Select pieces from the exhibit entitled Rural Schools of Nebraska, also currently on display at the MONA, was in conjunction with “School Consolidation in the Great Plains Symposium” that took place on April 5 and 6, 2013 at the University of Nebraska Kearney. Works include photographs and watercolors by Dwight Kirsch, Wright Morris, William Schlaebitz and Charles Guildner.

Guildner was born May 29, 1932, in Hastings Nebraska. He attended Hastings College, graduated from the University of Nebraska Medical School, and completed his Residency in Anesthesia at the University of Wisconsin. He moved to the Pacific Northwest where he practiced anesthesia until 1987. Since retirement from medicine, photography has been his interest and pursuit. He spends months each year traveling and extensively photographing the rural Midwest. Guildner visited over 40 one room schoolhouses like the one pictured during a 10-year span to memorialize an education system rapidly dwindling away.

On Display at the Calvin T. Ryan Library

Storm Damages Library Roof
Michael Sutherland
Web Services Librarian

An early morning storm on April 9th caused significant damage to the roof of the Calvin T. Ryan Library, allowing water to leak through the exposed ceiling onto the book stacks below. An estimated 6,300 books were damaged, carpet was saturated with water and the wireless internet system was damaged.

As library staff gathered, three priorities quickly took shape—limit further damage, care for damaged materials, and reopen the building to students as quickly as feasible. During the course of the day, the weather changed from a spring storm to a late season snow. Ice and cold forced workers to do the minimum to secure the roof. In order to prevent serious additional damage inside the building, all of the collections, including computer and other equipment, were covered using 325 plastic painter’s cloths.

Damage to the books was devastating to the library staff and they quickly organized themselves into teams to remove the damaged books and temporarily place them on the floor and tables. At the same time Cash-Wa Distributing of Kearney was contacted regarding storing the damaged materials in their large freezers.

When books become damaged due to being wet, although some damage may be irreversible, if done quickly, freezing wet materials will help to stabilize them, prevent mold growth, minimize boards warping, paper cockling and swelling, and provide time to determine a proper course of action.

Library stacks covered in plastic

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As one who observed the initial efforts first-hand,” wrote Dean Wilke, “and continues to see progress in returning the campus to pre-storm condition, I can attest to the determination to get quickly back to our mission of supporting the UNK community. As with so many efforts, the support of the full campus has been critical and is much appreciated.”

The Library reopened on Thursday April 11th with limited access to sections of the building to accommodate the research and study needs of students as they prepared for Finals Week and the close of the semester. On May 21st, the UNK Staff Senate presented the Library and Facilities Management & Planning with the May Recognition Achievement Award for their outstanding teamwork between Facilities and Library Staff in dealing with the problems associated with the storm, and the focus on continuing service to students in spite of the damage. “As one who observed the initial efforts first-hand,” wrote Dean Wilke, “and continues to see progress in returning the campus to pre-storm condition, I can attest to the determination to get quickly back to our mission of supporting the UNK community. As with so many efforts, the support of the full campus has been critical and is much appreciated.”

Cash-Wa delivered boxes and pallets and the staff packed the damaged books, placed them on the pallets which were then transported to the freezers at Cash-Wa to await the next steps in the process of returning the books to a usable state. Ideally that will involve shipment to a book restoration facility for vacuum drying to remove the moisture. All of this will take time. ‘Until we can say this is totally behind us we will certainly be into the fall semester,’ said Janet Stoeger Wilke, dean of the library.

In Brief

Water-damaged books temporarily fanned out

Students working in LIITS First Floor Computer Lab

Award for Outstanding Library Research

Janet Stoeger Wilke
Dean, Calvin T. Ryan Library

Calvin T. Ryan Library’s first Award for Undergraduate Research was presented during the April 4 Student Research Day. Sangeeta Boken, a student in the Department of Family Studies and Interior Design received the award for her research project “Arranged Versus Love Marriages: a Comparison Between the United States and India.” The award established this year, recognizing and honoring excellence in the use of library services, collections and resources, is a collaboration between the library and the Office of Undergraduate Research.

Stauffer Donation

Susan Mueller
Coordinator of Collection Services

Helen W. Stauffer, Professor Emeritus, UNK, generously donated most of her personal book collection to the Calvin T. Ryan Library last fall. When I went to meet Dr. Stauffer and see her book collection, I was a little nervous. It is always that way when you meet someone and see the books carefully collected throughout their lifetime. Dr. Stauffer is recognized as the leading scholar on the life and works of Mari Sandoz. Her 1982 biography, “Marie Sandoz, Story

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.

In Brief is a publication of the Calvin T. Ryan Library, University of Nebraska Kearney. It is designed to keep friends of the library informed about library changes and events. Its production is overseen by the Library Publications Committee. Current members are:

Michael Sutherland
Kate Freeman

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(Storm Damage cont.)

Catcher of the Plains” is viewed as the seminal work on Sandoz. She is also a scholar of Great Plains literature and researched Gen. Custer’s wife, Libbie Custer, even portraying her in living history reenactments. All of these experiences are reflected in the books Dr. Stauffer collected. The Calvin T. Ryan Library has truly been enriched in the areas of Western American literature and Native American history. Although still being processed, when the books are on the shelves they will be easy to find with the keywords of “Helen Stauffer book collection”. Both an electronic bookplate and a physical bookplate will be provided for each title in the collection.

Gifts Strengthen Collections

Do the books you love need a new home? They may be just what is needed to enhance the library collection. We are especially interested in books and other materials with a UNK, Nebraska, or Great Plains connection. See this site for details: http://bit.ly/UNKLibraryGifts.

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Poet Returned to Kearney

Michael Sutherland
Web Services Librarian

Poet B.H. Fairchild stood before an audience at the Museum of Nebraska Art Thursday April 11th and read selections from his books, including “Usher,” “Local Knowledge,” “Early Occult Memory Systems of the Lower Midwest” and “The Arrival of the Future.” His return to Kearney came 45 years after he arrived at Kearney State College to teach English. His reading was a collaboration presented by the Reynolds Reading Series, Calvin T. Ryan Library, Kearney Public Library, Faculty Senate Artists and Lecturers Grant, UNK’s English Department and private donors.

Assessment in Action Cohort

Michael Sutherland
Web Services Librarian

Dr. Ronald Wirtz submitted a proposal that was accepted for inclusion in an Assessment in Action cohort with the Association of College and Research Libraries. His was one of only 75 proposals in the nation and the only one in Nebraska to be accepted. The cohort will work collectively on a focused research project important to the library on each campus. According to Dr. Wirtz, his interest came in part from his service on the General Studies Council and the focus on student learning outcomes evident in that program. As a result of that experience, Dr Wirtz believes that the library should also be able to demonstrate the results of the library’s instruction in terms of student learning. The program should also enable the library to examine the effectiveness of selected methods of library instruction. Assessment in Action is a new initiative from the Association of College and Research Libraries. Working with Dr. Wirtz on the project will be Dr. Beth Hinga, UNK Director of Assessment and Keri Pearson, Interim Director of the Learning Commons.