

View from the Dean

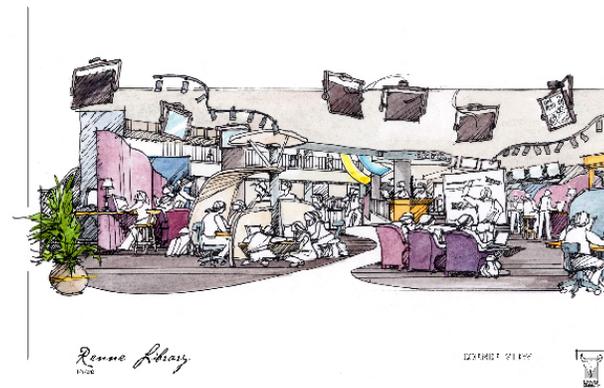
As spring begins to show its face across the Montana landscape, the MSU Library is blooming with a sense of renewal. The damage from last year's flood has been repaired, the books are back on the shelves, and the preventive measures undertaken by the University kept us warm and dry through even the coldest weeks of winter.

The Library now has an exciting opportunity to expand the study spaces available to MSU students. With the addition of over 17,000 linear feet of new shelf space on compact mobile shelving, the entire document collection and many journals are being moved to this convenient and space-saving shelving.

The relocation of these books and journals will free up space on the first floor to create a new and lively learning environment. It is our hope to transform this space into a student-centered study area that is rich in the technologies that students need to complete their class work. This area would become a "Commons" for learning and information access. The Commons idea is not new in academic libraries and it has been a proven catalyst for engaging students in new modes of learning on other campuses.

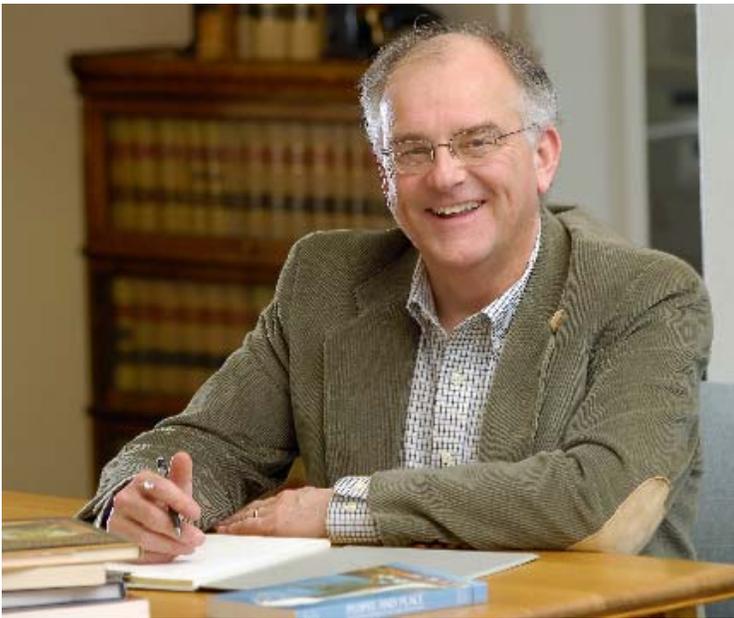
Why a Commons? In this case, the name Commons signals that it would belong equally to the entire campus community as an inviting and useful mix of technology, expertise, and services. Why in the Library? We understand that students trust the Library as an active learning place with much of the expertise and information they need to succeed.

A Commons might take many forms, but it will not look like a traditional computer lab plopped down in the middle of the Library. We hope that we can include casual seating and areas for group study, as well as spaces for individual work.



Most critically, it is the services and activities that take place in the Commons that will support the learning goals of MSU students. Students should be able to meet with a librarian, get technical help, and perhaps arrange for special tutoring or customized assistance.

The goal of a Commons area is to support all the processes that transform data and information into knowledge. Students have told us that they need more flexible spaces for group
(cont'd on page 2)



Paul Schullery

Schullery Named First Scholar-in-Residence at Renne Library

By Anne Pettinger, MSU News Service

Paul Schullery, a noted historian and prolific author, has recently been named the first scholar-in-residence at Montana State University's Renne Library.

As scholar-in-residence, Schullery will advise MSU librarians on the libraries' collections, particularly its Yellowstone Collection and Trout and Salmonid Collection.

"Paul, who is an eminent scholar, will bring a new focus to some of our collections," said Tamara Miller, dean of the MSU Libraries. "We think it's quite a coup that he has agreed to share his expertise and advise us...it's just wonderful to have him here to interact with our librarians."

Schullery's advisory role, which is an unpaid position, comes with an office in the library's Special Collections.

The agreement with Schullery is for one year, Miller added, and it could be renewed.

Schullery, 60, is perhaps best known for the more than 30 books he has authored, co-authored or edited. Many of Schullery's books deal with Yellowstone, and he plans to utilize the library's Yellowstone Collection for his own research.

"I'm finishing up a couple of books...so (being here) facilitates that process," Schullery said. The soft-spoken historian said he's particularly pleased to be part of the library community and to have close access to the library's Yellowstone Collection.

Schullery, who retired from a long career with the National Park Service in Yellowstone in 2008, said his association with the park began serendipitously.

The son of a Lutheran minister, Schullery and his parents and two older siblings moved often when he was a boy. He was born in Pennsylvania and lived in Texas, Alabama and Michigan before moving to Lancaster, Ohio, where he graduated from high school.

Then in 1969, while Schullery was in college in Ohio, he traveled to Yellowstone to visit a friend who was working there as a gate ranger. He eventually decided he'd like to work in the park

himself, and from 1972-1977 Schullery was employed seasonally as a ranger-naturalist, performing such duties as giving campfire talks to park visitors.

Schullery also spent three winters in the '70s working in the park archives, which set him on a course to be a historian.

"I was in the midst of wonderful treasures," Schullery said, noting that he would come across gems of items, such as letters from Theodore Roosevelt, while he was working.

"From then on, Yellowstone was the center of my world," Schullery said. "I was not always there, but it was always the center."

After a stint from 1977-1982 as executive director of the American Museum of Fly Fishing in Manchester, Vt., Schullery moved back to Montana, where he worked as a writer based in Livingston for about four years. Another stint took him to Harrisburg, Penn., where he was an associate editor at *Country Journal* magazine. He returned to Yellowstone in 1988 and was involved for the next 20 years in a number of different projects there.

"My most appropriate title (in Yellowstone) was writer-editor, but I was so lucky," Schullery said. "I got to be involved in so many different things."

Some of those duties including writing articles about scientific processes for lay audiences, overseeing the start of a biennial conference series on science, and launching a quarterly publication, "Yellowstone Science."

And, Schullery has been associated with MSU for years. In recognition of his work as a nature writer and historian, MSU presented Schullery with an honorary doctorate of letters in 1997. He has also served as an affiliate professor and taught several history classes at MSU.

Now, Schullery is enjoying retirement in Bozeman with his wife, Marsha Karle, who retired about five years ago from a National Park Service career to become a full-time artist. The two have been collaborating on books since their retirement, Schullery said. Karle works mainly with watercolors.

Schullery said he is pleased to continue his association with MSU as a scholar-in-residence. The work that people do in libraries is important, he added.

"Conversations about Yellowstone or trout stream conservation or American West resource management are so terribly important that we all owe it to ourselves to be as well-informed as possible," Schullery said. "Libraries are the toolbox for that."

View from the Dean, cont'd...

study, places to prepare presentations, and the tools to create digital objects like videos, maps, images, and data sets.

To be truly student-centered, we are forging a stronger collaboration with the Associated Students of MSU (ASMSU) and are seeking broader student input to help shape all our services from the web page to the Commons. In recent weeks, over 50 instructors joined in a discussion of the library of the 21st century. This level of commitment to the future of the Libraries is a strong measure of the continuing importance of the Libraries to the teaching and learning mission of MSU.

The MSU Libraries' role as an active learning place and the center of the intellectual life on campus has never been more important.



Sorry, No Vacancies...

The Libraries has a number of new personnel additions and for the first time in many years is fully staffed with no vacant positions!

René Tanner, a reference librarian, comes to us from Arizona where she had worked as a city planner before earning her library science degree.

Sheila Bonnard, who had worked as director of the MSU Great Falls library for more than a decade, also joined us as a reference librarian.

Most recently, Elizabeth Babbitt, with many years of experience as a librarian at Bozeman Public Library and before that at the University of Washington, assumed the position of Electronic Resources Librarian at the beginning of the year.

We have also been fortunate enough to add a number of fantastic staff to our technical services teams: Nancy Burritt (Interlibrary Loan), Allison Carroll (Cataloging & Processing), Sonia Gregorcich (Collection Development), and Bonnie McCallum (Digital Projects). Pam Schulz is our new Friends of the Libraries program coordinator and assistant to the Director of Development.

Upcoming Events

Please Join Us for the Annual MSU Author's Reception



The Friends of MSU Libraries and President Gamble will recognize recent publications of MSU authors on April 14, 2009, in the Burton K. Wheeler Reading Room, at Renne Library from 4 to 5:30 PM. Please join us as we celebrate the MSU faculty who have been published over the past year. Authors will be available to discuss their publications and autograph copies of their books. Refreshments will be served, and the MSU Bookstore will have a selected inventory available for purchase.

Celebrating National Poetry Month: Greg Pape, Montana's second Poet Laureate coming to Bozeman

On Friday, April 17, Greg Pape will present a reading of his poetry on the MSU campus at Renne Library at noon. On Friday evening the MSU Library, in collaboration with Bozeman Public Library, will host "An Evening with Greg Pape." This event begins with a wine reception at 6:30pm, followed by a reading and discussion in the Community Room by our Poet Laureate. These community events will be sponsored by Friends of MSU Libraries, Friends of Bozeman Public Library and a grant from Montana Committee for the Humanities.

Save the Date!

MSU Libraries Fall Friends Dinner Fundraiser....

Friends of MSU Libraries will host their annual fundraising dinner event on Thursday, **October 29, 2009**. Please join us for an evening of dinner, wine and a captivating speaker. Relax in a friendly atmosphere enhanced by delicious dinner, fine wine, and good company. For more information on the dinner please visit our website at www.friendsofmsulibraries.com, or call 994-3119.

COLLECTING KARMA

by Kim Allen Scott

There is an old saying that people are fond of repeating regardless of their understanding of the Hindu concept of karma: "What goes around, comes around."

Usually applied in a negative interpretation of someone's actions, the saying is also applied to those whose good deeds have resulted in subsequent unrelated beneficial consequences. A recent addition to our holdings in Special Collections can be seen as an example of the latter interpretation.

General Lester Sebastian Willson was an officer who served under William T. Sherman in the Civil War and participated in the campaign to capture Atlanta. After the war, Willson came to Montana where he became one of Bozeman's most influential pioneer merchants and served on the first Local Board of Trustees for Montana State University.

It has been said that Willson's efforts, along with his wife Emma's, were crucial for getting the college established in Bozeman. The Willsons had three children, but only one lived to adulthood, Fred F. Willson, who became a prolific architect in Bozeman.

Among the many beautiful buildings in his portfolio are Roberts Hall on campus and the Ellen Theater downtown.

One might state that Fred's activities began the "payback" of good deeds for our university community, but the story does not end there. Fred had a daughter, Beverly, who attended MSU and married another student, Doug Morrison.

Last year, Doug found one of General Willson's Civil War diaries and contacted the MSU Alumni association to see if we were interested. Since Doug had sent an email copy to his nephew, Lester S. "Casey" Willson of Maryland, we were afterwards contacted by Casey who offered us yet another diary that was in his possession.

Both diaries, which recount General Willson's observations during the siege of Atlanta and Sherman's "March to the Sea," were formally donated in August, 2008, and join the other materials we have on the Willson family, including most of Fred Willson's architectural drawings, Emma Willson's scrapbook, the original minutes of the Local Board of Trustees, and the Bozeman Trail diary of the general's brother, Davis Willson.

Good deeds do, indeed, "come around," and we are delighted with this latest example of collecting karma.

New Board Members Join FoL

The New Year brought many new faces to our Friends of the Libraries Board. Joining us for 2009 are Sue Hamilton, Julie Hitchcock, Stephanie Stranahan, Nicole Ehresmann, and Carole Crowell.

Sue Hamilton: Owner, Heartland Individual & Family Coaching
Julie Hitchcock: Associate Director Burton K. Wheeler Center
Stephanie Stranahan: Rancher, Wilsal, Montana
Nicole Ehresmann: Commercial Lender, American Bank
Carole Crowell: Retired, Registered Nurse

WELCOME



2009 Friends Board

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Upcoming Events

Author's Reception-April 14
Poet Laureate - April 17
Fall Dinner - October 29

Friends Book Group

Bozeman Public Library
7:00-9:00 p.m.

April 14
May 12
June 9
July 14
August 11



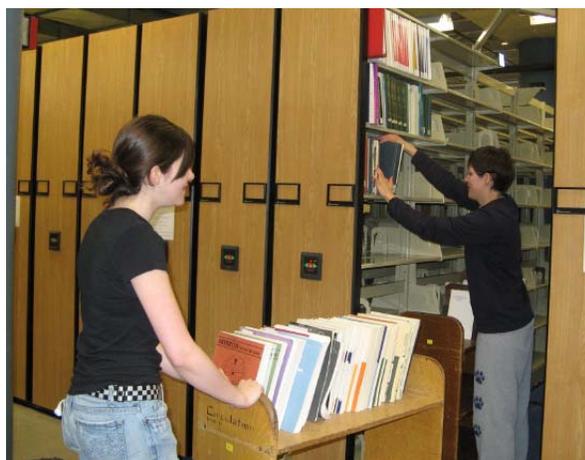
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Library Tidbits

"Students visit school library media centers some 1.7 billion times during the school year-about twice the number of visits to state and national parks."

"Americans make some 3.5 billion visits to school, public and college libraries each year-about 3 times the attendance at movie theaters."

"Americans spend nine times as much on home video games (\$1.5 billion) as they do on school library materials for their children."



Compact Shelving Complete

Students work to load more of the collection onto the compact shelving. The process should be completed by fall.

Friends of MSU Libraries

I am very pleased to invest in the future of the MSU Libraries by supporting the Friends

Please check your membership choice:

President's Associate for The Libraries - \$1,000*
Patron - \$500*
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Your annual basic membership entitles you to Friends newsletters, invitations to events, and a Friends library card.

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