View From the Dean

Janet Wilke
Dean of the Library

In our busy daily routines, we seldom slow down to commemorate milestones or reflect on the stories of those who endeavored to bring us to where we are. For the Calvin T. Ryan Library, fall 2012 begins a year of taking time to truly recognize the significant people and events that have brought the Library to the place it now occupies in the life of the University.

The October reception recognizing our 50th year as a Federal Document Depository Library was a fine opening. During 2013, the University will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the west half of the Library building; and the 30th anniversary for the east addition and renovation.

Those first 50 years have proven innovative in defining the role of the academic library on this campus and nationally. The new era is highlighted by digital and electronic resources expanding access and services as student populations and needs continue to evolve. Library faculty members now carry titles foreign to the 1960’s such as “Web Services Librarian,” and “Electronic Resources Librarian.”

The Library building, originally designed as a subdued environment for individual quiet study, now includes myriad types of “spaces” --- collaborative working spaces, gathering spaces for shared academic work, spaces for using joint technology, along with social and contemplative spaces --- all visible reminders that the University, the Library, and academic life, continue to change and progress.

I hope many of you have an opportunity to visit Calvin T. Ryan Library in the coming year. Take time to stop and share your stories with us and we will share with you our vision for the next 50 years.
Celebrating 50 Years
Rochelle Krueger
Government Documents Librarian

The Calvin T. Ryan Library celebrated its golden anniversary as a Federal Government Documents Depository Library with a formal reception on Thursday, October 25 in the Government Documents department on the Library’s second floor. Dean of the Library, Janet Wilke, along with honored speakers, Chancellor Doug Kristensen, Senior Vice-Chancellor Charles Bicak, and Nebraska State Senator Galen Hadley helped to commemorate the occasion. All spoke of the history and value of the Federal Government Documents Depository. Pictured below are Rochelle Krueger, the current Government Documents Librarian, and three retired documents librarians, Diana Keith, Jim Rowling, and Sharon Mason, who were also present for the celebration.

The Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) was established by Congress to ensure that the American public has access to its Government’s information. GPO administers the FDLP on behalf of the participating libraries and the public. Information products from the Federal Government are disseminated to these nationwide libraries that, in turn, ensure the American public has free access to the materials, both in print and online.

To be designated as a depository in the FDLP, a library must be appointed by a member of Congress. In 1962, UNK Director of Libraries, Alice Paine, took the first steps in initiating the request to be designated a selective depository for federal documents. Later that year, Congressman David Martin made the official appointment, reporting that Kearney was an ideal location for a second federal depository library. Since then, Government Documents have had a proven and vital role in student research at UNK.

Calvin T. Ryan Library is one of only two federal depository libraries in Nebraska’s Third Congressional District, which is roughly two-thirds of the geographic area of the state. To serve the public, the library selects approximately fifty-four percent of the governments available print and online publications.

Gifts Strengthen Collections
Your unused books and other resources may be just what is needed to enhance the library collection. We are especially interested in items with a UNK, Nebraska, or Great Plains connection. See this site for details: http://bit.ly/UNKLibraryGifts

Walcott Gift to Archives
Susan Mueller
Coordinator of Collection Services

This summer, the family of Dr. Ray Wycoff, a physician from Lexington, NE, graciously gifted the Calvin T. Ryan Library with a rare find, which was gratefully added to the library’s Archives and Special Collections, Rare Book Collection.

Written and illustrated by Mary Vaux Walcott and published in 1925 by the Smithsonian Institution, the limited edition publication consists of 5 portfolios each containing 80 beautifully illustrated plates. North American Wild Flowers is a truly spectacular production, often referred to as "the Audubon of North American Wild Flowers".
Botany.” The watercolors are both beautiful and accurate. Each plate depicts an individual wild flower shown life-size.

Mary Vaux Walcott drew them during field trips to the West and Canadian Rockies with her husband, geologist and paleontologist Dr. Walcott. Typically, during their trips, she sketched wildflowers she spotted while the packtrains were stopped or were being prepared. She would then finish these sketches in watercolor back home in Washington, D.C. Each portfolio also contains descriptions for each plate.

Anyone wishing to view the set should contact Greg Anderson (andersong@unk.edu) to make an appointment.

Support Calvin T. Ryan Library

Private financial support is vital to creating a margin of excellence at the Calvin T. Ryan Library. Your gifts assist in bringing valuable collections of information to the library, as well as creating a physical environment which compliments learning for all library users. Gifts supporting the library are tax deductible and are handled by the University of Nebraska Foundation, a 501(c) (3) corporation. For more information, please contact the University of Nebraska Foundation’s Kearney office at P.O. Box 2678, 214 W. 39th St., Kearney, NE 68848; or call 308-698-5270; or give online at http://bit.ly/UNKLibraryFund.

Engraved Paperweight for Florence M. Wagner Scholarship Recipients

Michael Sutherland
Web Services Librarian

The Florence M. Wagner Scholarship Award was established in 2009 by Carolyn Wagner Snyder, a 1964 graduate of Kearney State College, to honor her mother, also a Kearney State College alumna. In addition to a monetary award, recipients receive a paperweight commissioned by Ms. Snyder. Each beautiful paperweight is unique, inscribed with “Florence M. Wagner Scholarship,” “UNK Library,” and the date of the award. An accompanying letter describes the scholarship’s background and the paperweight artist, Cortney Boyd, a graduate of Hastings College in Nebraska. Ms. Boyd’s spouse, Nate Steinbrink, has strong UNK connections and was a student of retired master glassblower, UNK Art Professor Ray Schultz. The Glass Art Society recognized Ms. Boyd as an emerging artist in 2010, and her work has been selected for publication in New Glass Review 32 and in Bullseye’s Emerge 2012. Cortney and Nate are currently at Southern Illinois University Carbondale.
Bruce Wyman
b. 1950 North Platte, Nebraska

On a 30-mile one way commute between Laramie and Cheyenne, Wyoming, Bruce Wyman began to notice the littered landscape of what he described as ‘one of the most beautiful places in the country.’ With his ‘disgust’ for human interference and some coaxing from his wife, Wyman set out to document the remains of the human footprint on the land. Plastic bags and refuse entwined in barbed wire is a not uncommon sight around the country, however, Wyman’s drawings force viewers to notice the effects that individuals are having on their environment. These sketchbook images were selected from a series numbering approximately fifty, drawn over two years.

Bruce Wyman attended Phillips University in Enid, Oklahoma, receiving his B.F.A. degree in 1973. He earned an M.S.E. in 1979 from Kearney State College. Recently retired from teaching at the university level, he currently resides in Iowa.