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Among Friends Library Newsletter

Library and Archives

Spring 2012

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Friends of the Bethel University Library

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LIBRARY COLLECTIONS AND INSTITUTIONAL IDENTITY

by David Stewart
Director of Libraries

When there's a concept that requires clear definition, it's usually best to resort to an *authoritative, unsailable* source of information.

How about Wikipedia(!), which defines "special collections" as follows: "the name applied to a specific repository or department, usually within a library, which stores materials of a "special" nature, including rare books, archives, and collected manuscripts." http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special_collections.

Believe it or not, some institutions have *too many* "special collections." Let me explain:

- Special collections need to have some rational connection to the identity and character of the parent institution. Example: even if it was a huge and distinguished collection, it wouldn't make sense for a place like Bethel, located in the Upper Midwest, to have a collection related to surfing (like this place does - <http://surflibrary.org/>). We might call this idea

"integration."

- Special collections need to be housed in a place where the resources are in place to make it most likely for them to receive sustained use. If there are no shelves to house books on (for example), no rooms or buildings for their display, no staff to process and interpret the respective resources, no money to purchase and preserve them, etc., it's pretty well immaterial what the collection is. Think of this as "institutional capacity."
- Special collections need to reflect a purpose and a strategy. In times past, institutions and their libraries could more easily afford to accept donations and house collections based on nothing more than their availability and curiosity value. Within current realities, it makes a lot more sense to accept or decline opportunities based on a clear, well thought-out plan. This is simply "strategy." "Special Collections" which don't meet such criteria may turn out to be

luxuries that most institutions can't afford. Or that simply occupy space needed for other purposes. Every library has to use its own best judgment in making wise decisions.

What does this have to do with Bethel and its libraries? Two of the four overarching goals in Bethel's strategic plan involve "strengthening Bethel's distinctiveness" and "extending Bethel's reach and reputation." This presents a tremendous opportunity for the Bethel's libraries, because they play a vital part in helping articulate how Bethel came to be, where it came from, what has made it (and continues to make it) unique, and how all of this shapes its mission for the present and future.

For this very reason, closer discussions are starting to happen between the university library, the seminary libraries, and the Baptist General Conference Archives. We need to figure out what we can do, and – even more important – what we can't afford not to do, in helping tell Bethel's story as compellingly as possible.



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THE POWER OF BOOKS

By Eric Gossett
President of the Friends

I would like to mention two examples that demonstrate the power of books. The first example illustrates their power to capture our imagination. The second example demonstrates how books can help us to see ourselves more clearly and then make changes to align our character to the character of Christ.

Book Girl

Book Girl (or Literature Girl) is the series title for a set of 8 Japanese young adult novels by Mizuki Nomura. The books contain illustrations by Miho Takeoka. Yen Press has so far released 4 English translations. The first in the series is *Book Girl and the Suicidal Mime*. The books are appropriate for high school or older.

The main character is Tohko Amano, who is a book girl. That is, she not only loves to read books, but she also eats them. In fact, she does not eat regular food, she only eats books. As the president (and only member) of her high school literature club, she recruits an underclassman named Konoha In-



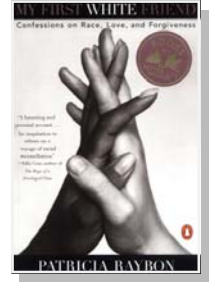
oue to join the club and write "snacks" for her every day. She hands him a list of three random words and gives him 50 minutes to write a story.

However, there is more than this going on in the books. Each of the novels has a famous work of literature as a background. The book girl story parallels some aspects of the famous book. The book's name and the relationship between Nomura's characters and those in the famous book are revealed as the story progresses. (The background stories alternate between famous Japanese and European works of literature.) In addition, there are many scenes where Tohko is reading (and then sampling pages of) some famous short story or work of literature. As Konoha is writing the day's story, she is describing what she is reading, often using tastes (as she imagines them) of delicious foods to describe her love of the story. In this way, the reader is given previews of stories by Ivan Turgenev, Kenji Miazawa, Joan Aiken, and many other currently less familiar writers.

The background stories, tantalizing literature reviews, and current action with Tohko and her classmates are seamlessly woven together into unique and compelling novels.

My First White Friend

Racial reconciliation is a topic that makes many people desire to tune out. "Can't we just move on and stop bringing up the past?" *My First White*



Friend: Confessions on Race, Love, and Forgiveness by Patricia Raybon offers a refreshing approach to this topic.

The author is an African-American woman who grew up in Colorado. The book chronicles her late realization that the hatred she carried for white people was not pleasing to God. She is quite honest about the difficulty we as humans have in forgiving. She comes to realize that forgiveness is not a one-time event but a process. Raybon's search required her to go back and process her relationships with her father, mother and husband.

Raybon writes in a lyrical manner that keeps you wanting more. This book contains much to reflect on. It presents some of our human weaknesses and sins without flinching, but also demonstrates God's unfailing grace and desire for us to become more Christ-like. The author's courageous look at herself illuminates a path that we the readers may hope to travel.

As Konoha is writing the day's story, she is describing what she is reading, often using tastes (as she imagines them) of delicious foods to describe her love of the story.

NEXT GENERATION FRIEND

By Calvin Konop
Contributing Member

My love for the Bethel University library began during the Fall of 2006. I was an incoming freshman and had earned a job in the Library's Information Commons. In High School I hadn't yet come to the realization that I actually *liked* to learn; even through most of my freshman year at Bethel, I was jaded to the idea of learning—it was like jumping through hoops for a degree.

While working in the library, I started to see the multitude of resources it possessed, the staff that genuinely cared (and still does care!) about students and their aca-

ademic growth, and the academically conducive environment. I quickly started to warm up to the idea of learning. Soon the obligation of flipping open a book became a treasured opportunity; the idea of going to class to get a grade changed to sitting in on a lecture that gave me new and valuable insights into my field of study and beyond!

Upon graduation I became a Friend of the Library and began to contribute my resources to the library—just like the library and its staff had done for me through my 4 years at Bethel. I was asked soon after to be on the Board of the Friends of the Library, and I knew I couldn't turn it down. How could I not want

other students to share in the high esteem I feel for learning? How could I not want an incoming freshman to feel the warm and welcoming atmosphere the library provides? How could I not want to contribute my time and resources to a facet of the University that is the core of its academic sphere?

That's why I am a Friend of the Library, and that's why I'm on the Board: I want to help give the students of Bethel University the same experience that I had of growing in knowledge and becoming a life-long learner.



Calvin Konop as a student at a National Library Week event.

FRIENDS MAKE AWARDS POSSIBLE

By Ann Gannon
Contributing Member

April was a month of celebration for the Friends of the BU Library. Annually, the Friends award \$300 for the Connie J. Larson Memorial Scholarship and over \$250 for Prizes for Library Research.

Rachael LaCroix, a senior Biochemistry/Molecular Biology and Chemistry double major and third year BU Library student worker, was named the 2012-13 Connie J. Larson Memorial Scholarship winner. Rachael's supervisors recommended her for being

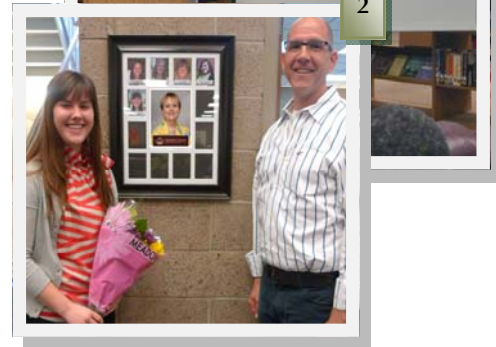
wholeheartedly service-oriented, caring and kind with clients of all ages.

Ryan Steel, Larissa Thune and Joel McDougall were the 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize winners, respectively, of the 2011-12 Prize for Library Research. This year, 14 submissions were received, making it a very difficult decision for the judges.

Ryan Steel, a senior tripling majoring in Sociocultural Studies, Third World Studies and Economics, presented his paper "*Utopia or an Iron Cage? Marx, Weber, Nietzsche, and the Future of Modernity*" to a

Primetime@ BU Library crowd of 55 staff, faculty and students.

These students wouldn't be recognized for their exemplary work without the generosity of the Friends. Thank you for making these awards possible!



1. **Ryan Steel** presents his award-winning Library Research Prize paper.
2. **Rachael LaCroix with her father, Tim**, celebrate her Connie Larson Scholarship award.

REMEMBERING A FRIEND

By Earleen Warner
Contributing Member

The women met as Bethel College classmates in the late 1950's. Initially bound together by the wonderful memories of their years at Bethel, they remained friends for decades. When Marilyn (Dennis) Dahl passed away recently, the rest of the women wanted to remember their friend in a significant way. After brainstorming various ideas, they decided that their memorials should be sent to the place where they all met. They felt that having books purchased for the Bethel University Library in Marilyn's memory would be a fitting way to celebrate her life.

Now, when students check out these books and notice Marilyn's name on the bookplates, they will know that she held a special place in someone's heart.

Thanks goes to Carol (Peterson) Erickson, Elaine (Johnson) Evan, Judith (Powell) Goldstrand, Mary Ellen (Olson) Johnstad, and Pamela (Everburg) Lindaman of the class of '60 for choosing the Friends of the Bethel University Library as an avenue through which they could remember their friend.



1. Taken on their Spring Break trip to Mary Ellen (Olson) Johnstad's home in Forest City, IA. Front seat (left to right): Mary Ellen (Olson) Johnstad, Carol (Peterson) Erickson, Pam (Everburg) Lindaman. Back seat (left to right): Elaine (Johnson) Evans, Judy (Powell) Goldstrand, Marilyn (Dennis) Dahl
2. At their 40th Bethel Reunion. Back row (left to right): Mary Ellen, Marilyn, Carol. Front row (left to right): Judy, Elaine, Pam

Attention Bethel Retirees!

Play? In the Library?

YES!

Nobody can party like you!

Don't miss the opportunity on **August 8th**

after your luncheon to come down to the library and play!

Try a Kindle, iPad, digital voice recorder and digital video camera • Check out what Jing and Prezi are all about • Learn about Skype • Try our Library quiz and win prizes and much MORE!

LIBRARIES OF MY LIFE

By Rosalie Huston
Contributing Member

To those with ears to hear, libraries are really very noisy places. On their shelves we hear the captured voices of the centuries—old conversation that makes up our civilization.

—Timothy Healy

I learned how to write my name at age four just so I could get books from our Minneapolis branch library. The Children’s Room, with its big fireplace and tall, dark wooden bookcases, was a magical place for me. After moving to the suburbs, my family patronized the Anoka County library system. Our branch relocated many times over the years while services expanded—books, magazines, movies, music, computer databases, Internet access.

During the past four years, I gained added insight into demands placed on the public library system while my sister worked at a branch library. Now I usually go to the library to pick up a new supply of books and other materials on Saturday mornings—I return two books and come home with five more.

A university is just a group of buildings gathered around a library.

—Shelby Foote

As a Bethel student, I worked in the library part-time during the school year and full-time each summer. I continued to use the Bethel

library while doing graduate work at other colleges. I now serve on the board of the Friends of the Bethel University Library.

The past two years, I helped evaluate research projects submitted for our annual library research prize competition. I had to remind myself that I was reading undergraduate projects—the writing and documentation surpassed anything that I had to complete while in grad school.

No cataloger will accept the work of any other cataloger. No cataloger will accept his/her own work six months after the cataloging.

—Jesse Shera, 1977

I recently began working in my church library. I have entered the existing collection into a new computerized database and cataloged new donations. My church shares in providing short-term nighttime shelter for families without homes. Our Director of Children’s Ministries told me about the difficulties the children face as they try to complete their reading homework assignments; she was concerned our church library lacked suitable elementary reading level materials for them to use during their stay. There was God’s

answer for what I should do with all of my leveled readers, ABC books, and numbers books going unused since I retired from teaching. Now my favorite books have a new audience and a new ministry.

While working in the church library, I wondered about God’s library. We do refer to the books of the Bible, but God also used a burning bush, covenants, laws, dreams, prophets, angels, and even a star to share His Word. God’s greatest publication event occurred when “the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us” (Jn 1:14). The Apostle Paul encourages us to “let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom” (Col 3:16). So as a child of God, one becomes a living volume in God’s library. Now that is a really big library!



A university is just a group of buildings gathered around a library.

—Shelby Foote



Friends of the Bethel University Library is an alliance of people dedicated to improving the resources of the Library. *Among Friends* is published twice a year.

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 Secretary: Diana Magnuson
 Treasurer: Earleen Warner

Carole Cragg	Lorraine Eitel
Jocelyn Jensen	James E. Johnson
Thomas Johnson	Calvin Konop

Editor: Will Keillor
 Layout: Ann Gannon

For more information contact Carole Cragg at 651-638-6065 or c-cragg@bethel.edu



Bethel University Library
 3900 Bethel Drive
 St. Paul, MN 55112

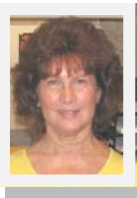
Visit the Bethel University Library's website at:
<http://library.bethel.edu>

Friends Can Give Online!

An online form is available from the Bethel homepage or by going to <http://www.bethel.edu/development/give-to-bethel/online>. Designate "Friends of the BU Library" in the "Other" category

LIBRARY FOOTNOTES

By Earleen Warner



• **Library Staff Milestones**

Betty Bond Kranz (Circulation Dept.) celebrated 15 years of employment at Bethel.

• **Contributions to the Profession**

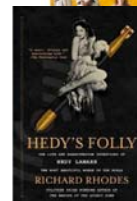
Kent Gerber (Digital Library Manager) presented the following:



- *Content, Competency, Community: Learning to Manage Digital Collections Featuring Bethel's Student Newspaper.* (November 15, 2011). Upper Midwest CONTENTdm Users Group Conference. Saint Paul, MN. http://prezi.com/qggrs_g7q4zf/content-competency-community-learning-to-manage-digital-collections-featuring-bethels-student-newspaper/
- *Digital Libraries, Digital Humanities: Current and Emerging Roles for Librarians.* (2011). Guest Lecture for "Reference Sources in the Humanities" course at St. Catherine University. Saint Paul, MN. https://docs.google.com/present/edit?id=0AWbFTJgvN_2SZGhqNG1iOHRfMjJ6aHA4Ym5xcA&authkey=CLXT1dqJ
- *Enterprise Content Management and Digital Libraries: Cultural Clash and Collaboration Opportunity.* (March 15, 2012). Library Technology Conference. Saint Paul, MN. https://docs.google.com/present/edit?id=0ARq8NPu_b3ojZGZ3eGg0c2NfOTVzNX11NTJnYw
- *Magnuson, Diana & Gerber, Kent.* (2011, June). *Martin Luther King Invited to Address Bethel Convocation: Reaping the Legacy of President Carl Lundquist's Correspondence with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.* Baptist Pietist Clarion, 10(1): 7-11. <http://content.clic.edu/cdm/ref/collection/acadproco/id/120>

• **Expanding Collections**

Thanks to the Friends, more Kindle books have been purchased for the BU Library. Following are some examples:



- Harbach, Chad: *The Art of Fielding*
- Isaacson, Walter: *Steve Jobs*
- Larson Erik: *In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror, and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin*
- O'Connor, Flannery: *A Good Man is Hard to Find and Other Stories*
- Rhodes, Richard: *Hedy's Folly: The Life and Breakthrough Inventions of Hedy Lamarr, the Most Beautiful Woman in the World*
- The Bethel Student Association donated funds to the BU Library to purchase additional feature films, such as: *Becoming Jane, A Fistful of Dollars, The Help, Meek's Cutoff, and Secretariat*

Cover image courtesy of <http://www.library.law.ua.edu/special-collections/index.php>



Your Gifts Do Make a Difference.

A book for leisure reading, a classic film, an Amazon Kindle book, a travel guide or audiobook, a book about cooking, gardening or sports, these are all examples of resources the Friends of the Bethel University Library have helped the library purchase for the students, faculty and staff of Bethel. Many of these items would not have been possible to provide within the normal budget.

The Friends continue to host presentations by faculty, students, and distinguished alumni through the Primetime @ BU Library program, offer an annual scholarship to recognize exceptional library student workers and a Library Research Prize to recognize the exceptional academic work of our undergraduates.

Here's a heartfelt thanks to you Friends who have made all this possible and a warm welcome to new Friends who will help us continue to enrich the BU Library experience.

Eric Gossett, President,
Friends of the Bethel University Library



FRIENDS OF THE BETHEL UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Membership for 2011-2012

Renewing Member New Member

Membership Levels / Annual Dues

Student	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$10
Supporting*	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$25
Sustaining*	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$50-\$100
Patron*	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$250
Lifetime**	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1,000

* Sustaining, Patron & Lifetime levels can be joint membership for couples

** Lifetime membership may be paid over a period of up to 5 years

Name _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

() _____

Phone _____

Email **(Please include!)** _____

- I would like to receive the *Among Friends* newsletter via email *(Please include email address above)*
- Please notify me by email so I can read *Among Friends* newsletter on the Library website

Visit the Library website at <http://library.bethel.edu>

Payment Options

- Online at <http://www.bethel.edu/development/give-to-bethel/online>
(Be sure to type *Friends of BU Library* in the "Other" category)
- Check payable to **Bethel University**
- Mail to: Friends of the Bethel University Library
3900 Bethel Drive
St. Paul, MN 55112
- VISA MasterCard

Acct # _____

Expiration Date _____ Amount Charged _____

Name on Card _____

Signature _____

Billing Address Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

() _____
Telephone _____

Payroll deduction is available for Bethel Employees

- Check here if you would like us to send a form

Bookplate Options

For each \$25 donation, you may have a bookplate placed in a new book

- "A Gracious Donation of..."

Please print your name
- "In Honor of..."

Please print name
- "In Memory of..."

Please print name

Please use another sheet of paper if more space is needed

Place bookplates in book(s) in the following area(s) of study:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> No Preference

<input type="checkbox"/> Arts and Humanities
_____ <i>Specify</i>

<input type="checkbox"/> Bible/Theology/Religion
_____ <i>Specify</i>

<input type="checkbox"/> Health Sciences
_____ <i>Specify</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Math and Science
_____ <i>Specify</i>

<input type="checkbox"/> Social Science
_____ <i>Specify</i>

<input type="checkbox"/> Other
_____ <i>Specify</i>
_____ <i>Specify</i> |
|--|--|