

Friends of Montana State University LIBRARIES



View from the Dean:

Fall 2010
No. 33

By Tamara Miller
Dean of Libraries

What does it mean to be part of a land-grant university? For the MSU Library it means that we provide information access and outreach beyond the campus. Any Montana resident or Library Friend may obtain a library card, checkout books, access federal documents and use the services in the Library.



The MSU Library is proud to be a part of the special tradition of a land-grant university, with an emphasis on educating and serving the people of Montana.

Our outreach services include such programs as teaching the public about health information, providing information and instruction to other librarians in the region, collaborations with public and high school libraries, and for 20 years, providing professional development opportunities for librarians in the Tribal Colleges in North America.

The long history of the development of public universities can be traced back to 1787, when the Continental Congress recognized that "Knowledge, being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged."

The Morrill Act of 1862 granted land to western states to finance "the endowment, support, and maintenance of at least one college ... in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes on the several pursuits and professions in life."

The creation of land-grant universities, almost 150 years ago, was an act of faith in the power of public education to strengthen a young democracy, to extend education beyond a small elite, and to open the "professions in life" to a much broader group of citizens. Senator Morrill's vision forever changed higher education by opening its doors to more students and strengthening the scope of subjects to be studied.

Today, MSU continues to fulfill this mandate to keep a high quality education accessible and to provide to the public the benefits of research far beyond the scope of the original Morrill Act.

*The library
is the intellectual
heart of the
university community*



Continued from previous page

We know that many of you share our passion for this equalitarian land-grant mission and the Library's role in providing information to students, faculty and citizens who never stop learning. Your generosity in helping to build our endowments, your donations of books, and your gifts of all kinds are a tribute to the vision we share. We are proud to be the library serving the "people's university" in Montana.

Looking in All the Wrong Places

By Kim Allen Scott, Professor/University Archivist

When we lose our car keys we start looking in the last place we remember using them. Sometimes we are lucky enough to find them dangling from the ignition switch, but more often than not we find the keys were carried away from the car and await discovery as they rest on the kitchen counter.

That first instinct of looking in the most logical place has a parallel for historians who are looking for material dealing with a specific geographic area. It is natural to assume that documents from settlers in Montana would be in Montana repositories, but such an assumption does not take into consideration that some items, just like the car keys, were carried away and await discovery elsewhere.

This is especially true of letters which describe the writer's surroundings in minute detail, but were sent to distant friends and relatives. Peter Koch, one of Bozeman's most prominent early pioneers and one of Montana State University's founders, wrote over 270 letters to his Mississippi fiancé between 1869 and 1874 that give a colorful word portrait of our region. The letters ended up at Louisiana State University, and were eventually discovered by two historians who thought to look for them beyond the obvious locations.

Carl B. Cone and Merrill G. Burlingame both made use of the Koch material in various scholarly essays during the mid twentieth century, but now all of the letters have been published in a new book, *Splendid on a Large Scale: The Writings of Hans Peter Gyllembourg Koch, Montana Territory, 1869-1874* (Helena: Drumlummon Institute, 2010). Illustrated with many photographs that came from our own Special Collections, the story of Koch's frontier experiences has finally come back to the place where it occurred. It's a good thing that Cone and Burlingame thought to look beyond the most obvious place for these car keys!

Case Closed

By Kim Allen Scott

My major professor in library school, Dr. David Gracy, had a phrase he would use to impress on his students the need for careful reference interviews: "Every researcher is a case." Gracy did not mean that our researchers are somehow mentally imbalanced, but rather that each individual approaches manuscript material for their own reasons.

This truism came home to me this year with the visitation of Dr. Clem Pellett in our reading room. Pellett, an oral surgeon from Bellevue, Washington, came to peruse Collection 2095, the Harry and Gretchen Billings Papers, a collection of personal and corporate papers documenting the publication of a liberal Helena newspaper called the Peoples' Voice. Since Pellett had come fully prepared with a printout of our finding aid inventory he simply requested the box numbers and went to work without any initial reference interview to reveal his topic. After pouring over the collection for an entire day, Pellett prepared to leave and I determined to at least conduct an exit interview to see if he had found what he was looking for.

What he told me was nothing short of astounding. It seems that Pellett's grandfather, Clarence, was gunned down by a hitchhiker west of Shelby, Montana in 1951, and the killer, Frank Dryman, was sentenced to death after his conviction for the crime. The People's Voice used the Dryman case as a platform to oppose capital punishment, and Dryman was released on parole after serving fourteen years of a life sentence.

He fled the state afterwards, and Pellett had hoped that there might be clues within the correspondence of the People's Voice that would help identify Dryman. Pellett supplemented his research in our repository with other inquiries at the Montana Historical Society and gathered enough information to assist investigators in apprehending Dryman, who was returned to Montana from Arizona last April where he had been living under an assumed name. I had a distinct chill when I was watching the evening news the night they announced Dryman's capture, and I called Pellett the next day to ask his permission to tell this incredible story. He was gracious enough to agree, and thanked Special Collections sincerely for assisting in his search.

The uses of historical manuscript collections are truly as varied as our clientele, and this was certainly one "case" that dramatically illustrates the concept that Dr. Gracy tried to convey to me so many years ago.



**In appreciation of all who gave to the MSU Libraries
from July 2009 through June 2010, we thank you!**

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MSU Libraries- Telling Our Story

By Patricia (Denison) Gleason
Director of Development



As I travel around the country, I take great pleasure in meeting with friends and alumni of Montana State University. Each of you has a story - whether that includes how you made the decision to attend MSU; your experiences while you were here; how your education paved the way and/or opened doors for new life experiences; or your desire to make a difference – they are all stories that are unique and inspiring and I feel privileged that you are willing to share those stories with me.

MSU Libraries also has a story. Our story is one of cross disciplinary success. As our own University President, Waded Cruzado, has said, “we pride ourselves in meeting our students’ needs in a global, technology-driven economy by integrating teaching with hands-on research and creative experiences.”

The best education and learning are a lifelong process and provide a portal to new beginnings. Across campus, faculty and students are discovering answers for highly complex problems. These answers pave the way to solutions.

Whether it is a successful student research paper; creating a new treatment for disease; extracting 68 million-year-old protein from dinosaurs; discovering life in extreme environments like high temperature geothermic sites of Yellowstone National Park or deep within the ice of Antarctica; or turning algae or seed crops into fuel, the Libraries plays a role. We are the information repository for this university – the research hub – for thousands of students and faculty across all colleges, departments and disciplines on campus.

The resources we are able to provide are critical components to student success at Montana State University. Without information resources, the often life changing research projects and new discoveries that drive the educational process would considerably diminish.

Our Library is YOUR Library

While off-site access to our electronic resources is restricted to students, faculty and staff of this university, those same resources are available on-site to everyone. Any resident with a valid form of identification can obtain a library card and

check out materials, and/or come into our facility and avail themselves of our online electronic resources and special collections.

Investing in education

The success of MSU Libraries lies in our ability to provide timely access to current and historical information resources for our users. Much of what we are able to provide comes as a result of private gift support. Even in this challenging economic environment, gifts from our friends, alumni and parents of students continue to appear. These gifts can be designated to enhance general, special or electronic collections, improve physical space, and offer services that would otherwise not be available.

Each of us has a myriad of choices on where to invest our philanthropic support and competition for those dollars is at an all time high. Every gift to the Libraries, regardless of size, is deeply appreciated and well utilized. These gifts have broad and immediate impact and touch the lives of every student, regardless of discipline. Further, as a 501(c)3 organization, you can utilize tax advantages to the fullest extent possible by law.

Crafting a Legacy

Current use: This is the most popular way to make a gift that is immediately available to support our programs. Current use gifts can be achieved through gifts of cash, check, credit card, or securities (stocks, bonds or mutual funds.)

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Planned Giving: There are a variety of planning mechanisms available to assist you in creating a lasting legacy while realizing tax savings or providing lifetime income, be it through charitable trusts, gift annuities, life



Continued from previous page

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If you want to learn more about how you can design your own legacy through philanthropic giving to Montana State University Libraries, please contact me. THANK YOU for being an integral part of "Excellence in Education" at Montana State University.

Patricia (Denison) Gleason
Executive Director for Library Advancement
and External Relations
pdenison@montana.edu
406-994-3340

Friends Book Group Welcomes Tribal Librarians

By Jan Zauha, Professor/Reference Librarian

For the second year the Friends Book Group has scheduled a Native American themed book for our June discussion, coinciding with the Tribal College Librarians Institute on campus. This year our book was *The Surrounded* by D'Arcy McNickle. We invited attendees from the Institute to talk with us about the book's treatment of issues such as assimilation, identity, belonging, coming of age and other cross-cultural topics.

We were gratified to have 10 tribal college librarians join us for a moving and very enlightening discussion, swelling our numbers to 21 that night. Regular members of the group brought gifts of food to share, including seared antelope, corn and pumpkin breads. We look forward to repeating this event next June with another native-themed book.

Art in the Atrium

By Brian Rossmann, Associate Dean

This fall the Renne Library is exhibiting a collection of watercolors by artist Marsha Karle. For "Yellowstone Stories" Marsha has drawn on fifteen years of experience living and working in Yellowstone National Park. "Having spent so many years involved in Yellowstone's controversies and issues, it can take some time to make the transition back to just seeing and appreciating the park for its beauty. It's such a wonderful place, and I've tried to capture its magic in watercolors that give us little glimpses of all the daily drama that goes on in nature"

In the Spring Semester an exhibit will be curated by Meta Newhouse – a Professor in the School of Art – which will feature works on the theme of "social awareness" created by MSU students studying in the School's graphic design program.



Artist Marsha Karle hangs her beautiful watercolors in the Renne Library Atrium.



Coming Attractions

October 14, 2010

Friends Fall Fundraiser Dinner and Auction featuring keynote speaker **Ivan Doig**, 6:30pm, Best Western GranTree Inn.

February 3, 2011

Trout and Salmonid Lecture Series featuring **Dr. Richard Hoffmann**, Museum of the Rockies.

April 28, 2011

Friends of MSU Libraries and MSU Alumni Association present **Dessert Dialogues**, Hilton Garden Inn.



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Friends Book Group

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For more information:
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