ensure that Steely Library remains "a place where all things seem possible."

When the gavel was passed last spring, we were in the midst of inaugurating the board's new literary series, which was designed to offer readings and lectures by established and emerging writers for our students and faculty and the community-at-large.

The series began with visits by the critically acclaimed nature and fiction writer Rick Bass *(The Watch, Where the Sea Used to Be, Caribou Rising* and *The Lives of Rocks)* and the celebrated Kentucky novelist Gwyn Hyman Rubio *(The Woodsman's Daughter* and *Icy Sparks,* a 2001 Oprah Book Club selection). Last fall the series included visits by the much-loved Kentucky writers Silas House *(Clay's Quilt, A Parchment of Leaves* and *The Coal Tattoo)* and Richard Taylor *(Girty, Earth Bones* and *Sue Mundy: A Novel of the Civil War).* This year, Kim Edwards, the Kentucky-based New York Times best selling author of *The Memory Keeper's Daughter,* is scheduled to read from her work April 4. The literary series has become quite popular and attracted some early support, including a generous gift by life members Lois and Richard Rosenthal.

We have some exciting events and opportunities underway, and so, on behalf of the board and the Friends, I hope you will join us by not only supporting our events but by also becoming a member. If you are already a member, why not consider increasing your support this year? You can do all of this by referring to membership details on page 11.

All best wishes,

Ron Ellis, president
The Friends of Steely Library

LOGGIA @ STEELY LIBRARY: THE PLACE TO BE

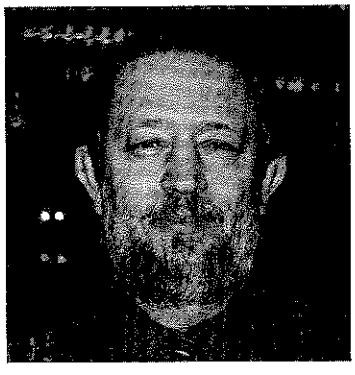
Ask any one of the many student patrons of Steely Library what their favorite destination at the library is, and the answer is likely to be the loggia. Strategically placed just inside the third-floor plaza entrance of Steely Library, the loggia is Steely's hot spot for students. On any given day, one will find dozens of students in the loggia: studying, socializing, having lunch and having fun. The loggia provides numerous services to the students: convenience to campus, an attractive space with comfortable seating, a café and wireless Internet access on its desktop computers. If students prefer to use their own notebook computers, they can sit down, plug in to one of the loggia's laptop chairs and enjoy Wi-Fi access to the Internet.

April Scales and Stephanie Pracht.

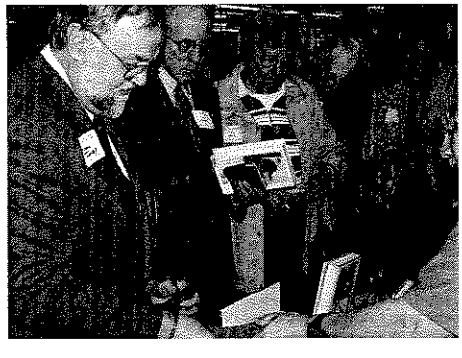
April Scales and Stephanie Pracht, two freshman NKU students, enjoy visiting the loggia after stressful days in biology lab. April says, "After lab, we come here to relax, chat and get coffee. Oh, and to gossip!" Both students admitted that the loggia's Ritazza Café has better food than Starbucks, plus its convenient location can't be beat. **For April and Stephanie, and thousands of other NKU students every year, the loggia truly is the place to be.**

"So please, oh PLEASE, we beg, we pray,
Go throw your TV set away,
And in its place you can install,
A lovely bookshelf on the wall."

> > > **Roald Dahl** in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*



Patrick Moynahan, member of Friends of Steely Library board.



Michael Turney stands in line to purchase a book after a literary series event.

Literary Series

Clara Barnes and Frank Stallings, members of Friends of Steely Library.

Gail Wells, Rick Bass, Lois Rosenthal and Rachel Votruba.

April 2006

Author of: 21 books, including *The Watch, Where the Sea Used to Be, The Hermit's Story* and *Caribou Rising.* His newest story collection, *The Lives of Rocks,* was published in November.

At Steely Library: He read *The Hermit's Story,* which became the title of his collection published in 2002.

"I have depended on books not only for pleasure and for the wisdom they bring to all who read, but also for that knowledge which comes to others through their eyes and their ears."

>>> **Helen Keller**

What are they **reading**?

Sandy Kerlin, *co-director of The Inclusion Network*
I Feel Bad About My Neck (and other thoughts on being a woman) by Nora Ephron
It was a gift from my sister for my 63rd birthday – she and I are always joking about our turtleneck sweaters to cover up our turkey necks! I like Nora Ephron's sense of humor. She always makes me laugh out loud. I most often read nonfiction, but I'm a sucker for old "cozy" mysteries also.

Ricky Nye, *Cincinnati based blues/boogie-woogie piano player/singer who performs at Chez Nora*
The Kingdom of Zydeco by Michael Tisserand
It's a comprehensive timeline on the development of Cajun music, giving birth to the more urban form called zydeco. Profiles and interviews with stars such as Rockin' Sidney, Boozoo Chavis and the father of zydeco, Clifton Chenier, give a detailed account of their lives and times in rural Louisiana. Very engaging reading!

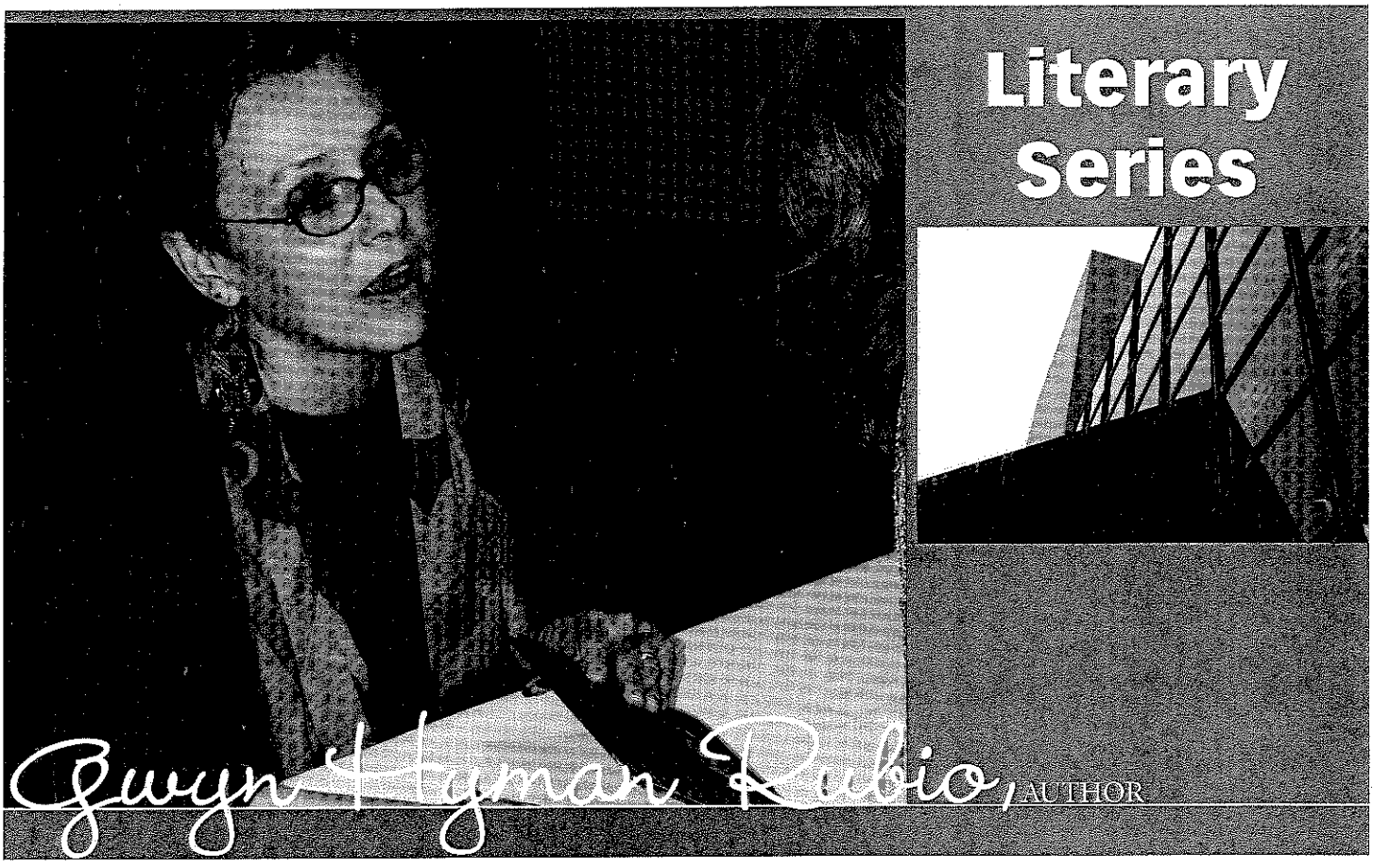
Pete Ehmke, *director of marketing and promotions, intercollegiate athletics, NKU*
Counting Coup: A True Story of Basketball and Honor on The Little Big Horn by Larry Colton
The story follows a season of the Hardin (Montana) High School women's basketball team and specifically the dynamic between the players who grow up "in town" and the Native Americans who hail from the local Crow Agency reservation. I am more inclined to read nonfiction mainly because I think life in general offers so many tales and stories that deserve to be told. I also think that in the case of nonfiction you can draw from personal accounts to relate to the subject. All of that being said, a well-written work of fiction can be an enjoyable read as well.

Kathy Groob, *vice president of marketing, Hemmer Construction*
The Da Vinci Code by Dan Brown
I'm reading *The Da Vinci Code* because I'm finally getting around to it. It's pretty good. I generally read nonfiction, so this is a rare treat.

Pamela Whitehorne, *program director, Literacy in Northern Kentucky, NKY Community Action Commission*
The Nightingale's Song by Robert Timberg
I selected it because of an interview of Timberg I read on MSN. He was responding to the current political activities of John McCain and James Webb. Throughout the interview, Timberg referenced his book, and I was intrigued by the story of five Annapolis classmates (McCain, Webb, John Poindexter, Robert McFarlane and Oliver North) who played a major role in recent history.

I generally prefer fiction, but it seems the older I get, the more "fictional" nonfiction becomes.

Jack Moreland, *superintendent, Covington Independent Public Schools*
The Innocent Man, John Grisham's first work of nonfiction
He says he's read most of Grisham's novels but found the nonfiction gripping in intensity. Moreland says most of his reading is required reports, papers and articles related to education. Reading Grisham is recreational.

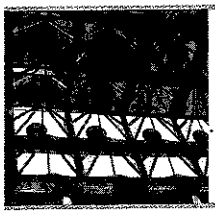


March 2006

Author of: *Icy Sparks,* **an Oprah Book Club selection, and** *The Woodsman's Daughter.*

At Steely Library: **She read from** *The Woodsman's Daughter,* **a story about a young woman in post-Civil War Georgia whose father was keeping a deadly secret.**

> "I may not be an explorer, or an adventurer, or a treasure-seeker, or a gunfighter, Mr. O'Connell, but I am proud of what I am ... I – am a librarian!"
>
> > > **From the movie** *The Mummy*



DID YOU KNOW...

Facts about the Steely Library

Research consultation service

Members of the research and instructional services faculty in Steely Library regularly meet with individual researchers to provide personalized reference assistance. Appointments are available throughout the week, evenings and weekends for the convenience of all users.

In 1999, this by-appointment consultation program was instituted to expand research assistance beyond the traditional Q&A at the reference desk. This group of Steely Library faculty realized the need for personalized guidance in navigating and evaluating the wide range of information sources available. Since its inception, the program has continued to grow from the 44 appointments scheduled in the first year to last year's total of more than 200 consultations.

Obviously word-of-mouth has been positive:

- I learned more in the last 10 minutes than I have in the last few weeks.
- This helped direct me when I was totally lost and overwhelmed.
- I feel a lot more confident about resources and how to use them.
- I'm excited about all the resources and to learn some search techniques.

Individuals who schedule consultations have ranged from senior faculty members pursuing grant funding for projects to freshmen with a three-page paper to research. Some of more interesting consultations have been with community users. To schedule a consultation or for more information, please contact us via the library's information desk at (859) 572-5456.

A LOOK BACK AND A LOOK AHEAD

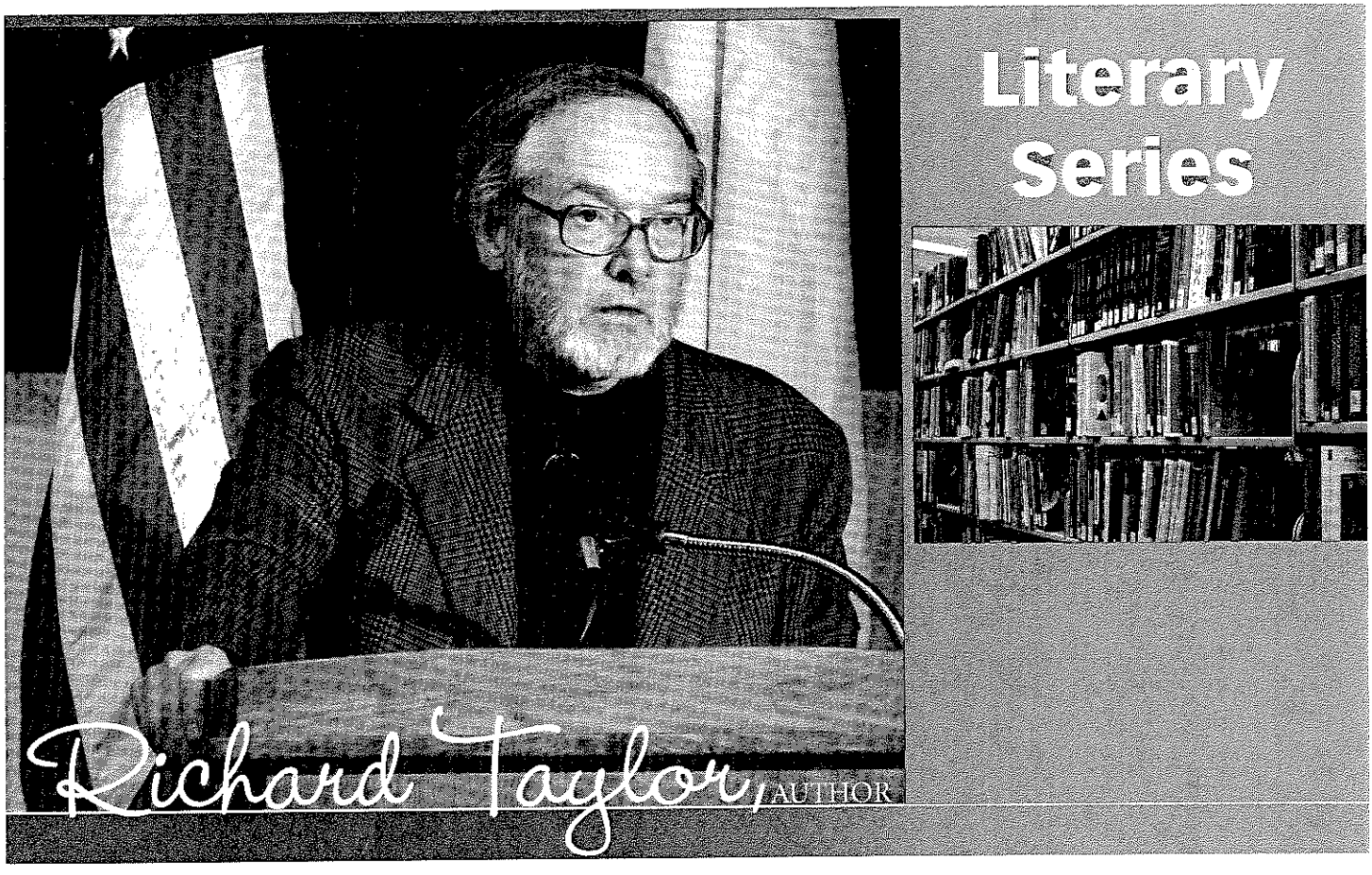
Celebrate past accomplishments. Take a look at what's ahead. That's what happens at a convocation. Arne Almquist, Ph.D. associate provost for library services quotes President James Votruba who calls it "the high church" ceremony of the year.

Dr. Almquist welcomed guests, recognized special friends and honored retirees before telling the gathering what his plans are for the Steely Library.

Continue to build the collection. "We are purchasing now instead of borrowing," he said. "We are buying things that we know will be in demand."

The library's collection of major silent films and foreign films is going out on inter-library loan.

"We are on target to meet 14,200 students," he said.



November 2006

Author of: *Bluegrass, Earth Bones, Stone Eye, Girty* and *Sue Mundy: A Novel of the Civil War.* He was Kentucky's Poet Laureate in 1999.

At Steely Library: He gave the first public reading from *Sue Mundy,* his second historical novel and the true story of M. Jerome Clarke, a Confederate soldier turned guerrilla.

> "We don't need lists of rights and wrongs, tables of do's and don'ts: we need books, time and silence."
>
> >>> Phillip Pullman

Booking it on the Web

So many good web sites for books, so little time to discover them. We hope you will enjoy the sites on our list.

http://windpub.com/current.htm *Literary News from Kentucky and the World,* Wind Publications. Reports, readings, releases, literary retreats, book fairs and festivals.

http://www.pw.org/ *"Poets and Writers* touts it as "the nation's largest nonprofit organization providing information and guidance to creative writers."

www.publishersmarketplace.com/ Publishers Marketplace claims that it is "the biggest marketplace for publishing professionals to find critical information such as deals, sales, reviews, agents, editors, etc."

www.pagebypagebooks.com/ Contains "hundreds of classic books to read for free!" Also allows one to place a bookmark, return later and begin reading at the right place.

www.basbleu.com/ "The Bas Bleu Bookseller from Atlanta claims to be "the champion of the odd little book" and a source for gifts and readers."

www.tobo-books.com/ British-based Tobo "seeks books that are valuable or in some way outstanding and brings them to the world through the [Internet]."

www.bookweb.org/news/awards/ Provides the award lists from numerous prizes, e.g., the Pulitzer, the National Book Critics Circle, the Caldecott and the Newberry awards.

www.thequills.org/ The first literary prize to be chosen by readers. The Quills honors the readers' choice "of the best book of the year in 19 categories."

> "In the nonstop tsunami of global information, librarians provide us with floaties and teach us how to swim."
>
> >>> **Linton Weeks,** *Washington Post, Jan. 13, 2001*

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

NKU FRIENDS OF STEELY LIBRARY

name_____

address_____

city _____ state _____ zip_____

telephone_____

My check for $_____, made payable to **Friends of Steely Library** is enclosed. All contributions are tax-deductible as provided by law. All memberships can be sent to : NKU/Steely Library, 505 Nunn Drive, Highland Heights, KY 41099.

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)

On the Horizon

In this column we want to share with you selected titles published during 2007 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

- ***Lost City Radio.*** Daniel Alarcon. *February 2007. A debut novel from a Whiting Award winner. On her radio program, Norma reaches out to those whose relatives have been disappearing during their country's civil strife.*
- ***Burning Bright.*** Tracy Chevalier. *March 2007. The next blockbuster from Chevalier is set in 1790s London.*
- ***The Welsh Girl.*** Peter Ho Davies *February 2007. Proclaimed by* ***Granta*** *as one of the "Best Young Novelists," Davies writes about the Welsh girl who falls for a German POW during World War II.*
- ***Mistress of the Art of Death.*** Ariana Franklin. *"February 2007. When four children are murdered in medieval Cambridge, King Henry begs help from Sicily's medical experts called masters of the art of death.*
- ***Returning to Earth.*** Jim Harrison. *Of Chippewa-Finnish descent, Donald dictates his family history and beliefs to his wife when he discovers that he is fatally ill.*
- ***Skylight Confessions.*** Alice Hoffman. *January 2007. Arlyn Singer decides that a Yalie is her destiny when he stops to ask her for directions.*
- ***The Castle in the Forest.*** Norman Mailer. *January 2007. Mailer's first novel in 11 years shakes Adolf Hitler's family tree.*
- ***In the Country of Men.*** Hisham Matar. . *January 2007. For a boy in 1970s Libya, life suddenly appears dangerous.*
- ***When the Light Goes.*** Larry McMurtry. *March 2007. After touring Europe to counter grief over his wife's death, Duane Moore finds that Texas and the family oil business are not the same.*
- ***The Last Empress.*** Anchee Min. *March 2007. Min finishes the story she began in the best-selling* ***Empress Orchid.***
- ***Ten Days in the Hills.*** Jane Smiley. *February 2007. Following the Academy Awards, guests of a legendary writer/director gossip, swim, couple and enjoy movies in true Hollywood style.*

NONFICTION

- ***A Perfect Mess: The Hidden Benefits of Disorder; How Crammed Closets, Cluttered Offices and On-the-Fly Planning Make the World a Better Place.*** Eric Abrahamson and David H. Freedman. *January 2007. Abrahamson, a Columbia university management professor, and science/business writer Freedman offer potent evidence that it's a good thing that your desk is a mess.*
- ***Teach Like Your Hair's on Fire! The Methods and Madness Inside Room 56.*** Rafe Esquith. *January 2007. Esquith, winner of numerous teaching awards, explains how he helps kids from the lowest rungs of society climb to the top.*
- ***Planet India: How the Rise of the Fastest Growing Democracy Is Transforming America and the World.*** Mira Kamdar. *February 2007. Author writes about the new India, where technological innovation is encouraged and a free market reigns.*
- ***The White Cascade: The Great Northern Railway Disaster and America's Deadliest Avalanche.*** Gary Krist. *February 2007. Award-winning novelist Krist reports on the massive snowfall in 1910 that trapped two trains in the Cascade Mountains.*
- ***Grace (eventually): Thoughts on Faith.*** Anne Lamott. *March 2007. Best-selling writer of literate spirituality considers everyday crises of love, parenting, and work and how we grow.*
- ***Becoming Judy Chicago: A Biography of the Artist.*** Gail Levin. *February 2007.*
- ***Nixon and Mao: The Week That Changed the World.*** Margaret MacMillan. *February 2007. MacMillan considers what Nixon and Mao got out of their historic handshake in February 1972.*
- ***No Vulgar Hotel: The Desire and Pursuit of Venice.*** Judith Martin. *February 2007. Miss Manners says it is entirely appropriate to whoop it up for Venice.*
- ***Ace of Spades: A Memoir.*** David Matthews. *February 2007. With a black activist father and a white mother who dumped him, Matthews is stuck in the middle in 1980s America.*
- ***Stealing Buddha's Dinner.*** Bich Minh Nguyen. *February 2007. Having arrived here from Saigon in 1975, Nguyen found that the best way to fit into her new country was to embrace its food.*
- ***Power, Faith and Fantasy: America in the Middle East: 1776 to the Present.*** Michael B. Oren. *January 2007. Oren reminds us that we have been embedded in the Middle East since we skirmished with the Barbary pirates.*
- ***At the Same Time: Essays and Speeches.*** Susan Sontag. *February 2007. Written at the end of Sontag's life, these essays demonstrate her brilliance as a thinker.*
- ***Thomas Hardy.*** Claire Tomalin. *January 2007. Having won multiple awards for her biography of Samuel Pepys, Tomalin takes on Hardy.*

WHOA BABY!

- ***Bad Bridesmaid: Bachelorette Brawls and Taffeta Tantrums – Tales from the Front Lines.*** Siri Agrell. *February 2007. Agrell wondered what purpose a bridesmaid really served and promptly got kicked off the team.*
- ***Unhooked: How Young Women Pursue Sex, Delay Love and Lose at Both.*** Laura Sessions Stepp. *February 2007. Washington Post journalist Stepp interviews adolescent girls about sex and love.*

"The wonderful thing about books is that they allow us to enter imaginatively into someone else's life. And when we do that, we learn to sympathize with other people. But the real surprise is that we also learn truths about ourselves, about our own lives, that somehow we hadn't been able to see before."

>>> **Katherine Paterson** in *The Horn Book*, 1991

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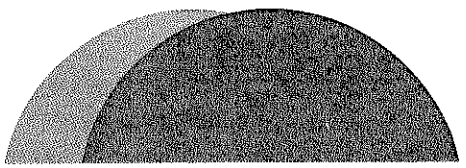
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