

View from the Dean:

A season of change rolls around every fall. The nights are noticeably cooler and the days a bit shorter. The campus and the library are suddenly filled with faculty preparing for classes, students getting settled in for the first time, and returning students greeting their classmates after the summer break. It is a time of new beginnings, filled with the rich promise of a new school year.

MSU welcomed an exceptionally large first-year class in August. As classes began meeting the first week in September, the library became a bee hive of activity. There were lines to use computers on the first day of classes, something that generally happens a bit later in the term. These MSU students are serious about their education.

The MSU Libraries will see its share of changes this year. A substantial portion of the collection is being re-housed onto modern mobile shelving. Librarians are expanding their teaching and outreach to departments and students at a distance in every corner of Montana.

We are exploring a transformation of areas on the first floor to better meet the needs of this generation of teachers and learners. The addition of technical tools, spaces for group work, and face-to-face expert assistance are important facets of an effective academic library.

MSU will see some important changes over the next year. President Geoff Gamble will return to the classroom, perhaps as early as next January. We look forward to the installation of a new president to lead the university along its established path of excellence in undergraduate education and meaningful research. With the departure of David Dooley to assume the presidency of the University of Rhode Island, we are pleased to be working with the interim Provost Joe Fedock.

MSU students require and deserve the most robust mix of information resources and personal assistance that we can provide. The new electronic information age does not have to be an impersonal one. With the continued assistance of both the MSU administration and the generosity of our friends, it is in our power to design library learning spaces and experiences that empower students.

Amid all this change, the MSU Libraries will continue to provide the best collections and services we can make available. The commitment to excellence and student success by all those who work in the Libraries remains the central value we share.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

--Nelson Mandela

“THE SOLOIST” ALIVE AT RENNE LIBRARY...

HOMELESSNESS EXHIBIT COMPLIMENTS
FRESHMAN CONVOCATION SELECTION

By Jan Zauha, Reference Librarian

The culture of the book is alive and well at MSU and throughout Bozeman. This year for MSU’s third Freshman Convocation, the University joined forces with the One Book One Bozeman program at Bozeman Public Library (BPL) to focus on “The Soloist: A Lost Dream, An Unlikely Friendship, and The Redemptive Power of Music” by LA Times columnist Steve Lopez. This book is being read widely this fall by freshman and others at MSU, as well as many community groups. Having Lopez speak at the Convocation ceremony on Sept. 9 was a wonderful way to stimulate further interest in this compelling story about a friendship between a journalist and a homeless musician.

The MSU Libraries played a role in helping select and promote this book, making many copies of it and the new movie available for checkout. We also collaborated with Bozeman Public Library’s One Book program to host an exhibit in Renne Library on homelessness in Bozeman, and we worked with University Studies to create opportunities for students to discuss the book with community groups such as the Bozeman Senior Center book group. Plans are already underway to choose the Convocation book for 2010 and we can certainly look forward to increased participation and excitement about this annual reading event in the years to come.

“Bozeman Project” Exhibits in Renne Library

On Thursday, March 5th 2009 an explosion resulting from a natural gas pipe leak rocked downtown Bozeman, destroying several buildings and killing one woman. Several businesses were devastated leaving workers without employment and a number of downtown residents lost their homes. Bozeman fine-art photographer and MSU alumnus Ben Pierce tells the stories of some of the individuals affected by this tragedy in an exhibit of his photographs entitled the “Bozeman Project.” This collection was first displayed at the Bozeman Public Library, and the Renne Library is delighted to host it this October through December.

Eternal Optimism

by Kim Scott, Special Collections

Sometimes it is hard for us to look on the bright side, especially when adversity strikes more than once.

In our library the staff has endured more than our fair share of slings and arrows in the first decade of the twenty-first century, and were it not for the ability of everyone to maintain a positive attitude we would be a very sad lot.

Aside from the disruption of the extensive renovations which took place in 2001-2, three water pipe bursts since then have inundated portions of our print collections with devastating results. The one which affected Special Collections the worst occurred on January 22, 2008 and hit a single range of our books in the manuscript storage area.

In spite of quick actions by the staff to rescue the volumes, some were damaged beyond repair and their loss has caused the collection development team to search out- of-print bookseller’s catalogs and websites for replacements.

This dismal situation was recently alleviated somewhat by a fortuitous donation by Richard Francis of Venice, California. Mr. Francis had an extensive collection of rare books dealing with Montana and western Americana that he offered to Montana State University last spring.

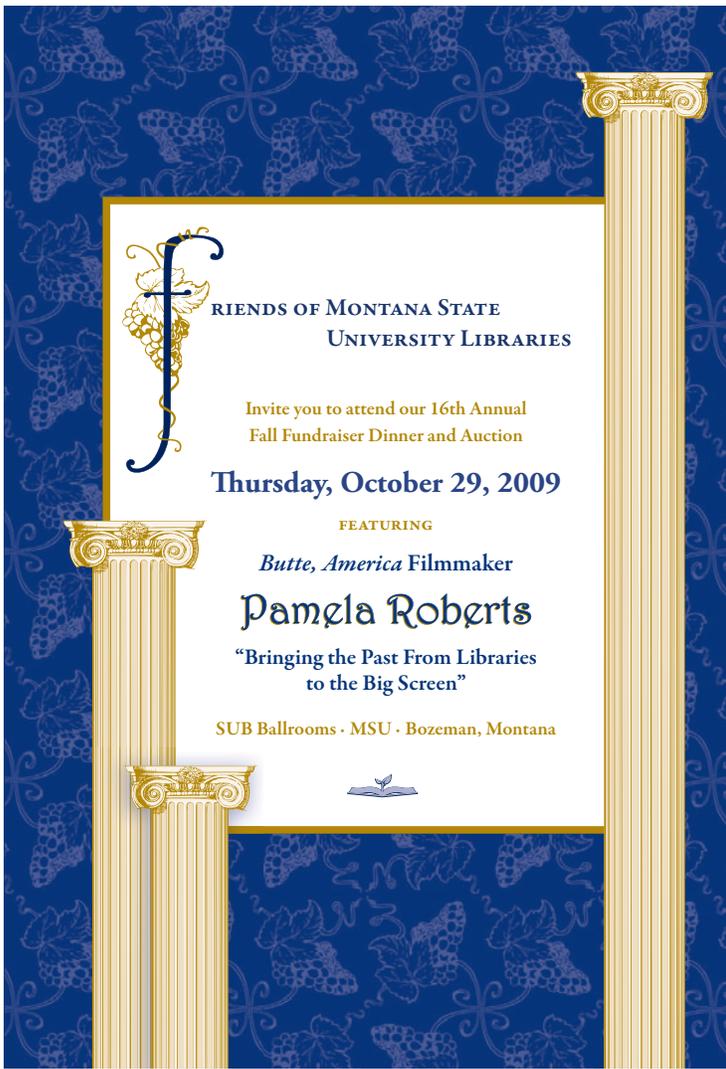
After we had a chance to review the bibliography we determined that many volumes in the offering would be suitable for Special Collections, and that duplicate titles would make ideal additions to the circulating collection.

However, by the time Mr. Francis drove the van load of books up to our loading dock, I had not realized a rather significant aspect to those duplicate titles. It turned out that some the books that matched titles already in our catalog were actually ideal replacements for some of the materials damaged in the January 2008 soaking.

As we have compared the pieces one by one in our reading room, we have had the happy discovery that many of the books can replace what we had feared was irreplaceable.

If that happy circumstance was not enough, we have also found a beautiful small manuscript set collected by Wilbur Fisk Sanders, one of Montana’s prominent founding pioneers, pertaining to his twenty-fifth (silver) wedding anniversary celebration. This set includes signed letters from a wide variety of prominent individuals and is a welcome addition to our manuscript holdings.

The generosity of Mr. Francis has at least proven to me that every cloud does indeed have a “silver lining,” even when it comes bound in leather and buckram.



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**SAVE THE DATE- APRIL 15, 2010
DESSERT DIALOGUES RETURNS**

MSU Libraries Spring Friend-raiser

Friends of MSU Libraries will host their annual Dessert Dialogues Event on April 15, 2010. Please join us for an evening of delicious dessert, fine wine, and interesting table hosts. For more information on the event please visit our website at www.friendsofmsulibraries.com, or call 994-3119. We hope to see you there!



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Upcoming Events

- Fall Dinner - October 29
- Dessert Dialogues - April 15

Friends Book Group

Location: Sola Cafe
 7:00-9:00 p.m.

- October 13
- November 10
- December 8
- January 12
- February 9



For more information:
www.friendsofmsulibraries.com



www.ripplemarketing.com

WELCOME

We would like to welcome our two newest members to the Fol Board.
 Joining us most recently are:

**Katie Anvik –
 Student Representative**

**Spencer Buck –
 Prefix Dinner Studios**



Poet Laureate of Montana Greg Pape, presents his poetry on April 17, 2009 at the Bozeman Public Library. This event was sponsored by the the Friends of MSU Libraries, Friends of Bozeman Public Library and a grant from Montana Committee for the Humanities

Friends of MSU Libraries

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

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