Welcome Home, Preston McDaniels!

Jennifer Harvey, Curriculum Librarian

Preston McDaniels, juvenile literature illustrator, author, and Kearney native son, returned to Kearney on March 8 for four events hosted by the library. The UNK Faculty Senate Artists and Lecturers Committee provided much of the funding for the day’s events.

McDaniels has illustrated numerous books for young readers. His work includes illustrating books by Cynthia Rylant, a Newbery Award winning author. *Lighthouse Family*, written by Rylant and illustrated by McDaniels, was named a “Best of the Year” selection by the International Association of Independent booksellers. His work has appeared on the *L. A. Times* Bestseller list and his first self-penned title, *A Perfect Snowman*, has been called “enchanting” and “[a] tale to be passed on from generation to generation.”

He is also the illustrator for Francis O’Roark Dowell’s critically acclaimed and popular series of Phineaus L. MacGuire novels. The illustrations, many with a school setting, were influenced by McDaniels’ experiences while attending Kearney’s Park Elementary School.

At the Museum of Nebraska Art, he addressed museum docents, discussing his creative process and path to publication. In addition, fifth grade students from Central Elementary came to the museum for a presentation.

While on campus, his talks included a session with UNK’s Child Development Center and parents, as well as art education students. McDaniels fielded requests for drawings from his young audience. His description of how to draw an old person was brilliant. For those who missed it, imagine that there is a black hole in the center of the face, near the eyebrows, but perhaps a little lower. The old person’s features get sucked up into this black hole (eyes, cheek bones, mouth, eyebrows) except for the bits that get larger- such as jowls and ear lobes. The drawing, which resulted from the hilarious description, was as delightful as his interaction with the children.

In another campus session, he discussed his creative process and path to publication with students and faculty from the Teacher Education, Art, and English Departments.

The day ended at the Library with a

Continued on page 3
Library benefits from HHEF grant
Susan Mueller, Collection Services Librarian

The Library collections are being enhanced as a result of a grant from the Heartland Holocaust Educational Fund (HHEF). The grant, received by Dr. Kurt Borchard of the Department of Sociology, Geography and Earth Sciences, included funds to purchase approximately $10,000 worth of materials supporting coursework and research on the Holocaust. Dr. Borchard identified almost 300 titles in various formats including books and DVD’s from the National Center for Jewish Films for purchase from the funds. Once all materials are processed, a quick search on “Heartland Holocaust Education Fund” will bring up a full list of the titles acquired. This has been an exciting opportunity for the Library! Our thanks to Dr. Borchard and HHEF.

Academic Success adds offices in the Library
Rochelle Krueger, Government Documents/Special Projects Librarian

Two additional Academic Success offices have relocated to the Library’s second floor. Shelley Yentes, Instruction Coordinator, and Michelle Westerbeck, Kearney Bound Coordinator, have settled into their new environment.

Ms. Yentes teaches the University Foundations classes. This three-credit, elective transition course is strongly recommended for first year, first generation, transfer and struggling college students. Topics include time management, critical thinking, test-taking strategies, academic honesty, and financial literacy. She also teaches online study skills classes for students seeking to further develop specific skill sets.

Ms. Westerbeck works with students in the Kearney High, Kearney Catholic, North Platte, and Lexington Public Schools. Kearney Bound is a cooperative program between selective high schools and UNK. The program is an opportunity for first generation high school students to earn a four year comprehensive scholarship to attend UNK. Through the program, the students will attend UNK with full support for their tuition, books, fees, and room and board throughout their college career.

As with the Writing Center and Academic Peer Tutoring, the centralized location provides for easy access to enhanced service.

Library welcomes new Access Services Associate

Kate Freeman is the new Access Services Associate at Calvin T. Ryan Library. She comes to us from Fremont, Nebraska, where she worked at Fremont’s public library, Keene Memorial, for 14 years.

She has a BA from the University of Nebraska Lincoln in Great Plains studies and enjoys learning more about local and Native American history, as well as working on family genealogy. She received a Masters in Information Science and Library Technology from the University of Missouri in 2008.

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 complements 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.
Preston McDaniels con’t. presentation to over 50 members of the Kearney community, including several who added their own recollections of Kearney and Park Elementary to Preston’s fond memories.

A book signing and presentation at the library capped off a full day of events.

It was a pleasure to welcome Preston home!

Preston McDaniels demonstrates his drawing technique.

New Curriculum materials
Since November 1, the Curriculum Department has received 15 textbooks from Holt McDougal, 40 textbooks from Saxon, 53 Houghton Mifflin Review Books, and 17 items from Super Duper.

Donated archives materials reveal Nebraska State Teachers College student life
Greg Anderson, Archives Librarian

Gary G. Haussermann, of Central City, recently donated a number of items to the Calvin T. Ryan Library Archives. Mr. Haussermann’s grandfather, Charles Falk, was a student at the Nebraska State Teachers College at Kearney in 1937.

Among the items donated are:
• A sheet of library regulations, which admonishes “Ink must not be used in the library except in fountain pens. These may be filled at the library ink filling station (one cent), or at the janitor’s office (free).”
• Informational sheets on the College Dining Hall. Meals were priced by the item with a suggested expenditure of $.10 for breakfast, $.25 to $.30 for dinner, and $.20 for supper.
• A small “office practice handbook” titled Manners At The Dining Table that advises, “Sit straight in the chair, not too close to the table, with your feet on the floor. Cross your feet if you wish, but not your knees,” and “Do not put potato peelings, seeds, or fish bones on the bread and butter plate, on the table cloth, or in the saucer.”

The mission of the Archives is to collect, preserve, and make available appropriate materials relating to the institution throughout its history. If you have materials you think might belong in the Archives, please contact Greg Anderson, Archives Librarian, at 308-865-8593 or andersong@unk.

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.

Personnel notes
Susan Mueller attended the ALA Mid-Winter Conference in Dallas, TX, January 20-24.
Jennifer Harvey attended the Nebraska Reading Conference in Kearney, February 23-25.
Michael Sutherland presented “Web Accessibility” at NU Technology Day, March 21, at UNL.
Jon Ritterbush co-presented at the Electronic Resources & Libraries conference, April 2-4, in Austin, TX. The panel topic was “Trials by Juries: Suggested Practices for Database Trials,” co-presented with Annis Lee Adams of Golden Gate University and Christine Ryan of Clemson University.
Ron Wirtz co-wrote a chapter with Keri Pearson, Tutoring and Assessment Coordinator for Academic Success, about the UNK Learning Commons for inclusion in Environments for Student Growth and Development: Libraries and Student Affairs in Collaboration, edited by L. Hinchliffe and M.A. Wong.

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John Philip Falter (1910-1982)

John Falter, a Nebraska artist born in Plattsmouth and raised in Falls City, is best known for his many cover paintings for The Saturday Evening Post. Falter produced a body of work impressive in volume and variety of subject. Reflecting a lifelong interest in jazz, he portrayed scenes of Harlem nightclub life in the 1930s, and later on, portraits of famous jazz musicians. Some of these works are now on display at the Calvin T. Ryan Library, courtesy of the Museum of Nebraska Art. Falter was an accomplished jazz clarinet player and entirely self-taught. He took great pleasure in sitting in a set with his jazz friends after he sketched them live. For more information on John Falter, visit the MONA website http://monet.unk.edu/modern/falter.shtml.

Jazz from Life-Yank Lawson & Billy Butterfield, 1971
MONA Collection