PRODUCTION NOTE

University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign Library
Alumni Honor Father's Memory with a Gift to the Funk Family ACES Library

Jon and Jo Ann Laible of Charleston, Illinois, have established a generous endowment that will honor the memory of Jon's father, who served as an agricultural advisor for more than 30 years. The R.J. "Rusty" Laible Endowment Fund will benefit library collections and services in the field of agriculture, which are located in the Isaac Funk Family ACES Library.

"Jo Ann and I both have a commitment to the University of Illinois, and I know my father felt the same way," says Jon. "He also was committed to the hybrid corn business and had a lifelong interest in the field of agriculture."

R.J. "Rusty" Laible (1897-1990) earned two degrees from the University of Illinois: a B.S. in agriculture in 1920 and an M.S. in animal science in 1925. At the beginning of his career, he worked for the U of I Department of Animal Science and the Illinois Extension Service. In 1937, he joined the Funk Brothers Seed Company as an agricultural advisor. He spent 31 years with Funk Brothers, advancing to vice president and manager of Illinois-Indiana-Michigan operations in 1957. He became manager of the company's Hybrid Corn Division in 1963 and retired from that position in 1968. In 1970, the College of Agriculture Alumni Association presented

Continued on page 2
University of Illinois engineering graduate Henry Bieniecki (B.S., 1948, and M.S., 1949) has established a generous endowment fund in loving memory of his late wife Kay. The Mary Kathryn Bieniecki Memorial Endowment Fund will benefit the School Collection of literature for children and young adults. This collection is located in the Education and Social Science Library.

"My wife loved books and libraries," explains Mr. Bieniecki. "She also was a teacher, and a gift to the Library that benefits children is an appropriate tribute to her memory."

Mary Kathryn "Kay" Bieniecki (1932-2002) grew up in Madison, Illinois. She earned a degree in education from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale in 1955 and completed some graduate work at the University of Illinois, UCLA, and the University of Mexico City. She became a junior high school teacher and taught for 22 years at various schools in the Granite City School District.

The memorial fund established in her name will forever honor her commitment to the education of children.

"This marvelous gift establishes an endowment that will provide permanent support for the children and young adults' literature collection," says Nancy O'Brien, education and social science librarian. "It will allow our library to purchase materials that would otherwise be beyond our means. . . . Not only will our students benefit from this gift, but the generations of students they teach when they become educators will benefit as well."

The School Collection is one of the most comprehensive collections of children and young adults’ literature in the nation, second only to the Library of Congress. It contains more than 132,000 volumes, including fiction and nonfiction materials in beginning-to-read books, children's classics, folk literature and mythology, biography, modern fantasy, and picture books. Special highlights of the collection include Aesop's fables, alphabet books, pop-up books, and Newbery and Caldecott medal winners. 

Continued from page 1

him with an award of merit for his significant accomplishments.

"When we learned more about the Funk Library, we realized it provided a natural match for our gift and a fitting tribute to my father," explains Jon. The Laible Endowment Fund will provide annual income to enhance agricultural holdings in the ACES Library, which is named after the Isaac Funk Family—whose descendants formed the Funk Brothers Seed Company in 1901. Eugene D. Funk Jr., one of the company’s founders, said of the library, "We have planted a seed that needs to grow."

Jon Laible and Jo Ann Ivens grew up in Normal, Illinois. They attended the same elementary and high schools and both earned degrees from the University of Illinois. After they married in 1959, Jon obtained a master's degree from the University of Minnesota while Jo Ann taught school. Jon later earned a Ph.D. in mathematics from the U of I and accepted a professorship at Eastern Illinois University (EIU), advancing to dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. During this time, Jo Ann earned a master's degree in education from EIU, worked at the EIU Library, and taught in the Charleston schools and at Lake Land College in Mattoon. She then was employed at the Mid-Illinois Educational Service Center.

Today, Jon and Jo Ann both are retired. Jon frequently consults with the EIU Foundation, where he has served as a board member, president of the board, and interim executive officer. Jo Ann continues as an active volunteer in Coles County. The Laibles enjoy traveling and spending time with their two daughters and son and their respective families. The R.J. "Rusty" Laible Endowment Fund is their second gift to the Library: in 2001, they established an endowment that will provide unrestricted support for the Mathematics Library and the University Library as a whole.
Shebik Endowment to Enhance Collections in BEL

A generous pledge from Steve and Megan Shebik will create a specialized collection endowment in the Business and Economics Library (BEL). The Shebik Family Business Library Endowment will support the acquisition of materials pertinent to the study of finance, insurance, and risk management.

“We made this gift due to the education we received at the University of Illinois, the importance we place on the library, and the common aspects of our careers,” explains Megan. Both she and Steve are Illinois alumni: she earned a degree in economics in 1980, and he earned degrees in accounting and finance in 1978. While they attended the University at the same time, they did not meet until years later; they were married in 1989. They have three children: Brian, 11; Matthew, 8; and Sarah, 7.

After graduation, Megan and Steve both pursued careers in finance and insurance. Megan specialized in insurance underwriting and marketing, earning the CPCM and ARM designations. Steve went on to earn an MBA and worked eight years in public accounting. He spent seven years with Sears in Corporate Accounting and Finance before joining Allstate at the time of its spinoff from Sears in 1995. Steve has held a number of financial positions with Allstate and is currently vice president of finance for the personal lines (auto and homeowners) business.

The Shebiks hope that their endowment will provide others with the same educational opportunities they enjoyed while in school. Steve emphasized that “we hope this endowment will both enhance the resources available to students and faculty studying insurance and risk management and increase interest in these evolving and important fields.”

BEL has a distinguished reputation as one of the top 50 academic business libraries in the country. It houses more than 60,000 working volumes and adds 3,500 new ones each year. Subject areas include finance, accounting, economics, and business administration. The holdings include reports from central banks and the financial filings of international and domestic companies. BEL has one of the Library’s fastest growing collections in terms of electronic resources, adding more than 40 databases in the last three and one-half years.

“The gift from the Shebiks will enhance the holdings in our library, which is already well known for the depth and breadth of its collections,” says Becky Smith, associate professor and head of BEL. “We’re especially pleased because the College of Business is increasing its pedagogy in the areas of finance, insurance, and risk management, so the gift will be well utilized.”

Minimum Endowment Fund Level to Increase in July

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Endowment funds provide a valuable opportunity to invest in the future of higher education. Effective July 1, 2005, the University of Illinois Foundation will institute a new minimum gift level for endowment funds. The amount required to establish this type of fund will increase from $10,000 to $25,000. Other minimum fund levels will be set as follows:

Endowment funds provide a permanent source of support that can be used for a particular library, collection, or other specified purpose. For each fund, a customized bookplate is created and affixed to all purchases in order to provide the appropriate recognition for the gift. For more information, call (217) 333-5682.
Barnard Fund Will Support Acquisitions Development in the Ricker Library

A generous bequest from Jayne W. Barnard will enhance collections in art and architecture on the University of Illinois campus. The Jayne W. Barnard Ricker Library of Architecture and Art Fund will provide $50,000 for acquisitions development to be expended over a 10-year period.

“I wanted to make my gift to the Library in a way that would have the greatest impact,” says Jayne. “Rather than an endowment, I decided to establish a current-use fund that would provide immediate benefit to the collections in the Ricker Library.”

Jayne graduated from the University of Illinois in 1970 with a B.S. degree in journalism. She earned her J.D. from the University of Chicago, practiced law for 10 years, and became a partner at Jenner & Block. Her distinguished career includes service as deputy corporation counsel under Chicago Mayor Harold Washington and as a board member of the Illinois and Virginia affiliates of the ACLU. In 1985, Jayne joined the College of William and Mary Marshall-Wythe School of Law, where she now holds the James Goold Cutler professorship in law.

Jayne designated her gift to the Ricker Library partly because she worked there when she was a student. She also was motivated by her love of art. She and her husband, John Tucker, collect art and enjoy surrounding themselves with works of contemporary realism. Jayne has a special interest in painted and photographic self-portraits.

“The Barnard Fund will provide our library with much needed flexibility to purchase in a timely manner significant materials that fall beyond our current grasp financially,” says Jane Block, head architecture and art librarian. “With this thoughtful and generous gift we will be able to meet the significant demand from our excellent faculty and students and continue to build upon the strengths of our rich architecture and art collection.”

Library Acquires Letter by Eighteenth-Century English Novelist

The Rare Book and Special Collections Library recently acquired a fragment of a two-page letter, previously unknown, by Samuel Richardson (1689-1762). Richardson was an English printer and, after the age of fifty, became one of the chief founders of the modern novel with the publication of such works as *Pamela* (1740), *Clarissa* (1747-48), and *Charles Grandison* (1753).

Sometime in 1746, Richardson began writing to Sarah Wescomb, whom he met through his landlord, Samuel Vanderplank. Although Richardson was 57 years of age, and Sarah was but 16, a friendship developed, and the correspondence flourished. Ten years later, Richardson gave Sarah away at her wedding to John Scudamore.

Of the 151 extant letters comprising the correspondence between Richardson and Wescomb, only three of the 52 letters by Richardson actually are autographed. One is located at Haverford College, another can be found at Huntington Library, and a third copy now is available at the University of Illinois Library. Fortunately, the parts torn away from the newly acquired letter appear to contain only elaborate closing compliments, and no serious information seems to be missing.

John Dussinger, professor emeritus of English, is currently editing two volumes of the forthcoming *Cambridge University Press Edition of Samuel Richardson's Correspondence*. In his writings, he has detailed the unique features of this letter and how it complements the holdings of the University Library in eighteenth-century English literature. These holdings include the collections of George Sherburn, Lloyd F. Nickell, and Henry C. Hutchins.
Karen Schmidt has served as associate university librarian for collections since 1997. Previously, she served as the Library's coordinator of collection development (1995-97) and acquisitions librarian (1982-97). Her library experience also includes positions at Illinois State University Library (1980-82) and at The Ohio State University Library (1975-79). She holds a bachelor's degree in anthropology with a specialization in Latin American studies from Indiana University, a master's degree in library science from Indiana University, and a doctor of philosophy degree in library science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Tell me about your responsibilities as associate university librarian for collections.

I oversee the Library's collections, which includes monitoring the general direction of acquisitions, managing our collections budget, and working with our many knowledgeable subject librarians. I keep up with national publishing trends as well as current developments in electronic and online resources. In order to maximize our collections budget, I facilitate collaborations between the Library and other libraries and organizations to jointly purchase materials and provide services. I also provide direction for our Preservation and Conservation Program and manage the many wonderful collection gifts that come to our Library.

What are some of the unique challenges of your position?

We never have enough money to meet all our needs. Our faculty and students are always ahead of the curve when it comes to research, and it's a challenge to figure out how to get them what they need when they need it—and at a price we can afford. Our physical collection is enormous, which poses a huge challenge in terms of stewardship. Also, the transition from print to electronic resources and our commitment to make information available for the long term puts a tremendous strain on our budget.

Could you comment on your current research and latest publications?

My most recent publication, entitled Past Perfect, Future Tense, is a commissioned essay discussing the many challenges facing collection librarians today. My latest research is in the area of fugitive collections, those print and electronic publications that come from outside the mainstream publishing industry. Because of the Internet and electronic publishing, many groups can easily distribute their ideas to a large number of people. Along with my colleague Wendy Shelburne, I recently received funding to develop a model for collecting the output of hate groups in the United States. In this research, we will develop methods for gathering online information and determine how to buy print items from groups that do not ordinarily sell to government organizations, including libraries.

What do you enjoy most about librarianship?

I work with the very best librarians and staff in one of the world's richest collections. I live in Bloomington and drive 50 miles each way for this privilege. Every day, I find a new surprise: an imagined gift coming in the mail, a donor who wants to share his or her collections with us, or a scholar seeking something from our special collections. I talk to alumni who still have the experience of this Library fresh in their minds after years away from campus. What this Library provides each and every day is a series of moments of discovery. This makes everything I strive to achieve worthwhile.

Friendscript is a publication of the Library Office of Development and Public Affairs, 1408 West Gregory Drive, Room 227, Urbana, IL 61801. Ideas and suggestions should be submitted to writer/editor Cindy Ashwill at cashwill@uiuc.edu or (217) 333-5682.
The Library Is Looking For...

$300 for the City Planning and Landscape Architecture Library to purchase *Trip Generation*, 7th edition. This three-volume reference work on transportation planning covers all modes of transportation as well as emerging new technologies that affect transportation. It will benefit research and teaching in urban and regional planning, landscape architecture, and transportation engineering.

$449 for the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Library to purchase *Encyclopedia Latina: History, Culture and Society in the United States*. This "groundbreaking interdisciplinary reference work" addresses Latino history and culture from the fifteenth century to present. It chronicles not only the Latino experience in the United States but also the contributions of the Latino community to the country at large.

$450 for the Ricker Library of Architecture and Art to purchase *Armenian Painters in the Ottoman Empire, 1600-1923*. This two-volume work contains references to 450 Armenian painters born in the Ottoman Empire from the seventeenth century until 1923, when the Turkish Republic was founded. A first of its kind, the author provides information on artists who are not found readily in other biographical dictionaries.

$485 for the History and Philosophy Library to purchase *The Encyclopedia of World War II*. This five-volume set is a major new reference tool that addresses the social as well as the political and military history of the war. It covers the entire scope of World War II from its earliest roots to its continuing impact on global politics and human society.

$1,120 for the Communications Library to purchase five videos published by the Media Education Foundation. These videos provide a critical examination of media (advertising, media ethics, journalism, media, public opinion, and rhetoric), inspire a debate about the current media system, and demonstrate to students the importance of critically engaging the media.

$3,520 for the Modern Languages and Linguistics Library to purchase four overstuffed lounge chairs or $880 per chair for a new reading alcove, which will provide a more comfortable study setting for library users. The new chairs will strongly complement the current reconfiguration of public space in this library, which offers extensive materials in literature and language studies for the Germanic and Romance languages.

Endowment Gift Requested for Valuable Geology Resource

A one-time endowment gift of $12,500 will provide the Geology Library with a permanent subscription to AAPG Datapages Combined Publications, the online database of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG). This searchable resource contains over 450,000 pages and includes publications by AAPG and nearly 20 other geological organizations and publishers.

An endowment gift will protect against price increases and help ensure uninterrupted service for students, faculty, and other users. The name of the donor(s) will be recognized on the database on the Geology Library's website.

To fund one of these items, call (217) 333-5683 or e-mail mmcleod@uiuc.edu. Additional requests are posted on the Library Friends website at www.library.uiuc.edu/friends.

Sponsor a Library Bench

Through this program, the Marshall Gallery will be enhanced by the addition of lovely wooden benches for relaxation or study. Donations of $3,000 will cover the cost of one bench and a commemorative plaque inscribed with the name of the donor and/or honoree. The new benches will be enjoyed by students, faculty, staff, and visitors. For more information, please call (217) 333-5682 or e-mail mgthomps@uiuc.edu.
Save an “Endangered Species” with a Gift to the Library Friends

The following materials are in need of preservation or restoration work to ensure their longevity and availability for students, faculty, and scholars. To save an endangered item, please contact the Office of Development and Public Affairs at (217) 333-5683 or mmcleod@uiuc.edu.


In 1773, English mathematician Charles Hutton was appointed professor of mathematics at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich. He later was elected a fellow of the Royal Society and authored books for students and his fellow mathematicians. He compiled *The Diarian Miscellany*, a collection of mathematical extracts from the *Ladies Diary*, a publication of considerable importance to the developing study of mathematics in the eighteenth century. *Miscellanea mathematica* was published shortly after Hutton’s appointment at the Royal Military Academy.

$575 is needed to reattach the leather covers of this important volume, which demonstrates Hutton’s important role as both educator and mathematician.

- Luther’s translation of the Bible. *Biblia: dat ys: de gantze Hillige Schrifft, dudesch* (Wittemberg, Hans Lufft, 1541). Luther’s translation of the Bible was not the first, but it was the most influential of all German translations. The first complete version of his translation appeared in 1534 in the official language of the Saxon chancery, which became modern High German. This copy is a 1541 edition of the Low German version that was used in the Lower Rhineland and Northern Germany.

$1,500 is needed to restore the sewing structure and covers, provide a new spine, and clean the inner margins.

- Thornton, Robert John. *The Temple of Flora: Garden of the Botanist, Poet, Painter, and Philosopher* (London: Thornton, 1812). Thornton’s book of thirty illustrations of flowers was designed as a grand tribute to the Swedish botanist, Linnaeus, and is considered by many to be one of the most magnificent botanical works ever produced. Poems, scientific names (all Linnaean), and descriptions of flowers appear along with the colored plates.

$1,450 will restore the tattered and broken binding and bring the colored plates as near as possible to their original brilliance.

Upcoming Events

- **Book Market @ the Square**
  - August 27, 2005, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
  - Lincoln Square Mall, Urbana
  - A celebration of books, reading, and literacy
  - Call (217) 333-5682 or visit:

- **21st Annual Chicago Tribune Printers Row Book Fair**
  - June 11–12, 2005, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
  - Volunteer opportunities are available at the Library’s booth for those who plan to attend
  - Call (217) 333-5682 or e-mail frey@uiuc.edu

- **15th Annual Mortenson Distinguished Lecture**
  - **Democracy and Libraries in Colombia: From Oral Culture to the World of the Book**
  - Speaker: Jorge Orlando Melo Gonzalez, Director, Department of Libraries and Fine Art, Banco de la Republica and Luis Angel Arango Library, Bogota, Colombia
  - October 26, 4:00 p.m., with reception following
  - Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Room 126
  - Call (217) 333-3085 or visit:
    - [http://www.library.uiuc.edu/mortenson/](http://www.library.uiuc.edu/mortenson/)
Annual gifts from Library Friends help strengthen the Library and ensure its standing as the largest public university library in the world. We invite you to join this tradition of private support, which makes a critical difference in the quality of the Library’s collections, programs, and services.

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