A force to be reckoned with

By Linda Rolls, librarian and colleague

In August of 1964, many things were happening in the country. On August 1st the Beatles’ single "A Hard Day’s Night" went to #1 & stayed #1 for 2 weeks. On August 5th the United States began bombing North Vietnam. On August 26th Lyndon B. Johnson received the nomination of the Democratic Party for president. And on August 29th the movie Mary Poppins was released.

At Western Michigan University, Sangren Hall was dedicated, but the seismic event of that August was that Laurel Grotzinger was appointed as an assistant professor. Two years after that she became Assistant Director of the WMU School of Librarianship, and later, Acting Director and Director. When I came to Western Michigan University

Indefatigable

By Maria Perez-Stable, librarian and colleague

I first became acquainted with Laurel Grotzinger when she joined the Central Reference Department in 1993. My former colleague Hardy Carroll, who had taught with Laurel in the School of Librarianship, always spoke very highly of her and I was glad to be getting such an intelligent colleague. In fact, before long, we joked that the Laurel and Hardy team were back together again, albeit briefly. I always appreciated how Laurel just jumped into the new job albeit briefly. I always appreciated how Laurel was whip-smart, with a mind like a steel trap.

Over the past 20 years, Laurel has become a valued and integral colleague in the Central Reference Department and in the University Libraries. I appreciated her sense of follow-through; one did not need to nag Laurel to get the job done. She is indefatigable and I admire that; often say to people that Laurel has more energy than many of our younger colleagues.

I think what I esteem the most is the passion that she has for librarianship. Laurel cares very deeply about the work we do and the service we provide to our patrons, which often has led her to fight very hard for things she believed were right. No one quite tackled the issues in VuFind the way Laurel did! I believe our technical services colleagues will attest to that. Now that I am in the autumn of my career, I take her as my role model and hope that I will be able to maintain such fervor for my work until the day I retire. Thank you, dear colleague—it has been a good and interesting run and I will miss you!