



# annotations

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 1 | SUMMER 2011

W. FRANK STEELY LIBRARY



## HIGHLIGHTS...

*What? A Dinosaur in the Library - 2* | *BRIDGING THE GAP - 3* | *Remembering Danny Miller - 6* |  
*Encyclopedia kickoff at Steely - 6* | *Q & A with Connie May Fowler - 12*

## Notes from the Associate Provost for Library Services

Arne J. Almquist, Ph.D.



Greetings!

Much has happened since the last issue of Annotations appeared in 2007. The Friends of Steely Library have continued to provide a successful series of book readings, the library continues a string of renovation projects, and artworks are being acquired for display throughout the building. Through it all, the library has continued to expand access to information while absorbing budget cuts resulting from the ongoing weak economic climate.

Our renovations include the beautiful Eva G. Farris Reading Room, made possible through the generosity of Oakley and Eva Farris. The room serves as a reading/study area, gallery, and special events room. The space hosts a continuing series of art exhibitions showcasing the work of NKU and community artists.

We continue to work to create a state-of-the-art Special Collections and Archives unit. We are currently renovating the storage area, adding shelving capacity and improving the environmental conditions under which our rare and historic materials are held. We are adding important collections, including the political and baseball materials of retired U.S. Senator Jim Bunning, materials relating to the Beverly Hills Supper Club disaster donated by Stanley Chesley, a collection of letters by a Civil War soldier, and a number of rare and interesting books.

Technology continues to bring great changes to libraries. Over the past three years, we have migrated over 92% of our journal collection to the online environment and will be moving very close to 100% online access in the near future. The move to the electronic format brings great efficiencies and allows our faculty and students to use the vast majority of our journal holdings from their homes, offices, or any other location from which they have internet access. Users have seen an increase of 20% in the total number of unique journal titles to which they have access—this, despite an overall budget cut and continuing strong inflation in the cost of journals.

We have been bringing major artworks to the library. These range from sculptor Patricia Renick's Stegowagenvolkssaurus, a 20 foot long combination VW Beetle/dinosaur, to the triptych First Class/Second Class by NKU faculty artist Hans Schellhaus. John Ruthven's three glorious paintings of exotic eagles, brought to NKU through the generosity of Dennis and Joyce Griffin, have returned to the library after being displayed for several years in the lobby of NKU's Corbett Theatre.

Steely Library faculty have long been active in scholarly projects that positively affect the community. Steely Library has partnered with the Business Informatics Department in the College of Informatics to offer a Bachelor's degree program. The Bachelor of Science in Library Informatics program is completely online and is being aggressively marketed. We have leveraged that program through "Bridging the Gap," a \$1.3 million project funded through a Federal grant. The project is providing scholarships and stipends to library employees located in the poorest counties in Kentucky. We have recently submitted a grant application to extend the concept to another state. Finally, Steely Library has begun teaching continuing education courses as a part of the American Library Association Library Staff Certification Program. The classes have been well received, are completely online, and provide a revenue stream to the library.

Steely Library remains engaged and proactive, working to fully serve our primary clientele while also acting as an information resource and cultural beacon for the surrounding community. I invite you to visit Steely Library to see for yourself what we have to offer.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arne J. Almquist".

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

## WHAT? A DINOSAUR IN THE LIBRARY?

By Arne Almquist



Photo/Cover Photo courtesy of Joe Ruh

"The heart of a dino, the body of a VW". That's how Howard McEwen of the Enquirer described Stegowagenvolkssaurus, the 12-foot-tall by 20-foot-wide sculpture that was publicly unveiled on January 23, 2009 at a gala reception. The creation of this monumental sculpture began in 1973 by Cincinnati artist Patricia A. Renick and combines the body of a VW Beetle with the legs, head and spikes of a stegosaurus. Renick meant the work as a comment on the parallels between the coming obsolescence of fossil fuel vehicles and the extinction of the dinosaurs – a prophetic comment about our dependence on technology.

Ms. Renick passed in 2007, and courtesy of Laura Chapman, executrix of Renick's estate, who also oversaw the restoration, the sculpture will be on long-term loan to Northern Kentucky University's W. Frank Steely Library. "I am thrilled this sculpture will again be on view, especially in this splendid library," Chapman said. In the 1970s, the sculpture was shown at the Contemporary Arts Center and the Cincinnati Art Museum as well as in a federal building in Chicago.

I believe artwork such as Stegowagenvolkssaurus plays an important interdisciplinary role because libraries serve as an intellectual commons. It helps to build knowledge and stimulate thought by bringing together people and information in an environment conducive to intellectual discovery.

"Stego" and black & white photos depicting its creation, can be viewed on the 3rd floor of the W. Frank Steely Library during regular library hours. A photo exhibit by NKU student artist, Shay Derickson, which was donated by Robert Wallace, NKU faculty and Friends of Steely Library Board member, is also on display. These black & white prints of automobiles in a Northern Kentucky automobile graveyard are seen in the context of Herman Melville's Moby Dick.

ARNE J. ALMQUIST, Ph.D. is the Associate Provost for Library Services, W. Frank Steely Library

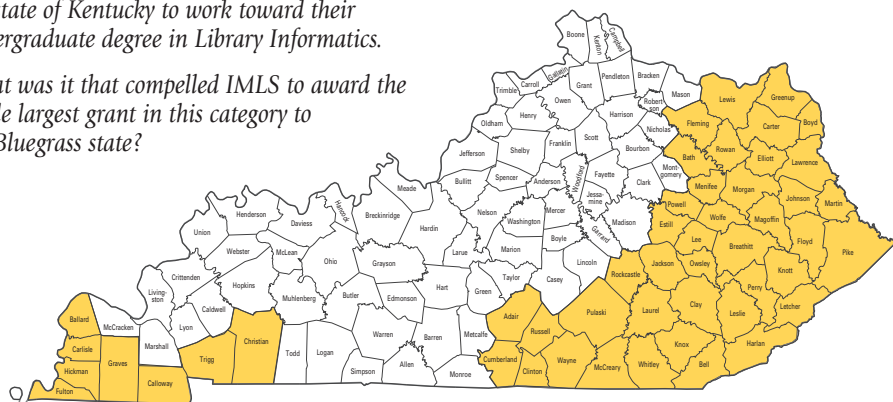
# BRIDGING THE GAP:

## *Supplying the next generation of librarians to the underserved counties of rural Kentucky*

By Leslie Hammann

*In the summer of 2008, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) awarded Northern Kentucky University, W. Frank Steely Library, Bluegrass Community & Technical College, and the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives with a \$1,330,000 grant from the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program. Funding for **Bridging the Gap: Supplying the next generation of librarians to the underserved counties of rural Kentucky** has and continues to enable 50 public library professionals in the state of Kentucky to work toward their undergraduate degree in Library Informatics.*

*What was it that compelled IMLS to award the single largest grant in this category to the Bluegrass state?*



rural libraries more important than ever since they are often the social center of rural communities and provide services not available elsewhere in the communities. At the heart of these rural libraries are the dedicated staff that try to meet the needs of their patrons, often without the budgets or the education and skills they need. With the average library director in these rural counties making \$12.00 per hour, it is easy to see how a college education would be out of reach for them. How

does the Bridging the Gap program help these libraries help their communities?

### THE FIX

**EDUCATION!** Given the low salaries and remote locations of the libraries, it is not surprising to find that a large number of library directors and staff have no formal education in library science. As of 2005, Kentucky ranked 43rd in the number of MLS librarians per 1000 residents. Only 28% of library directors in Kentucky have an MLS compared to the national average of 68%. A stunning 30% lack an undergraduate degree. As might be expected, 73% of the libraries that do not have a degreed librarian on staff serve counties that fall below the state's average poverty rate.

When asked, "How would getting a college education make a difference in how you do your

### A FIXABLE PROBLEM

Kentucky ranks within the top ten rural states in the country, with two regions of severe poverty—in Western Kentucky and Eastern Appalachian Kentucky. Some counties in these areas have poverty rates as high as 42%. In Appalachian Kentucky, 38 counties are designated "distressed" by the Appalachian Region Commission (ARC) which means they are in the poorest 10% in the nation.

Economic decline in the traditional industries of agricultural, coal and tobacco, coupled with our current recession, contribute to continued distress and lead to decreases in the already small tax base. Community infrastructure can be close to non-existent and it is not uncommon to drive for an hour to reach the nearest Walmart or community college. This type of isolation makes



*Pins awarded to the 50 Bridging the Gap scholarship recipients and their mentors by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).*

job?," library staff responses included, "Increase my knowledge of library information and services," "Be more assured that what I was doing is correct," and "I just think it would make me a better librarian."

**MONEY!** Since public libraries are funded with local tax revenue, the libraries in this region have very limited budgets compared to their metropolitan counterparts in Lexington, Louisville, and Northern Kentucky / Cincinnati. Results from a needs assessment survey show that 64% of respondents indicated that financial constraints would prevent them from entering a degree program. With this need in mind, Bridging the Gap program funds are being used to pay for 5 or more classes per year for each student. Most of the scholarship recipients work full-time while

managing a home and family so a part-time academic schedule if often needed.

While tuition is the largest financial need for these students, it is by no means the only one. Since all courses at BCTC and NKU are online, many students need a laptop and Internet service in their home to "attend" their classes and complete assignments. The grant supplies each student a stipend large enough to cover the purchase price of a laptop and three years of Internet service. In addition, funds were included in the stipend to cover all class textbooks needed. The ultimate goal was to eliminate any financial barrier these students might face while pursuing their degree.

**LOCATION!** The library staff work full-time with family responsibilities (some head of household, some single parents). They also work in libraries with extremely small staffs. It is difficult for them to leave their responsibilities to pursue formal education.

Library personnel in these small libraries are also heavily place-bound and have few opportunities for career advancement. Over 91% indicated that they could not move to take another position. In other words, we needed to "grow-our-own" librarians. Since our students are in remote locations, it was necessary to come up with innovative ways to minimize professional isolation and maximize their

# A Recipe for Success

## Main Ingredients:

- 50 highly motivated, dedicated, public library directors/staff
- 1 Associate Degree in Library Technology from Bluegrass Community & Technical College
- 1 Bachelor of Science Degree in Library Informatics from Northern Kentucky University

## Spices:

- Tuition dollars to taste
- 1 laptop per student
- 36 months of high-speed Internet Service per student
- 15 or more textbooks per student
- 1 professional mentor per student
- 6 online colloquia on current rural librarianship
- 1 custom website, [kylibrarians.org](http://kylibrarians.org)

## The Chefs

- Leslie Hammann, *Principal Investigator, NKU*
- Laura Sullivan, *Project Manager, NKU*
- Arne Almquist, *Ph.D., Associate Provost for Library Services at Steely Library, NKU*
- Martha Birchfield, *Professor of Information Management & Design, Bluegrass Community & Technical College*
- Wayne Onkst, *State Librarian/Commissioner, Kentucky Department for Libraries & Archives*
- Charlotte McIntosh, *Regional Librarian, Kentucky Department for Libraries & Archives*
- Lynn Warner, *Library Graduate Assistant, NKU*



**Susie Cain**, IMLS 50 Scholar from Graves County Public Library



**Judy Waldrop**, IMLS 50 Scholar from Marshall County Public Library at Benton



**Jennifer Caskey**, IMLS 50 Scholar from Morgan County Public Library



**Kimberly Taylor**, IMLS 50 Scholar from Russell County Public Library



**Aleina Milligan**, IMLS 50 Scholar from Adair County Public Library

communication with professionals outside of their rural communities.

Northern Kentucky's Institute of Management Infrastructure was contracted to produce a robust website that could handle these communication needs. [Kylibrarians.org](http://Kylibrarians.org) houses both content and interactive tools used by scholarship recipients and library professionals across the State of Kentucky. Beside content about education, scholarships, and information about the program, the site offers:

- **Live Chat.** This tool is helpful in getting immediate answers to professional questions or advice on issues.
- **Topical Forums.** Users can create threads of discussion on any topic and share them with everyone. For instance, one forum asked for book suggestions for a young adult book club while another forum wanted feedback on a recent library webinar.
- **Colloquia.** Twice a year or more, speakers from around the country share their expertise

with students and others. Each session offers a live question and answer segment that lets students ask questions of professionals they might otherwise have never had a chance to meet. More than 70 people have shared these experiences simultaneously.

- **A Professional Mentor.** [Kylibrarians.org](http://Kylibrarians.org) offers the functionality of a retail store when it comes time for them to select a mentor. Scholarship recipients can "shop" for a mentor based on background, interests,

career goals, or position in the library. Since mentors will be meeting with their students in a virtual world, the chat room and forums in kylibrarians.org offer free and easy to use tools to connect.

**TRAVEL!** Finally, many of our scholarship recipients have never had the funds to attend a professional library conference. Bridging the Gap offers each student a travel grant to pay for their expenses to attend a state, regional, or national library conference. Several of our students attended the 2010 Association of Rural and Small Libraries Conference in Denver, Colorado this past October. In June, more than 12 students will travel to New Orleans to attend their first American Library Association National Conference. These travel opportunities provide a way for students to establish relationships and share knowledge with other professionals from across the country.

While federal funding for the Bridging the Gap program ends in July of 2012, the Executive Committee continues to look for ways to fund the completion of degrees for every student. Private and corporate donors are being sought to sponsor tuition costs for any of the 50 students with remaining course work. The success of Bridging the Gap is based on educating rural library directors and staff in remote and economically struggling communities. This "grow-your-own-

# TESTIMONIALS

*"We need to do more to provide educational opportunities in areas of the Commonwealth that suffer from severe poverty... I was pleased to support Northern Kentucky University in pursuit of this grant, which will increase educational opportunities, improve library services and promote increased literacy throughout rural Kentucky."*

— **From publicized statement from the office of Congressman Geoff Davis**

*"I felt very blessed the day I found out I had received the Bridging the Gap Scholarship... Working in a small town library doesn't give me much money for furthering my education, which had always been a dream of mine. This scholarship has provided me with learning opportunities that I could have only dreamt about."*

— **From IMLS 50 Scholar, Lisa Kersey, Library Services Coordinator, Corbin Public Library**

## Newbery Committee: Choosing Distinguished Literature for Children

By Jennifer Smith



The John Newbery Medal is the oldest children's literature award in the world. It was first awarded in 1922 and has been maintained and sponsored ever since by the Association of Library

Services to Children, a division of the American Library Association. Aspects of the annual award have evolved through the years but the purpose of the award remains true; recognize the "best contribution to American children's literature."

Serving on the 2009 Newbery Selection Committee was a tremendous honor and an unbelievable experience. The fifteen of us that comprised the committee came from all parts of the country; including one librarian from Alaska. It was our mission to select the best book published during 2008 for children ages 14 and younger. This was no easy task as close to a thousand books were eligible for consideration. Boxes of books came to my door everyday.

My job as a committee member was to read, evaluate, and share my opinion of each title with the rest of the committee. During most every waking moment of 2008, I was reading a book, evaluating a book, or trying to manage the hundreds of books that came across my threshold.

In January of 2009, the committee met for three very demanding days of discussions and deliberations and with the ultimate charge of choosing the best book of 2008. These meetings were extremely intense. You would think that fifteen people whose life work is connected with children and books would have a fairly easy time agreeing on which book is the best book. This was not the case. Opinions were diverse and passionate with the discussions occasionally becoming quite fierce. In the end, when the final vote was tallied, the consensus of the committee named Neil Gaiman's *The Graveyard Book* as the best book for children for that year. Several honor books were also recognized.

Serving on the 2009 Newbery Selection Committee was an extraordinary experience. For me, it was the "year of the book." It was a year of new experiences, travel opportunities, and meeting colleagues with similar interests. It was a year that provided some wonderful and lasting memories. I'm ready to do it again!



**Kellie Nunley**, IMLS 50 Scholar from Boyd County Public Library



IMLS 50 Scholars from left to right: **Rayeanna Emery, Jennifer Young, Tina Williams, and Carol Stidham.** All are from Perry County Public Library



**Glenda York**, IMLS 50 Scholar from Russell County Public Library

librarian" premise can be applied to any English-speaking, rural community both at a domestic and international level. Like good neighbors, we want to share our recipe for success.

*"I have been talking to my mentor, Mike Key and he is great... with advice on classes and ideas of things I might like to consider in the future... I have already benefited from it in so many ways."*

— **From IMLS 50 Scholar, Mamie Richardson, Owsley County Public Library, Technical Services, about IMLS 50 Mentor, Mike Key, Scott County Public Library, Supervisor**

LESLIE HAMMANN is a Lecturer and Library Informatics Coordinator at Northern Kentucky University's W. Frank Steely Library.

## Remembering Danny Miller

By P. Andrew Miller



I have had all summer to write a tribute to Danny Miller. Months to write, revise, and revise again. But I didn't. I couldn't get started. For one, where did I start? How would I capture what Danny Miller meant to NKU? What he meant to the faculty of the English and World Languages departments and the students of both departments? How would I capture what he meant to me?

I first met Danny in the fall of 1990 when I started at NKU as an adjunct faculty member. Besides Dr. Bob Collier who hired me, Danny was one of the first full-time faculty members I met. The reason was simple. Danny went out of his way to meet people in the department. I always felt welcome to stop by his open office door for a chat or to search him out if I had a question about the department or university.

It's hard to recall when the casual work acquaintance became a good friend. Perhaps that's because most everyone felt that they were Danny's friend within minutes of meeting him. It didn't take long before we would socialize outside the hallways of Landrum.

When he was chair of the department, Danny advised many of our students. He met with all majors when they declared and usually welcomed them into the department with a hug. He

was my advisor too, my mentor. I feel that a great part of who I am as a teacher and person today is because of Danny.

In 2000, I went to get advice about my decision to host a German exchange student. Because of that talk, I agreed to host and have continued hosting even now. For the first five of my exchange students, Danny served pretty much as their host "uncle." Whether it was smoking cigars with them in the backyard at his house or letting them park in his driveway to attend a Clifton concert, he cared about them as much as I did.

The winter before he passed, Danny accompanied me to London on a class for CCSA as my co-teacher. He was always getting the class together for group shots and got to know each of the students on that trip. He joined Facebook so he could share pictures with them. My first German exchange student came over to London with his father to visit. Within minutes, the two men had become friends, even though neither one spoke the language of the other. But that was Danny. A little thing like a language barrier was not enough to stop him from making friends.

The 2010-11 school year is now well underway. But there is still something missing from the beginning of the school year for so many of us. We hear his voice calling out a greeting. "How was your summer?" he would ask, as he came rushing from his office to throw his arms around you. We see him prowling the halls, greeting students and welcoming them back. However, it would be a bad choice of words to say that he haunted these hallways, this campus. Haunt has such a negative connotation. His spirit infuses these hallways, this campus. As one student said on his passing, "He was the soul of the university." That soul has not left us; it remains here, guiding us and comforting us he left behind too early.



**Danny Miller and  
P. Andrew Miller**  
(article author)



**Danny Miller enjoying  
a laugh with  
Rachel Votruba**

ANDY MILLER is Associate Professor of English and Coordinator of Creative Writing in the English Department at Northern Kentucky University  
DANNY MILLER was a Friends of Steely Library Board Member and Honorary Life Member

## Encyclopedia kick-off at Steely Library

By John Schlipp

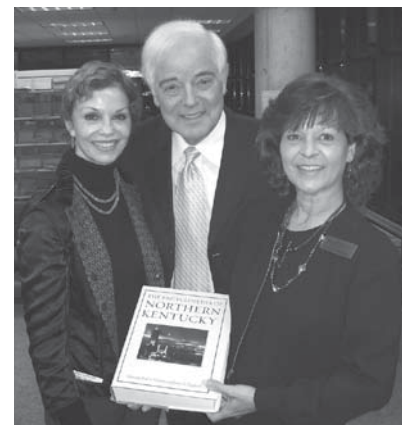
NKU and the Friends of Steely Library sponsored the official launch of the Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky on Friday, November 6, 2009 at W. Frank Steely Library. Nick Clooney served as Master of Ceremonies for the book's official inaugural event. Related speakers included publication editors Paul A. Tenkotte and James C. Claypool; Steely Library Associate Provost Arne Almquist; and University Press of Kentucky Director Stephen Wrinn. Copies of the 1,072 page volume were available onsite to purchase (with a portion of the proceeds benefitting the Friends of Steely Library) with a massive book signing featuring nearly one hundred of the Encyclopedia authors.

The Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky defines its region of nearly a half-million residents and includes over 2,100 entries written by more than 300 authors, plus 171 photos and 13 maps. Encyclopedia co-editor Paul Tenkotte, Ph.D., Chair and Professor of History and Geography at NKU affirms,

"The Encyclopedia provides a first-ever resource for educators, students, and the general public to explore artistic, cultural, economic, geographical, historical, political, religious, and social topics relating to Northern Kentucky."

Encyclopedia co-editor Jim Claypool, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of History at NKU believes, "The Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky constitutes a gem for the ages and a long-awaited bridge of accumulative knowledge likely to endure for decades to come." History buffs, genealogists, educators, regional residents, and others will enjoy this unparalleled reference work documenting the region that we all know as Northern Kentucky.

The Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky (ISBN: 978-0-8131-2565-7) is published by the University Press of Kentucky and sells for \$49.95 retail price.



**Nina and Nick Clooney with  
Sandi Rodgers-Webster**

JOHN SCHLIPP is Assistant Professor and Extended Collections Services Librarian, W. Frank Steely Library

# Steely Library receives grant, produces student plagiarism/copyright films and lessons

by John Schlipp



*Creative Thinking Film Crew*

NKU film students collaborated with Steely Library to present *Creative Thinking* at <http://creativethinking.nku.edu>, an instructive copyright and plagiarism website for junior high through freshman college students. Funded by a grant from the Cincinnati Bar Foundation, *Creative Thinking* films, lessons and activities are designed to proactively educate teens about plagiarism and copyright.

NKU faculty and students, University of Louisville and other regional community partners such as CET (Greater Cincinnati Television Educational Foundation), KYVL (Kentucky Virtual Library) and the Campbell County Public Library coordinated the educational program. Community partners were vital in promoting the *Creative Thinking* website to educators and to an estimated 200,000 students in the Northern Kentucky and Cincinnati region alone. Kentucky statewide and national student-learner potential is even greater, as evidenced by librarians and educators from Philadelphia to Dallas who have contacted us about their use of the site. According to Google™ analytics statistics, an average 540 unique users per month visited the *Creative Thinking* website during its first year.

Our *Creative Thinking* website provides films consisting of realistic stories and expert speakers to support the proactive, engaging lessons and student activities. The films also provide on-screen, pop-up graphical questions and statements to inspire students to follow the content. In addition, there are multiple types of assessment tools for teachers to use, including a fun intellectual property personality quiz based on the popular Simpson's television characters.

National education standards from Mid-Continent Research for Education and Learning, the American Association of School Librarians and the American Library Association's Information Literacy Assessment guidelines, as well as state standards from Kentucky and Ohio, are incorporated into the curriculum. Listen to a WNKU radio interview for more about *Creative Thinking* here: <http://tiny.cc/frk05>, or see [www.publicbroadcasting.net/wnku/news.newsmain?action=search](http://www.publicbroadcasting.net/wnku/news.newsmain?action=search) and keyword search: schlipp AND strobel.

**JOHN SCHLIPP** is Assistant Professor and Extended Collections Services Librarian, W. Frank Steely Library

## Steely Library develops courses for national certification program

By Nancy Campbell and Threasa Wesley

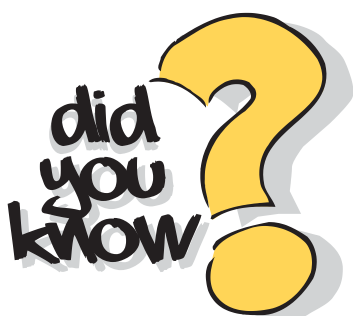
Faculty and staff from W. Frank Steely Library have developed a program of library career development courses in response to burgeoning interest in continuing growth and development opportunities for library staff. These courses, aimed at individuals seeking occupational advancement as well as initial employment in the library science field, provide the necessary credentials for active professional work in 21st century libraries.

Classes are taught by professionals who are active practitioners in the field. The online course materials are readily available to students in any geographic location and are accessible to those having demanding personal schedules that would preclude engaging in traditional professional development activities.

Leading edge trends in library technology, new programming initiatives, and best practices overviews are included in each course. Course content has received a rigorous review by the American Library Association and is listed on its professional development site. This professional connection is critical to making the acquired skills and knowledge portable for the students no matter where their library is located. Early course enrollment has included individuals from fourteen states, Canada, and Iwo Jima.

Steely Library is committed to offering excellent services to NKU's faculty and students as well as members of the broader professional community of librarians and library staff. This new program of courses expands opportunities for individuals working in libraries to acquire competencies necessary for excellence.

**NANCY CAMPBELL** is an Associate Professor and Assistant to the Associate Provost for Library Services and **THREASA WESLEY** is Associate Professor and Head, Research & Instructional Services, W. Frank Steely Library



NKU was one of 25 U.S colleges and universities that participated in a national research study, Project Information Literacy (PIL). Former NKU librarian Stephanie Henderson facilitated NKU's involvement with the study sponsored by the University of Washington's iSchool, which researched "early adults and their information-seeking behaviors, competencies, and the challenges they face when conducting research in the digital age." That partnership continues and NKU is now one of 12 colleges and universities involved in another PIL study that studies "media multitasking and the 'individualized information spaces' of students."

# BOOK CLUBS 2.0

By Andrea Brooks

Read, review, and recommend while sitting in the comfort of your home! Online book clubs provide readers with an alternative to the traditional face-to-face book discussion groups. Socialize with other readers by reviewing/rating your books, see what your friends are reading and participate in online chats. Listed below are a few virtual book clubs worth logging into:

## <http://bookmovement.com>

BookMovement provides a virtual meeting ground for book clubs. Users can create book clubs and invite friends to become members. Each book club can create its own page where events and suggested books are listed. Members can email discussion questions and reading guides to each other and list announcements for upcoming meetings. In addition to the book club, members can create individual book lists to keep track of what they have read or would like to read.

## [www.booktalk.org](http://www.booktalk.org)

This is another free networking site connecting readers from around the world. Once registered, members can view the current book selections (fiction and non-fiction) to read and discuss in

online forums. A chat room is also available twice a week. The site is a bit cluttered and can be confusing to navigate; however, several discussion topics are posted for each book. Occasionally, authors will join in the book discussions or answer reader's questions via email, making this site a worthwhile option.

## [www.dailylit.com](http://www.dailylit.com)

DailyLit isn't exactly an online book club; however, it does have some features like those mentioned above. The focus of Daily Lit is to provide its users with daily installments of literature. Readers can choose from hundreds of books to receive chapters via email. The number of installments varies by book. For example, Jane Eyre consists of 231 installments. Readers can elect to receive

an installment daily, every other day, five days a week, etc. At the DailyLit website, users can also read discussions about their chosen book or set up their own online forums.

## [www.goodreads.com](http://www.goodreads.com)

Sign up, invite friends, and share your reading shelf. This free site provides a social network for readers. Members can review books, comment on friend's reviews, create reading lists, and mark books to read. Users can also create groups to form book clubs with a close group of friends or a large organization.

*Andrea Brooks is a Lecturer and Instructional Librarian, W. Frank Steely Library*

## Steely Hosts International Database

By Philip Yannarella

In August, 2007, I accepted the offer of becoming the editor and co-producer of the Francine Shapiro EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing) Bibliography website. EMDR, developed since 1987, is a psychological treatment for PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder) and many mental disorders and illnesses. I worked with Dr. Barbara Hensley, Ed. D., a psychologist-EMDR practitioner in Cincinnati who provided the content for an unique database of EMDR Literature dating back to 1987. She provided the database of online and paper resources which came to be housed on an NKU server. Sheri Myers (Steely Systems Division Librarian) developed a searchable database for the information which became operable in September 2008. One year later, a Google Analytic statistic showed that it ranked 12th among all the databases which were housed on the NKU campus. At that time, users from all over the United States and several European Countries accessed the site. Today, the Francine Shapiro EMDR Library has achieved worldwide recognition by EMDR Practitioners for its unique content. NKU has also received that recognition as the home of this online Library. The website can be accessed at the following url: <http://emdr.nku.edu/>.

*PHILIP YANNARELLA is Associate Professor and Government Documents Librarian, W. Frank Steely Library*

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Danny Miller  
Stuart Sprague  
W. Frank Steely



**W. FRANK STEELY, PH.D.**  
**NKU'S FIRST PRESIDENT**  
**1925-2010**





# From the President

## FRIENDS OF STEELY LIBRARY

While no one has ever graduated from the W. Frank Steely Library at Northern Kentucky University, one thing is for certain - no one has ever graduated from the University without the help of the W. Frank Steely Library. What student can say they earned their degree from NKU without the facility, expertise and resources which the Library provided? It is this important fact that reinforces the belief that Steely Library is truly the heart and soul of the NKU Campus.

The Friends of Steely Library, or FOSL for short, is an organization comprised of alumni, faculty, staff and community members who are dedicated to promoting the interests of the W. Frank Steely Library at NKU. They understand the heavy burden placed on the Library and the means necessary to supply those ever-increasing demands for materials, manpower and unlimited, innovative sources of information.

The Friends of Steely Library seek to raise funds to support library initiatives which include on-going technology advancements, digitization and online cataloging of the Library's collections, expansion of our special collection holdings and the sponsorship of intellectually stimulating lecture series designed to provoke discussion and learning.

It takes a great deal of financial support to help the Library meet its strategic initiatives. Computers and the Internet have dramatically transformed the way libraries serve patrons and it is our desire to help provide the resources which allow Steely Library to continue its development as a true library of the 21st century. With the FOSL's ongoing support, the W. Frank Steely Library will continue to be an institution treasured by generations of students, faculty and staff, as well as the region it serves.

This is an exciting time for NKU and the W. Frank Steely Library and I am proud to serve as the President of the Friends organization. Now, more than ever, private contributions of any size can mean the difference in acquiring or not acquiring new materials, implementing new services or maintaining the comfort and security of the facility. It is my hope that you would share in our passion, enthusiasm and dedication to the continued success of the Library.

For more information about the FOSL and how you can make a contribution to support the W. Frank Steely Library, please contact Sandi Rodgers-Webster at (859) 572-5636 or visit the FOSL website at <http://friendsofsteely.nku.edu>.

**Michael P. Murray – M.Ed '92**  
2010-2011 President, Friends of Steely Library

## THE FRIENDS OF STEELY LIBRARY

As with any great entity, the W. Frank Steely Library remains great by continually striving for the next level. The collection is good, but it can always be better. The archives are extensive, but materials need to be preserved and made more accessible. The Library offers services to faculty, staff and students, but getting to the next level means being able to offer more.

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 Nancy Perry at (859) 572-5722 or email [perryn@nku.edu](mailto:perryn@nku.edu).

My gift to the Friends of Steely Library is \_\_\_\_\_.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

### PAYMENT

My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed (payable to Steely Library)

Charge this gift to  VISA or  MasterCard

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

# Q and A with Connie May Fowler

By Ann Hicks

Writer Connie May Fowler lives a quiet life in northern Florida on the scenic, uncrowded shores of the Gulf of Mexico with her husband of almost two years and four "brilliant and funny" dogs. She gardens. She reads. She writes. She often travels to other states to teach creative writing.

"I love helping people discover their voices and untangle their tales into artful narratives," she says. "I also think that when you've been as fortunate as me (I had great teachers all through my public school career, teachers who believed in me when no one else did), it's important to try to repay that gift. I'm currently a visiting faculty member in the brief residency MFA creative writing program at Vermont College of Fine Arts. I love teaching there. It's rigorous but nurturing with tons of individualized attention."

Her life has not always been as full of joys and simple pleasures. Her 2002 memoir, *When Katie Wakes*, reveals a painful childhood, brutal abuse and humiliation. Some of her experiences find their way into her fictional works.

In her sixth novel, we meet Clarissa Burden, 35, an acclaimed best-selling author with a severe case of writer's block. Her boorish, self-centered husband ignores and humiliates her all the while lavishly spending her money. When Clarissa

awakes hot, unsettled and trapped on the steamy summer solstice of 2006, she begins a wild 24-hour journey of self-discovery.

Fowler visited Northern Kentucky University on Nov. 3, 2010, to read from *How Clarissa Burden Learned to Fly* (Grand Culture Publishing; \$23.99). A book signing and reception followed the reading, held in the Otto M. Budig Theater. She took time out from her work to answer a few questions about her new book.

**QUESTION: You describe Clarissa as "a writer who spun whole worlds from her imagination." There is a lot of action in this novel, from the spirit family to an enamored house fly to the traveling carnival of dwarfs. How did you develop your rich imagination?**

ANSWER: Desperation. Something has to happen in a novel.

**QUESTION: What experience or event triggered this story?**

ANSWER: The back-story came to me first. I was researching Florida's pre-Civil War history and came across the 1819 Adams-Onís Treaty that seceded Florida from Spain to the U.S. two years hence. In Spanish Florida, slavery was nearly non-existent, black men could sit on juries and vote, and women could own property. Black people and women had none of those rights in the United States. So I began developing characters who would be impacted by that treaty. That's how I developed my ghost family. And as I brought them into being, Clarissa and her dilemmas surfaced.

**QUESTION: Ghosts and spirits figure prominently in the book. Have you had an encounter with a spirit?**

ANSWER: I was raised among women who fervently believed in ghosts. According to my

mother and aunts, spirits were afoot all the time, saving the baby, slamming doors, hiding car keys, messing with the dogs, stealing liquor.

**QUESTION: What were the challenges of having the entire novel set in one day?**

ANSWER: Actually, the decision to set the novel in a single day provided the structure the novel needed. Once I made that decision, the plot and characters fell sweetly into place.

**QUESTION: There is might and magic in stories, you once said. What can readers learn from Clarissa?**

ANSWER: Lots of things . . . trust your gut instincts, pay attention: amazing and even soul-saving stories are all around us, take control of your own destiny; and whatever you do, try not to marry a jerk.

**QUESTION: You advise your creative writing students to read, read, read. What are you reading now?**

ANSWER: *What the World Will Look Like When All the Water Leaves Us*, which is a collection of short stories penned by my former student Laura van den Berg. Two collections of poetry: *Cooling Board*, *A Long-playing Poem* by Mitchell Douglas and *Blood Ties & Brown Liquor* by Sean Hill. And also, as research for my next memoir, I'm reading *Noa Noa: The Tahitian Journal* by Paul Gauguin.

**Question: After six novels, a memoir, screenplay and numerous magazine articles, what is your next project?**

ANSWER: A novel titled *Stone by Stone* and an environmental memoir titled *A Different Sky*.

ANN HICKS is a member of the Friends of Steely Library Board of Directors



## From The Editor

Mary Todd Chesnut

One recurring theme that I observed while compiling articles and news for this issue of Annotations is one of "paying it forward" or giving back to others. I am both amazed and proud of the time, energy and talent that all at W. Frank Steely Library invest in projects to help our campus, our community, our region, our state and beyond.

In the past few years, Steely Library has demonstrated particularly stellar activity in the area of grants, and a number of these have focused on assisting others in our larger community. Other library faculty and staff give back to the community by coordinating programs for local educators; lending their professional expertise to projects and community resources; serving on local, regional, state, and national organizations; and by volunteering in the

community. The Friends of Steely Library is a vibrant, active group that has presented numerous, meaningful programs and events for NKU's internal and external community . . . and "pays it forward" through their time, money, and talents. Steely Library also "gives back" by continuing to enhance the services and collections that are offered to our various stakeholders. As you can see, great things are happening at Steely Library!

William Arthur Ward (author, educator, and motivational speaker) wrote "Lose yourself in generous service and every day can be a most unusual day, a triumphant day, an abundantly rewarding day!"

I believe that those involved with Steely Library are doing just that!

**Mary Todd Chesnut**

Associate Professor  
Coordinator of Information Literacy

**Special thanks to Sandi Rodgers-Webster and Veronica Cappel who provided invaluable help to me as I prepared this issue for print.**

## **RIPPED FROM THE HEADLINES:**

# W. Frank Steely Library in the News

**SELECTED NEWSWORTHY EVENTS FROM NKU NEWS AND STEELY LIBRARY WEBPAGE ARCHIVES**

### **Steely Grant Initiatives:**

Library receives Grant to Digitize Postcard Collection (3/10)

Steely Librarians Awarded KDLA Technology Grant (9/09)

Steely Librarians Awarded University-Community Partnership Grant -Access Now! is a pilot project to redesign the websites of small, traditionally underfunded public libraries in Kentucky (9/09)

NKU Receives Nearly \$1 Million Grant to Train Librarians in High-Poverty Counties (8/09)

Steely Library Receives Grant from Cincinnati Bar Foundation (12/08)

Steely Library Receives LSTA (Library Services and Technology Grant) Library Automation Grant (9/08)

### **Friends of Steely Library Events:**

Road Rally, Saturday, April 30, 2011 - Rain or Shine! (4/11)

Please join the Friends of Steely Library and the Department of English for an evening with nature artist, John A. Ruthven, and former Kentucky Poet Laureate, Richard L. Taylor as they celebrate the birthday of John James Audubon (4/11)

French Artist Claire Illouz Discusses and Displays "The Whiteness Book" (2/11)

Literary Series Speaker on Campus - The Friends of Steely Library and the Department of English are partnering to bring renowned novelist Connie May Fowler to NKU (11/10)

The Friends of Steely Library is partnering with NKU's Office of First Year Programs' Book Connection to sponsor Dan Gediman, co-editor of *This I Believe* (10/10)

Steely Library & Friends of Steely Library again co-sponsor Books by the Banks (7/10)

Friends of Steely Host Debut of Northern Kentucky Encyclopedia (11/09)

Steely Library Unveils Duveneck Portrait (10/09)

Friends of Steely Library Present an Afternoon with Wendell Berry, September 21 (9/08)

### **Steely Sponsored Events:**

Dr. Nancy Hancock presents "Understanding Net Neutrality" on March 16 (3/11)

Celebrating the life of Dr. W. Frank Steely (1/11)

Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on November 15 (11/10)

World Equestrian Exhibit in the Archives Reading Room (11/10)

"Seeing Sociology in Our Lives" Exhibit opens in Steely Library's Eva G. Farris Reading Room (9/10)

"We Are NKU" Digital Exhibit-The Special Collections & Archives Department of Steely Library announces its first digital exhibit. (8/10)

Steely Library Hosts Civil War Roundtable-Dr. Paul Tenkotte, Chair of NKU's History and Geography Department, will speak (4/10)

Steely Library will offer two professional development workshops for educators: Coming to a Classroom Near You: Vampires, Werewolves, and Other Fantastic Characters and Response to Intervention (3/10)

"Printed by Hand" Reception in the Eva G. Farris Reading Room (2/10)

Social Justice Contest Kick-off Event in Steely Library's Eva G. Farris Reading Room (11/09)

Steely Library hosts a discussion of culturally conscious books (9/09)

Faculty Lunch Seminar with Daryl Harris (Department of Theatre and Dance) (10/09)

Unveiling of W. Frank Steely Portrait (7/09)

Joe Ruh exhibits "Features" in Steely Library (2/09)

### **Steely Services & Acquisitions**

Skype is now available in the group study rooms of Steely Library (5/11)

Mobile Access to the Library Catalog (NKUire) (3/11)

Search 52 Library Databases at Once (12/10)

New Library Catalog Goes Live (8/10)

Cooperating Collection Provides Resources for Local Grantseekers (4/10)

NKU's Steely Library releases free copyright and plagiarism films and lessons (7/09)

W. Frank Steely Library has a new website (6/09)

The Special Collections & Archives Department is pleased to announce its newest digital collection – the Gilliam Postcards (1/11)

Stan Chesley donates papers to Steely Library's Beverly Hills Supper Club Special Collection (4/09)

### **Beyond the Walls of Steely: Continuing Education Initiatives**

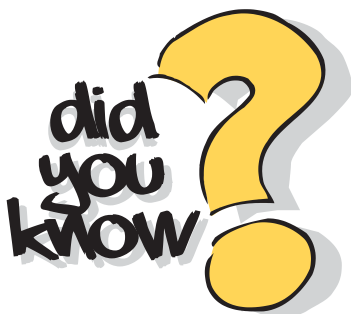
Two new Library Continuing Education Courses are now available in the 21st Century Library Career Development series offered by Northern Kentucky University's Steely Library (10/10)

Faculty at Steely Library are collaborating with Bluegrass Community & Technical College to offer three academic programs in library studies: A 21-credit hour library staff certification program, an Associate Degree in Library Information Technology, and a Bachelor's Degree in Library Informatics (8/09)

*Mary Todd Chesnut is Associate Professor and Coordinator of Information Literacy, W. Frank Steely Library*

## Legacy of Books

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) 572-5636 or email websr@nku.



To access information about The Friends of Steely Library, go to <http://friendsofsteely.nku.edu/>. The website features information about the Board of Directors and Life members; the latest news, events and exhibits; electronic copies of past Annotations newsletters; and an online photo gallery.

**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](mailto:chesnut@nku.edu)**

## Commemorative Chairs



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 the Commemorative Chair Program, contact Sandi Rodgers-Webster at (859) 572-5636 or email [websr@nku.edu](mailto:websr@nku.edu).

## Duveneck Exhibition

*By Lois Hamill*



In 1902 noted Kentucky artist Frank Duveneck painted "Portrait of the Artist's Mother." The painting was exhibited a number of times and passed down through the artist's family until Mrs. Josephine W. Duveneck, the artist's daughter-in-law, donated it to the Christopher Gist Historical Society in January, 1962. The Gist Society very generously donated the painting to Northern Kentucky State College in March, 1975.

In the Spring of 2009 conservation work was undertaken to clean and touch up the surface of both the painting and its frame. The Gist Society most generously paid for the conservation work. The conservation treatment

clearly revealed details of the painting which had been obscured over time.

In celebration of Mrs. Duveneck's "spa treatment" and thanksgiving for the kind generosity of the Gist Society, a grand exhibit in the Eva G. Farris Special Collections and Schlachter Archives reading room gathered together sixteen pieces graciously lent by their owners. President Votruba and Provost Wells welcomed visitors to the exhibit opening. Art history professor Kimberly Allen-Kattus spoke about Duveneck's work.

*Lois Hamill is the University Archivist*