

Spring 2015

## Founders Type Newsletter, Issue No. 57

Friends of NIU Libraries

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**Friends**  
of NIU  
Libraries

# Founders' Type



A Newsletter of the Northern Illinois University Libraries and Friends of NIU Libraries

## NIU Libraries provides professional training for six librarians from Myanmar

After 50 years of isolation under military rule, since 2011 Myanmar (Burma) has embarked upon political and economic reforms that are improving the quality of life for its people. The opening of Myanmar, however, reveals that the country is in desperate need of help from the outside world to rebuild its social infrastructure, including its educational system. Northern Illinois University, with its long tradition of academic interests in Myanmar as the only university in the United States that has a resource center for Burma Studies, has actively engaged in the effort of supporting higher education in Myanmar. NIU delegates – including the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Director of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, and the Director of the Center for Burma Studies – made several trips to Myanmar last year and this year to discuss collaboration with Myanmar universities. One of the areas in which NIU is assisting is through helping to improve their libraries.

NIU Libraries, working collaboratively with the libraries of University of Washington (UW), Arizona State University (ASU), and Rutgers University (RU), conducted a training program for six visiting librarians from Myanmar in June and November of 2014. UW, ASU, and RU each trained two Burmese librarians for one month before sending them to NIU for ten days, where they met to exchange information they had learned from the other institutions. The first group of Burmese librarians, consisting of four individuals, visited NIU from June 28 to July 9, after a month of training at UW and ASU. The second group, which included two librarians, visited NIU from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> of November, after a month of training at RU.

NIU provided additional training to the librarians through our unique academic assets such as the Donn V. Hart Southeast Asia collection. With a focus on preservation, cataloging, and collection



development, the training program at NIU involved many librarians and staff who took time from their busy work schedules to train the librarians from Myanmar. Danielle Spalenka (Regional History) provided a section on archives and preservation. Lynne Thomas (Rare Books) provided two sections on special materials collection development. Sandar Wynn and Mary Burns (Technical Services) trained the visiting librarians in cataloging. Lisa Fisher taught a section on book mending techniques. Michael Duffy and Elizabeth Cribbs (Music Library) introduced the Music Library to the visitors. Hao Phan (Southeast Asia) discussed Southeast Asia collection development with the visiting librarians. In return, the Burmese librarians helped to identify some of the Burmese palm-leaf manuscripts held in the Southeast Asia Collection. A training certificate was presented to each of the visitors at the end of the program by the Dean of NIU Libraries.

The training program introduced concepts and techniques of modern librarianship to librarians from Myanmar, who were eager to make a difference at their libraries back home. This program also established excellent networking connections between NIU -- the Center for Southeast Asian Studies and the Southeast Asia Collection in particular -- and the universities in Myanmar. Library material exchanges and collaborative preservation projects for Burmese Studies might be developed in the future based on this newly established network. At the moment, the Southeast Asia Curator at NIU is working with his colleagues at the other three libraries, exploring funding opportunities in order to continue the training program for the coming years.

The six visiting librarians from Myanmar who participated in the training program at NIU included:

- Sanda Oo, Yatanabon University
- Yin Yin Aye, University Central Library
- Ni Ni Naing, University Central Library
- La Pye Win Htun, University of Yangon Library
- Hlaing Hliang Gyi, University of Yangon Library
- Yin Win Htike, University Central Library



\*

Photos:

--from left to right: Hlaing Hliang Gyi, Ete Olson, Yin Win Htike, Judy Ledgerwood (Director of the Center for SEA Studies), Catherine Raymond (Director of the Center for Burma Studies), Patrick Dawson (Dean of NIU Libraries)

--Lynne Thomas (Rare Books) with Hlaing Hliang Gyi and Yin Win Htike

--from left to right: Ni Ni Naing, La Pye Htun, Sherry Patterson (Music Library) Sanda Oo, Yin Yin Aye, Michael Duffy (formerly of the Music Library)

*Hao Phan*  
*Southeast Asia Curator*



## Notes from the Faculty Liaison

Dear Friends,

We hope that the end of winter, and the most welcome beginning of spring are treating you well. We have begun 2015 with some fantastic programming. WTTW's Geoffrey Baer came to campus on February 12, talking Chicago

architectural history to a packed house in the Regency Room over in Holmes Student Center. February 18, we partnered with the NIU Art Museum to co-sponsor "That Belongs in a Museum," a collaborative show-and-tell and storytelling event featuring local collectors, held at The House Café in downtown DeKalb.

On Saturday, March 28, New York Times bestselling author Scott Lynch (*Republic of Thieves*) and Hugo Award winning author Elizabeth Bear (*Karen Memory*, recently featured on NPR) will be joining us, doing a joint Q&A and book signing from 2-4 pm. This event will take place at the Ellwood House Visitor Center, in the Hearthside room. Copies of *Republic of Thieves* and *Karen Memory* will be available onsite for sale, and you are welcome to bring additional copies of your own books by Lynch and Bear to sign, too.

We've moved up the date of our **Annual Meeting and Ice Cream Social**, so that more folks can join us. **This year, it will take place Thursday, April 30, from 3-5 pm in Rare Books and Special Collections, on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor in Founders' Library.** As always, there will be an assortment of Ollie's frozen custard flavors, along with their homemade hot fudge.

All of our events this semester are free and open to the public. We hope that you will join us!

Lynne M. Thomas  
Faculty Liaison

## 2014-2015 Friends of NIU Libraries Board Members and Officers

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Lynne M. Thomas (Faculty & Program liaison)

Mary Lincoln  
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## Medieval Book of Hours Added to Rare Books Collection through Generous Gift

Rare Books and Special Collections are thrilled to announce that we have added an original hand-illuminated Book of Hours to our collections, thanks to the generosity of Dr. Carla W. Montgomery.

This volume is printed on vellum (calfskin), and has ornamental borders and initials throughout,

printed from metalcuts and woodcuts. Many of the illustrations have been hand-colored, with gold leaf added to many of the initials.

Books of hours are amongst the most common medieval books to survive, second only to Bibles. Rare Books and Special Collections holds a group of original manuscript leaves from medieval books including leaves from books of hours, generously purchased by the Friends in 2004. These are used routinely by undergraduates for class visits and individual research. In fact, a student won a campus research award last year based upon her scholarship about one of our leaves. Before now, we had been unable to acquire a representative whole original book of hours before now, as complete illuminated manuscripts are typically far too expensive for our modest budget.

This full, relatively complete Book of Hours will be used extensively in class visits for both undergraduate and graduate students, providing an opportunity to experience a whole medieval book, held in their own hands.

Dr. Montgomery's generous gift to our collections made this possible. If you are interested in making a similar gift to enhance the student experience, please contact Lynne M. Thomas, Curator of Rare Books, at 815-753-0255 or [lmthomas@niu.edu](mailto:lmthomas@niu.edu).



Book of Hours, [1510]

### Save These Dates for Friends Events!:

**Saturday, March 28, 2015**, (likely 2:00-4:00 pm). Book signing and Q&A with Elizabeth Bear and Scott Lynch. Ellwood House Visitor Center, Hearthside Room. Copies of *Karen Memory* and *The Republic of Thieves* will be available for purchase. Free and open to the public.

**Thursday, April 30, 2015, 3:00-5:00 pm**. Friends of NIU Libraries Annual Meeting & Ice Cream Social. Rare Books and Special Collections, Founders Memorial Library 4th Floor. Free and open to the public.

## Ten minutes with... Larissa K. Garcia, Information Literacy Librarian



### What is your position title?

I am the Information Literacy Librarian and Family, Consumer, and Nutrition Sciences (FCNS) & Art Subject Specialist.

### What does that mean?

Essentially, that means that I am responsible for developing a coordinated and integrated information literacy program and that I provide reference, instruction, and collection development services for the School of Family, Consumer, and Nutrition Sciences and the School of Art and Design.

Traditionally, information literacy is the ability to find, locate, and use information effectively, but in today's highly digital environment, it also includes participating in and collaborating to produce and share information. We try to teach students to think critically about information, as we help them develop the skills needed to navigate library resources and access information. We do this by conducting library instructions sessions as part of a specific class and by teaching the library's credit course, UNIV 105 Introduction to Library & Information Research. So it's my job to develop an integrated, "big picture" information literacy program for the institution that considers both in-class library instructions and UNIV 105. I also coordinate UNIV 105, which includes curriculum development and teaching as well as scheduling and promotion.

In addition to these efforts, I have discipline specific responsibilities. I do collection development and teach in-class library instruction sessions for FCNS and the School of Art and Design. Also, I spend time each week at the reference desk assisting students and other patrons with whatever research or reference questions they may have. And like my fellow faculty colleagues, I also serve on department and institutional committees and spend time researching and writing for publication and conference presentations. Currently, my research considers how the new "Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education" can be adapted for different classroom environments and the impact it will have on outreach efforts.

### What's your background?

I am originally a West Coast girl -- I grew up in northern California and went to college in Washington. I moved to Illinois in 2000 and am actually an NIU alum. I have a Master's degree in English from NIU and a Master's degree in Library and Information Science from Dominican University in River Forest, IL. Before joining the library faculty here, I spent almost three years as a faculty librarian at Triton College, a community college in River Grove, IL, and three years as library faculty at National Louis

University in Lisle, IL.

After living in Oak Park for 10 years, I moved to St. Charles last summer where I live with my husband and four year-old daughter. We live just a few steps away from the river and really enjoy the convenient access to the Fox River Trail, such a beautiful running path. Now if we could just get rid of all the snow and below freezing temps!

### How can people get in touch with you?

If you'd like to get in touch with me, you can email me at [larissagarcia@niu.edu](mailto:larissagarcia@niu.edu).

## Thank you to our Life Members (donating \$1000.00 or more)

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## Renovations Improve Founders Library's Student Lounge

On June 23, 2014, workers completed the renovation of Founders Memorial Library's Student Lounge. Located on the Library's lower level, the lounge has long been available for a variety of activities. Some students have chosen to study there, others to socialize. In recent years a coffee bar and a charging station for mobile devices have added new aspects to the space's appeal.

The lounge has seen regular, heavy use, and its furnishings and floor surfaces had begun to show their age. Heavily worn furniture and carpets reflecting the tastes of preceding decades, assembled in an eclectic mix, made the lounge uncomfortable and unsightly.

This summer's renovation project has provided the lounge with a new, wood-grain flooring surface and new furniture, ranging from tables, chairs and couches to restaurant-style booths. Combined with the easy chairs, recently provided by Friends of the Library, in an adjacent space, the new additions provide the NIU community with a sizeable, flexible space suitable for many uses.

In addition to providing the NIU community with a more comfortable and attractive lounge area, the renovation reflects the changing ways in which faculty, students, staff members and members of the public use the library. The lounge's cosmetic upgrades complement the fact that the space has recently benefited from the provision of increased wireless network capacity and the placement of a multifunctional copier/printer device, allowing individuals and groups to direct print jobs to the lab itself.

The lounge also provides library users with an opportunity to gather and work in groups in a flexible environment allowing them to bring groups of tables and chairs together to suit their needs.

Reflecting on the planning behind the lounge renovations, Dean of Libraries Patrick Dawson remarked: "The way academic libraries are utilized by the current generation of students continues to evolve, driven by the use of mobile computing devices and the ever evolving preference of students for personal and group space. Renovations to the student lounge have captured for the present these trends and leave it flexible enough to serve the preferences of students in the future as well."

Drew VandeCreek  
Director, Digital Initiatives

### Member Benefits:

Receive a 10% discount on merchandise at the following stores:

-Ed Ripp Fine Art Books, Chicago

Friends tote bags! {email (aschroeder@niu.edu) or call (815-753-8091) Angie Schroeder for details.}



## Notes from the Dean of Libraries

Education, like it or not, is subject to state and national politics, especially in the arena of public education. Through political action, public education in the United States was first created and subsequently modified. In 1790, the Pennsylvania state constitution called for free public education for the poor, with the expectation that the rich would pay for their children's schooling. That model continues to exist over two hundred years later. In 1817, a petition was presented in Boston, Massachusetts, calling for the establishment of a system of free public primary schools. This petition was supported by merchants and businessmen who wanted a literate workforce; wage earners opposed it because they did not want to pay the supporting tax. Almost two hundred years later, the question of tax support for education still resonates, especially among those opposed to fiscally supporting public education. Everything -- from funding to curriculum to school boards to school districts to segregation -- in public education has been, and continues to be, subject to the whims and influences of politics.

Public Higher Education is also influenced by state and national politics. In 1850, the Michigan Constitution called for the creation of an agricultural school. It opened in 1855 as the Agricultural College of the State of Michigan, known today as Michigan State University. With this model as the template, the Morrill Land-Grant Acts of 1862 and 1890 allowed for the creation of land grant colleges, granting each eligible state a total of 30,000 acres of federal land to establish a college, the purpose being "without excluding other scientific and classical studies and including military tactic, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanical arts, in such manner as the legislatures of the States may respectively prescribe, in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions in life" (7 U.S.C. 304). The critical phrase here is *in such manner as the legislatures of the States may respectively prescribe*. This is where tenure came from, to protect those who teach in higher education from being dismissed without just cause, at the whim of legislatures and elected officials.

Northern Illinois University itself also exists from the state political process. In 1899, the university opened its doors as a Normal School, when Governor Altgeld expanded the Normal School system to include a DeKalb campus. As such, NIU became subject to the rules and regulations and funding from the state of Illinois.

In 1947 the Truman Commission on Higher Education recognized the vital role of public investment in higher education as vital to the performance of the economy. We are currently in a situation where the new governor of Illinois is calling for substantial cuts to public investment in higher education. I appeal to you to support public funding for higher education, and petition for increased funding (including for public academic libraries like ours). Public investment in higher education creates an educated workforce that delivers a substantial return on this investment, in the form of economic expansion through sustained employment, higher earnings, new and continued business development, and ultimately, higher tax revenues.

Patrick J. Dawson  
Dean of Libraries



## DeKalb Public Library Expansion Update!

Something is growing in downtown DeKalb! The expansion of the DeKalb Public Library (DKPL) is proceeding apace, on time and under budget. On Thursday, January 22, the last structural beam was set in place. The community was invited over to 'Sign the Beam' and have a little breakfast celebration the day before. It was great fun. Library staff say they can't wait – and they are probably getting a little tired of the construction noise! There are small changes all over the Haish library building so patrons may have to hunt around (or ask) for certain things they need, like daily newspapers. But it is with a great sense of anticipation. The newly expanded library will be a fabulous addition to the DeKalb Community.

About 1,000 patrons enter the library every day – some to find one of the more than 350,000 books, magazines, records, and movies, some to read newspapers, some to use computers for homework or to find employment. Others come with their little kids for the many special programs on offer each week. Many teens and adults come in at night for grown-up programs and book clubs. Our library is at the heart of our town, and it will soon be even better.

Even the winter weather has cooperated – can you imagine saying that during the winter of 2014? Only 3 or 4 days have been lost to weather in 2015. The skeleton of the library is up and flooring will be poured during the first or second week of February. Another third of steel will be brought in just before that. The building will be enclosed with temporary material, so that heating can be turned on and inside work begun by the first of March if the weather continues to hold. Even the roof will be on. Furnishings will be ordered in March so that they will be available next November or December; the addition is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2015. The library will be closed for a short period of time in December while everything in the Haish library will be moved to the new addition – as yet unnamed and perhaps waiting for that special donor. Then all library functions will be in the new building while the old one gets renovated. The whole project should be completed in June of 2016, when we will look forward to the Grand Opening celebration! See how it will all look in the picture below.

Our library is so strong that we were given \$11.6 million of the total \$25.3 million expansion construction cost in a State of Illinois Capital Construction Grant program, more than any other project. The City of DeKalb has contributed TIF funds and has issued municipal bonds in support of the project. The library borrowed \$1 million each from local banks, Castle Bank, National Bank and

Trust, and Resource Bank. A capital campaign is underway to raise the \$3 million to repay the loans, and they are more than half-way to their goal. Please think about your contribution to the DeKalb Public Library and come see what's happening.

Ruth Anne Tobias



Friends of NIU Libraries  
Founders Memorial Library  
Northern Illinois University  
DeKalb, IL 60115

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NIU also offers Payroll Deduction for faculty and staff

If a gift is in memory or in honor of someone, please include the purpose and the name and address to which acknowledgement should be sent.

Would you like any of the following brochures?

- Friends of NIU Library
- Ensuring the Future Trees Library Book Fund

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Mail to: Friends of NIU Libraries, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115-2868  
Thank you for your support!