Spring 2012

Bookmarks (Vol. 8, No. 1)

Iowa State University Library
University Presidents' Portraits...page 4
President Geoffroy's portrait joins the collection.
From the Dean

Spring is a busy and memorable time on any campus, with students and faculty winding down their courses for the semester and preparing for commencement or warm-weather activities. Here at the Iowa State University Library, exciting changes are always in the works, and this summer will be no different, as we move ahead with plans to enhance the Parks Library in meeting 21st Century needs of students, faculty and staff.

Our recent renovation project on fourth floor was met with rave reviews, and it didn't take long for the students to find their way to the beautiful space and its many new features. As our cardinal and gold project neared completion, though, we moved to the next item on our renovation wish list.

Thanks to generous donors, in recent years, we've undertaken many renovation projects in order to create a variety of spaces to meet the ever-changing needs of our students. The third floor will be transformed in phases; planned changes include carpet, paint, new study carrels and improved lighting, important updates to student spaces. Our hope is to have the first stage completed by fall.

As additional resources become available, we expect to complete the phased third floor makeover including new study space design and furniture and renovate study space on the three other floors. In addition to studying, students cite other reasons for spending time in the library: working on student projects, checking email, socializing, eating and yes, sometimes sleeping.

Memories are made here. We’ve had marriage proposed, vows exchanged and romances blossom. Do you have a particular memory of Parks Library? We’d love to hear from you. Please write to us at bookmarks@iastate.edu.

We thank you, our many generous donors, who support our mission and continue to help expand the library’s many ideas for our students, faculty and staff.

In addition to the changed spaces in the Library, BookMarks, our publication for donors is receiving a makeover, too. Our goal has always been to engage our readers. We hope you will in turn engage us and send us your thoughts for this publication. Send comments to bookmarks@iastate.edu.

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Students Make It Possible
Without student staff the library doors couldn’t open

**Brenda Janning**, a student assistant who started working her sophomore year in Inter Library Loan, has a love of libraries. Currently a senior in technical communication and political science, she spent a lot of time studying at Parks Library as a freshman and now has worked countless hours, too. “I love everybody I work with,” Brenda said. “We always have fun and prank the supervisors.” One such gag, involving a piece of tape and a computer mouse, caught the object of the joke in an embarrassing situation when information technology staff had to pay a visit to the department to “fix” the problem/ remove the tape.

Prior to her May graduation, Brenda was focused on school and what comes after, but her interests away from school are varied. She has a one-year-old Australian shepherd named Isabella. She also likes to help her dad, Richard, in his fifth-grade class at Adams Elementary School, Carroll. Brenda enjoys audio books and has recently listened to the Irene Kelley series, specifically *Dear Irene*.

**Stuart Hall** works at the circulation desk where he checks books in and out and helps patrons find items. He also gives directions and information on how to use the e-Library. Stuart’s older brother, Neil, who graduated from Iowa State in 2009, also worked at the library and encouraged him to get a job here. “Neil told me that Angie [Brown] would be a good manager,” Stuart said.

Stuart has worked thousands of hours at the library and according to him, meeting students and professors is the best part. “Sometimes I will see people out on the weekend and they’ll stop me and talk to me about the books they checked out,” he said. As for what he has read recently: “Since I’ve worked here, I’ve read the *Harry Potter* series twice.”

When he’s not working or studying, Stuart likes to add to his collection of shoes at 80 pairs and counting. His favorite is the Concord 11 Air Jordans that he recently purchased. The assortment includes dress, casual and tennis shoes. “When I have children, we’re going to have matching shoes,” he said.
during a visit to the Upper Rotunda at Parks Library, as you are surrounded by portraits of past Iowa State University Presidents. A view from the windows there looks south to Beardshear Hall and the dome atop the structure that houses the office of the university president.

On March 25, 2011, President Gregory Geoffroy announced that he planned to step down, but the paint was already dry on the portrait of him that would join the presidency. In the mid-1930s, as Iowa State prepared for its 75th Anniversary Celebration – which went on for some time – President Raymond Hughes (1927-1936), contended that the college needed portrayals of the past presidents in order to solidify and celebrate the history of the institution, according to Pohlman. Hughes and prominent Iowa State College alumnus, Colonel Edward N. Wentworth, along with the newly formed College Art Committee, marshaled the project. Wentworth was connected to portraitists through his activities with the Saddle and Sirloin Club, the largest portrait collection anywhere dedicated to one trade, which at the time was headquartered in Chicago.¹

Portraits of the first seven Iowa State presidents were completed using some of the same artists from the club’s guild. In fact, a likeness of Seaman Knapp, second president, ISC, is also installed in the Saddle and Sirloin Club’s gallery, which in 1977, was relocated to Louisville, Kentucky.²

The ISU presidents’ portraits were located in various places around campus including the Brunnier Art Museum and the Memorial Union. Talk of moving and installing them...
in Parks Library began in 1988, when plans were made to repaint and carpet the area outside the Sun Room at the union. According to a note in the Library dean’s office files, Dean Warren Kuhn thought “they would be advantageous to us [at Parks Library] and be a point of interest to alumni and students.” Moved from the union around 1989, the paintings are installed chronologically around the Upper Rotunda and into the Periodical Room.

Since Hughes’ time, each president has paid close attention to the details of his portrait. For example, one artist made three attempts to paint President Charles Friley, but for various reasons he or a member of his staff refused the finished product each time, according to Pohlman. President Martin Jischke, who donned a suit for his picture, tried on several ties before choosing the one he is wearing.

President Gordon Eaton’s portrait was installed about a year after his 1990 departure from Iowa State and was painted in Canada. According to Pohlman, President Jischke was involved in coordinating the Eaton portrait installation, and the paint was still wet when the work arrived. It was framed overnight and was ready when Presidents Parks, Eaton and Jischke were together the following day for the unveiling in the library.

President Geoffroy’s portrait, which was completed well before his departure by Saddle and Sirloin Club artist Istvan Nyikos, was hung in the Periodical Room on Jan. 19, 2012. According to Pohlman, nothing was rushed for President Geoffroy’s portrait; he chose the style and setting. As his attire, Geoffroy selected the doctoral robes, which were designed to commemorate the Iowa State Sesquicentennial and first appeared in 2008.

Leaders of Iowa State leave indelible marks when they move on. Thanks to President Hughes, their portraits, prominently displayed in the Parks Library, remain an emblem of that legacy.

For information about ISU Presidents visit http://www.lib.iastate.edu/spcl/exhibits/150/template/people.html

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Time line:
2Ibid.
The floods of August 2010 wreaked havoc in campus basements, storage areas, campus buildings and offices. The General Services Building on the Iowa State campus was no exception as thousands of plans and blueprints came in contact with the relentless flood waters.

Enter Martha Lincoln, a preservation volunteer, who had recently returned from the Camberwell College of Arts, London, England. In response to the disaster, her role was to spare the documents from further damage and prevent mold growth. Dried drawings were categorized based on whether the damage could be mitigated, if the item had to be discarded, or if the item was in for extensive treatment – those that were deemed an important part of ISU history.

Wash. Repair. Return to Facilities Planning and Management. Repeat. During the course of her education, Lincoln had facilitated the treatment of a few items at a time; but with the flood recovery project, she worked with documents numbering a hundred times that. According to Lincoln, this experience honed her skill and instilled additional confidence as a conservator.

Lincoln was named the Gladys and Grover Hertzberg Paper Conservation Intern in the summer of 2011. With the rest of the flood recovery projects largely complete, her sights were set on those materials that had been previously designated as important to the history of Iowa State, including the original plans for the Memorial Union and maps of the campus. Her emphasis continues in this area, preserving history for the future.
Flexible spaces for today’s Students

Modern scholars work solo, or in groups, and the Iowa State University Library is transitioning to meet their ever-evolving 21st century needs. Renovation projects have lined up one after the next and the results have been met with excitement and anticipation for the next plan.

The Learning Connections Center on the first floor of Parks Library, created thanks to a grant from the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust, offers students reference assistance, help with using collections and technology aid, all in an environment suitable for work in groups of two to five. Multimedia studios offer students the flexibility to work with technology and specialized equipment for more involved projects and larger groups.

With a color focus on cardinal and gold, the new study space and classroom on fourth floor of Parks Library (funded by the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust), goes a long way to meet the needs of the Special Collections and Preservation departments. Each semester, students in Women in Science and Engineering, honors seminars, the horticulture learning community and students from many other disciplines, will make use of the classroom and the state-of-the-art technology.

The area outside the classroom offers students flexible space for study with tables, caper chairs and modular couches; something for every level of comfort and other amenities to meet the 21st century needs of students, faculty and staff. Whenever possible, materials and furnishings were chosen in keeping with the sustainability goals of Iowa State University.

Described as a “hard-working, Earth-friendly chair” and manufactured in a LEED Pioneer building, caper chairs were purchased for the classroom and study space and are manufactured with 25 percent recycled materials. The chairs are straightforward to assemble and disassemble and will stand up to rigorous use by students.

The possibilities are endless with the new spaces in the Library that provide us the abilities to showcase all of our departments and collections. Workshop and outreach opportunities are greatly enhanced as well as broadened teaching and learning facilities.

For information about space renovation in the library contact bookmarks@iastate.edu.
Collections “Wish List”

Developing the collection is central to the University Library Campaign

Iowa State alumna Deloris Wright completed her doctorate in economics in 1973. Dr. Wright, who plans her trips to Europe to include at least one weekend so as to be in London on Friday and Saturday evenings to enjoy the theater there, chose to purchase the Theater in Video database for the library, which was an item on the Collections Wish List.

“I very much enjoy live theater,” Wright said. “It [Theater in Video database] was different from the typical academic opportunities, and I’m always looking for something a little off-beat.”

The database offers students the chance to view great actors at work. It offers more than 500 hours of video representing leading playwrights, actors and directors.

Willing to assist in acquiring one of these titles? Contact libraryfriends@iastate.edu


Women and Education: Major Themes in Education: $1075.

Communication Theory (4 vol. set): $861

Romantic Women Writers Reviewed, Part I: $495.


www.lib.iastate.edu/info/6000
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