Gifting the Libraries

By Laurel A. Grotzinger, Editor, Gatherings

As a multi-decade citizen of the academic world—and as the 16-year editor of Gatherings—it was my decision to focus this issue on the special benefits that have come to the University Libraries through its friends and supporters. In talking with different members of the University and greater Kalamazoo communities, a number of stories emerged that document how much has been given and how valued are the gifts. Some sense of those stories is seen in the 2007-08 Annual Report of the WMU Foundation, Diversity of Giving, when Foundation President Joseph B. Hemker writes:

Over the years, I have noted the impressive growth in the number of donors to our University. Our donors come from nearly every walk of life and across the boundaries of many ethnicities, including race, nationality and religion. However, our diversity of giving goes much further than that.

Hemker goes on to note that many different “stories” reflect “enduring assistance provided to Western from its many diverse constituents, for the benefit of an impressive array of WMU programs” and refers to them as “both noteworthy and remarkable.” The same can be said of an academic service found at Western Michigan University that is often referred to as the “heart of the University.” That heart is the University Libraries in all of its physical and electronic manifestations, in its accessibility to all users, in its diverse resources, in its human expertise, in its world-wide interactions and collaborations, and, above all, in its commitment to the University focus “on delivering high-quality undergraduate instruction, advancing its growing graduate division and fostering significant research activities” (http://www.wmich.edu/about/profile/).

The following pages of this 43rd issue of Gatherings describe a variety of gifts to the University Libraries. These gifts are seldom characterized in terms of dollars contributed. They are often impossible to quantify, nor should they be because, as the popular advertisement notes, they are “priceless.” And, in any meaningful accounting, every gift, in fact and in deed, is “priceless.” Each gift has made a difference in one or more lives not only at the time of the giving, but in terms of its ongoing benefits to the Libraries. More important, these gifts benefit all who come to the University—students, faculty, outside scholars, community users, et al.—to find information in its many formats and locations. As you turn the pages, you will see:

• A review of the history and activities of the Friends of the University Libraries, an organization devoted to assisting the Libraries in many ways including purchases of special equipment, unique acquisitions, staff development grants, and programs for the University and community.
• An article on an individual, Pamela Jobin, who has volunteered thousands of hours over 30 years to the Libraries, especially to the Archives and Regional History Collections.
• An overview of monetary gifts for the acquisition of books and collections as well as the gift of actual books and collections from individuals and organizations, gifts in honor of individuals, gifts that funded “places” in the Libraries, and gifts that, when combined, endowed a variety of funds directed to particular areas such as historical children’s literature, miniature books, photography, etc.

• An article, reproduced from the WMU Foundation Annual Report on Diversity of Giving that pays special tribute to Ed and Mary Meader’s “innovative and futuristic... gifts” to the University.

Gatherings has always been a publication that reflects the breadth and depth of the University Libraries whether its articles describe the latest technological enhancement to searching a database or locating course reserves, spotlight one or more of our service-oriented staff members, or reflect on the essential services of the student employees who keep the 4.6 million physical items on the shelves of Waldo Library and its branches. But one aspect of the Libraries has been underrepresented: the diverse gifts of many individuals over many decades. As a result, this issue is devoted to you, our readers, who have been key to our past and are most definitely key to our future. What Dr. Susan Steuer, Head of Special Collections, wrote in her article definitely bears repeating:

Our donors have made a wonderful difference in the institution called the University Libraries. Their contributions offer our students, faculty, and visiting scholars greater opportunities to realize their research goals and contribute to the scholarly community at and beyond WMU, both now and in the future. All of us in the Libraries hope that our “once and future” supporters will continue to understand the enduring value of a gift to the WMU Libraries for acquisitions, for maintaining our facilities, for conservation and repair of the collections, and for programs that enhance the services of the Libraries and provide expanded educational opportunities for our students as well as the greater world of learning.
The magnitude of Ed and Mary Meader's philanthropic support of Western Michigan University is widely known. Perhaps lesser known, however, was the innovative and futuristic nature of their gifts.

As the largest individual benefactors in WMU history — they have given more than $20 million to the WMU Foundation — the Meaders supported a seemingly unending number of WMU projects and priorities prior to and even after their deaths (Edwin, in 2007 at age 97, and Mary, in 2008 at 91). Their most unique, and perhaps most forward thinking gift, however, came in 2005 when the Meaders gave $4 million to create a one-of-a-kind center in WMU's Welborn Hall that documents and evaluates geographic changes over time. Named for Mary Meader's grandfather and the founder of the former Upjohn Company, the W.E. Upjohn Center for the Study of Geographical Change creates digital versions of maps and aerial photography using the work of past explorers and scientists.

"Ed and Mary were remarkable in their ability to think about the future impact of their giving," remarks David Dickason, director of the Upjohn Center and who taught with Ed Meader during the 1960s in the WMU geography department. "When they made this gift, Ed was in his 90s and Mary was approaching her 90s. They were revolutionary in their support of high technology and fully understood the importance of electronically preserving, for future generations, historically significant but materially deteriorating documents."

The Upjohn Center serves a dual purpose of showcasing groundbreaking international aerial photographs taken by Mary Meader in the 1930s. In recognition of her pioneering work, Mary was named an honorary fellow of the American Geological Society, and in 2006 she was asked to twice sign (symbolizing her photographic journeys over Africa and South America) the Society's Flyers' and Explorers' Globe, becoming one of only a handful of individuals to be chosen for the dual honor.

The Upjohn Center is just one example of Ed and Mary's largesse in support of WMU. The W.H. Upjohn Rotunda, the entrance to Waldo Library, was named for Mary's father, in recognition of the Meaders' leadership gift for the expansion and complete renovation of the facility in the early 1990s. Additionally, Waldo Library's Meader Rare Books Room was named in honor of Ed and Mary's continued support of the University libraries. Further, the Meaders' gifts helped to establish the Bernardine M. Lacey Endowed Chair in the WMU Bolin School of Nursing, named for the school's founding director. Finally, Ed and Mary played an integral role in the establishment of the WMU Parkview Campus, making a $3 million gift to help construct the Southwest Michigan Innovation Center and giving $1 million to create the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences' Center for Integrated Design.

The Meaders' many contributions were highlighted by the WMU Board of Trustees in 1998. A Board resolution praised Ed and Mary for their "extraordinary and selfless generosity" on behalf of WMU students "whose lives were and will be enriched as a legacy of their service and support."
Friends in Need
By Sharon Carlson, Director, Archives and Regional History Collections

In the inaugural issue of Gatherings (Spring/Summer 1990), a small article on the last page announced the beginnings of a new organization. "The University Libraries will organize a Friends of the University Libraries group, which will afford its many friends and supporters the opportunity to join with like-minded people to bring their concerted efforts to bear on its activities and programs." Subsequent articles in the next 18 months detailed the progress of the fledging organization. First came the Winter issue of 1991 when Gatherings reported on the "many positive comments" about the new publication as well as the good response to the plan to organize an official Friends of the University Libraries.

Other exciting developments quickly followed. When the staff and collections "physically" returned to the renovated and expanded Waldo Library, a key announcement appeared in the Fall 1991 issue of Gatherings. "The Friends of the University Libraries Steering Committee met for the first time Wednesday, November 6, in the new Waldo Library."

Members at the first meeting included Dr. Peter Krawutschke, Dr. Hazel DeMeyer Rupp, Dr. Andrew Targowski, Dr. Gordon Eriksen, Dr. Robert Hegel, Ms. Judy Canaan, Mr. Bill Smith, Dr. Anna Kirkwood, Dean Charlene Renner, and Assistant Dean Bettina Meyer. A sub-committee formed to draft by-laws and a constitution. By April 1992, the organization had laid the general foundation and the first officers and board were elected. The first officers were Peter Krawutschke, President; Jan Dommer, Vice President; George Hebben, Secretary; and William K. Smith, Treasurer. Hazel DeMeyer Rupp, Robert L. Hegel, and Judith Canaan were the first elected board, with the President of the University and the Dean of University Libraries, then, respectively, Diether Haenicke and Charlene Renner, serving as ex officio board members.

From 1992 to today, nearly two decades later, the organization, the official Friends of the University Libraries, continues to sponsor annual events that are intended to (1) raise awareness of the rich library and information resources found at WMU, (2) garner supportive friends for the University Libraries, and (3) fund special library initiatives.

Members of the Friends staffed an information table in the Waldo Library Rotunda during the University's annual Family Festival in October 1992. They greeted family members who came to view the impressive new library structure that had been dedicated a few months earlier. The first public relations venture, pencils inscribed with the name of the organization, and Friends' membership forms were distributed. Following in the footsteps of other Friends organizations, the WMU organization also, for many years, sponsored an annual used book sale, held in Waldo Library, during the fall semester. All funds were used to support the library collections and other special needs.

Over the years, the Friends have funded thousands of dollars of much needed support in equipment, one-time projects, and staff development. The annual amount of the funding has varied, but, most importantly, has occurred every year since the organization began. One notable area of support has been special equipment purchases. The first scanner for the WMU Archives was purchased by the Friends in 1999. The Friends also funded an LCD Data & Video Projector that has benefited hundreds of students getting library instruction. Digitization related purchases have included a Ricoh XR-2 camera for Special Collections and a Magellan Desktop Turntable for digitization of three dimensional objects.

A second area of support has included collections. In 1996 and 1997, unique printed volumes for the Music and Dance Library and Special Collections were purchased. Outside of traditional print items, the Friends have also helped purchase specialized databases, such as Asian American Drama in 2004. Recognizing the value of funding staff development, the Friends established an award for library employees in 2003. Due to the efforts of the Friends, several employees have taken advantage of workshops or special training to expand their skills and enhance their job performance. The Friends have also funded special projects and one time requests. In 1997, the Friends helped finance a staff person to complete an inventory of lost and missing books. In 2004, they supported a proposal from the University Libraries marketing committee to purchase promotional materials. They also supplemented a digitization project honoring former president and board member, Bettina Meyer.

The Friends have been able to support these projects primarily through fund raising activities. For many years, the most visible fundraiser was the book sale. The book sales were popular and often raised several thousand dollars. As the volume of gift books accumulated, the success of the activity began to impinge on the daily operations of the Libraries. For a period of about three years, nearly a third of the Resource Sharing office space was turned over to book sale activities.

While the Friends took an active part in the sales, much of the preparatory work of sorting books and getting them ready for sale took University Libraries staff away from their regular duties. A program offered through Better World Books has now replaced the book sale.

The tremendous effort and number of people who were involved when evaluating, storing, retrieving, selling, and returning to storage hundreds and thousands of gift and discarded books for a once or twice a year sale has now been centralized and is handled by one or two staff members. And, with the new system, gift books continue to benefit the Friends and raise money. Today, one or two staff members can box and send gift books to Better World Books for sale on the Internet, capturing a far larger audience than the book sales. Net proceeds from the sale of these books go to the University Libraries and its Friends, with a percentage also benefitting world literacy efforts. To date, the global selling ability of Better World Books has kept pace with the proceeds from the book sales with personnel costs reduced significantly.

WMU Friends of the University Libraries, throughout its history, has continued to look for new ways to raise awareness and funds. In March 2008, the Friends sponsored the first annual "Antique Book Road Show," which featured a talk and book appraisal event by Dr. James Best. Non-members paid admission to hear the presentation and view the book appraisals. Participants with books for appraisal paid a nominal fee of $5.00 with proceeds beyond the expenses going to the Friends of the University Libraries and to the beneficiaries of its supportive initiatives in the Libraries.

Based on the success of the first "Antique Book Road Show," a second event has been scheduled for March 28, 2009. Watch the Friends of the University Libraries website at http://www.wmich.edu/library/friends/ for information on this fun event. Even if you don't bring a book for appraisal, it is a lot of fun to see some of the treasures owned by others in the Kalamazoo community.

One final area of support provided by the Friends is the publication of Gatherings. The Friends support one issue of this publication each year. The other issue is funded by the University Libraries. By the simple act of reading this newsletter, you have benefited from the activities of the Friends of the University Libraries. We always need more Friends. Consider joining the organization. The membership is a nominal $10 per year.

We need Friends to participate in programs and activities, too. Wouldn't you be our Friend?
Gifting Books and Places

By Susan Steuer, Head, Special Collections

The University Libraries has benefited from many generous gifts from its supporters. In addition to gifts of books from their own collections and gifts of time, friends of the University Libraries have established several significant monetary endowments. Each donor is able to designate how his or her gift to the Libraries will be used and the managers of the collections carefully follow the fund guidelines in using these much-appreciated funds to give our library resources greater breadth and depth than we could otherwise afford.

Special Collections from Special Donors

Few users who visit Waldo Library are aware of the many collections that currently exist because special, external funding has supported the acquisition of valuable books and non-print media. The following listing, arranged alphabetically by the name of the fund, identifies some valuable areas of collection development.

The Beta Phi Mu, Kappa Chapter Special Collections Fund, Beta Phi Mu, a national honors society, was founded in 1948 “to recognize and encourage scholastic achievement among library and information studies students.” Kappa Chapter was composed of selected individuals who obtained a Master of Science in Librarianship from the School of Library and Information Science that existed at WMU from 1946 through 1985. When the School closed, the local members of the BFM Chapter continued to function for many years, but, in the late 1990s, the Chapter no longer was viable. At that time, the members voted to donate its treasury to the University Libraries for use in purchasing materials in the history of the book and printing.

The Carol Ann Haenicke American Women’s Poetry Collection Endowment began with the acquisition of an existing collection of poetry from Harrison Hayford, a professor at Northwestern University and an avid book collector. The collection and endowment were named after Carol Ann Haenicke, first lady of WMU at that time, who was a devoted reader of poetry and a patron of the arts. Since the original purchase in 1993, the collection has continued to grow and is used in instruction in English, history, and art. This fall, the collection will also be used for instruction in our paper engineering program to illustrate the development of bindings and book construction. The overall direction of the endowment funds is determined by a board of advisors made up of teaching faculty and librarians.

The Charles R. Starring Endowment was established in 1974 for the purposes of developing the holdings of the Western Michigan University Regional History Collections. Starring taught and published in the area of Michigan history at Western Michigan University between 1928 and 1969. In keeping with his professional interests, the funds, first made available in 1989, have helped purchase monographs, census collections, and manuscripts. These collections are actively used in WMU classes, as well as by individuals and groups such as the genealogical society.

The Diether H. Haenicke Endowment Fund supports acquisitions in German literature and for unique additions to the Rare Book Room. An incunable, or early printed work, which complements the Institute of Cistercian Studies Collection of Gethsemani Abbey, Trappist, Kentucky, was the most recent acquisition.

The Special Collections Endowment was established in 2001 to purchase a wide range of materials that supplement our existing strengths in the areas of medieval and religious studies, photography, book history and typography, miniature books, and historical children’s literature. In addition, the fund is used to purchase materials for the collection that have been requested for research and instruction by our teaching faculty. These items enhance the opportunities for scholarship at Western Michigan University at all levels.

Circulating Collections

The Library Endowment Fund is a broadly based, umbrella fund developed from a variety of bequests and gifts. As a result, it includes a number of directed endowments for particular types of books and research materials. Among them are the Leslie Wood Funds for Geography and Geology, the Ann Kercher Memorial Fund for International and Area Studies (particularly sub-Saharan Africa), and the Herbert J. and Anne M. Vogt Fund for circulating and serial collections.

Special Gifts

The Alice Louise LeFevre Endowment was established in honor of Alice L. LeFevre who was the first director of the School of Librarianship at WMU. The endowment was originally intended to provide scholarships for graduate students studying library and information science at WMU. After the graduate library program was discontinued in the 1980s, the fund was redefined to support library-related scholarships and financial grants including stipends for WMU graduate students working, under faculty supervision, on special projects in the University Libraries. This program offers students real life work experience and research opportunities that assist them in finding employment. In addition, the Libraries obtain vital services and studies that improve overall performance and effectiveness.

The University Libraries has also been a benefactor of gifts that have enhanced the physical environment. On selected rooms throughout Waldo, nameplates recognize major donors, e.g., William Johnston and Ronda Stryker on Conference Room 3001, who have “gifted” that room. One of the most unusual architectural features in Waldo Library is its striking, three-story atrium with a circular dome window. This impressive rotunda is the first thing noticed as visitors come through the doors. Dedicated to Dr. W.H. Upjohn, the rotunda was a gift of Mary Meader to her father, an early executive of The Upjohn Company. The Libraries are additionally indebted to Edwin and Mary Meader for other gifts. Among them is a beautiful area, a rare book room, on the third floor of Waldo Library, adjacent to the main office of Special Collections.

The Edwin and Mary Meader Rare Book Room is a richly finished and furnished room designed for academic gatherings, readings, and presentations. The Meaders, who are highlighted in another article in this issue of Gatherings, funded and helped design the room when Waldo Library was remodeled in the
The Gift of Time—Pamela Jobin

By Sharon Carlson, Director, Archives and Regional History Collections

What do you call a person who has consistently dedicated many hours almost every week of the year to special projects for the University Libraries? What do you call a person who works simply for the satisfaction of a job well done and whose only payback is the promotion of resources found in the Archives and Regional History Collections at WMU? The inadequate word often used is "volunteer" and the person in mind is Pamela Jobin, whose volunteer career at WMU spans nearly 30 years. However, you must read on to see how much this "volunteer" has done for the University archives. Read on to see how her work with three curators and two directors of the archives has been a key part of three decades of improved access and services.

Libraries and librarianship have been part of Pamela Jobin's life since her elementary school days. She worked as a student librarian in Lamphere High School in eastern Michigan and later for the Madison Heights Public Library. Jobin's initial contact with Western Michigan University began as an undergraduate. She came to Kalamazoo in 1965 from Madison Heights and earned a degree in business administration in 1969. Not surprisingly, she pursued library employment as a student at WMU. During this early period, she worked in the physical processing unit in Waldo Library and in the Business Library then located on East Campus. In the late 1970s, she enrolled in Western's School of Librarianship. It was during her graduate studies that Mrs. Jobin became acquainted with the University Archives and Regional History Collections. Because of her interest in "special" library services, she soon found herself working as a volunteer who was organizing papers and assisting with projects at the Archives, which were, at that time, located in the lower level of the "old" Waldo Library.

When her graduate degree was completed, but no local position immediately available, Mrs. Jobin decided to offer additional hours to the Archives, and, in November of 1981, she began working at the Archives on a regular basis. Initially, she helped curator Phyllis Burnham respond to the various reference requests, including genealogy questions. This was an especially good fit because she had started her personal genealogical research when her two children, Lisa and Matthew, were elementary school age.

Over time, Mrs. Jobin became more and more involved in the processing and cataloging of collections. Her library science course work was beneficial as she took a leading role in launching the Archives' first bibliographic database, MicroMARC, which is a "microcomputer collections management system for use by libraries, archives, special collections, museums etc". (https://www.msu.edu/user/msumarcc). In fact, she left her volunteer status between 1987 and 1989 and became a contractual employee, working with William K. Smith, a former faculty mentor from the library school, to input Marc records. This catalog would serve as the basis for the RHistory catalog and the current project to migrate these records to WestCat and WorldCat.

At several points during her volunteer career, Mrs. Jobin worked at area bookstores, including Tom Sawyer's Book Raft in Portage and Deadly Passions in downtown Kalamazoo. Time and again, she left those paid positions to spend more time on special projects at the Archives. She also had two other stints of part-time employment at the Archives. As part of her volunteer efforts, Mrs. Jobin was one of the four editors writing text for the revised edition of the Guide to the Western Michigan University Regional History Collections published in 1998. She also worked part-time from mid-2006 to early 2008 when Suzanne Husband, then curator of the Regional History Collections, was on leave. Most recently, Pamela, given her long involvement with institutional history, helped orient Jennifer Wood when she became the RHC curator in January 2008.

Most of Mrs. Jobin's volunteer work these days involves the migration of the Archives' catalog records into WestCat, the Libraries' online catalog. In this capacity, she also works with staff of the Libraries' Technical Services (cataloging acquisitions, binding, processing, etc.) Department. Her thirty years of experience make her an excellent resource for many different types of questions. Moreover, she also handles some genealogical inquiries, especially those involving French Canadian research, her area of expertise.

In addition to her volunteer work at the Archives, which averages about 20 hours a week, Mrs. Jobin completed her Certification in Canadian Records from the National Institute for Genealogical Studies, Toronto, last fall. Away from the Archives, she enjoys reading and crocheting. She recently celebrated a landmark wedding anniversary (40 years) with her husband Brian, who retired from Pfizer in 2006. Pamela is actively involved in the lives of her grandchildren, Justin, Malachi, Ryan, and Isaac, who live in Vicksburg and Grand Rapids.

As one looks back over the previous paragraphs, the word "volunteer" does not begin to describe Pamela Jobin's contributions to the collections and services of WMU's archival and regional history collections. In fact, these brief comments cannot express the gratitude of the staff for her continuing relationship with the Archives. Her input is sought out and highly valued on projects such as the catalog migration from RHistory to WestCat. "Ask Pam" is frequently heard around the Archives, and she usually has the answer to almost any question because of her three decades of work with the records and materials. The University Libraries is truly the beneficiary of a priceless gift of time and expertise.
early 1990s. Formally opened and dedicated in 1995, the Meader Room has been used regularly for many different kinds of meetings, including the presentation of scholarly papers, panel discussions, and, in particular, as a home for classes that build on materials found in Special Collections. This area provides a comfortable, traditional space (there are no computers) and a unique ambience for students, faculty, and invited guests who, during events and classes, are introduced to the diverse resources housed in Special Collections.

Our donors have made a wonderful difference in the institution called the University Libraries. Their contributions offer our students, faculty, and visiting scholars greater opportunities to realize their research goals and contribute to the scholarly community at and beyond WMU, both now and in the future. All of us in the Libraries hope that our “once and future” supporters will continue to understand the enduring value of a gift to the WMU Libraries. These gifts enhance the services of the Libraries and provide expanded educational opportunities for our students as well as the greater world of learning.