

Friends of the Grace Hauenstein Library Meeting  
Thursday, June 26, 2008 @ 10:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 302

**Members Attending:** *Friends:* Cynthia Dorman, Jason Duncan, Kathy Kremer and Greg McAleenan. *Library Staff:* Kristine Derks, Shellie Jeffries, Pam Luebke, Francine Paolini, Susan Ponischil, Christina Radisauskas and Jeanine Weber.

**Introductions:** Francine welcomed everyone to the first Friends of the Grace Hauenstein Library meeting and provided a brief overview of the history of the Friends organization. We then went around the room and introduced ourselves.

**FGHL Constitution:** Shellie Jeffries handed out copies of the revised constitution for all to review and discuss. A Board of Directors is needed, but at this time there were not enough members to volunteer or to vote on officers. Hopefully at our next meeting there will be enough members to elect officers.

**Report of the State of the Friends:** At this time we have 9 paid members (not including library staff), totaling \$200.00 in membership fees. All AQ students, faculty, staff and alumni; members of the Grand Rapids community; and organizations are welcome to become members. The membership year runs from July 1 - June 30.

#### **Future Plans for the Library**

**Small Stuff:** Shellie presented the new designs of the Library Web Site and the online catalog, showing the differences between the old and new catalogs and demonstrating the new search screens that will be available beginning this fall for the TomCat online catalog.

**Medium Stuff:** Francine discussed the transition we are making from print to electronic resources which not only includes full text articles, but also full text electronic books and electronic reference books (one stop shopping). We currently subscribe to 86 databases and have access to 796 electronic books.

Changes are also being made in the Media Department where the VHS tapes (feature films) are transitioning to DVDs. The CD music collection is being re-organized into browsing categories.

The print and non-print collections are evaluated and weeded/discarded as necessary. Our Innovative Software System can generate lists of statistics on how often materials are used.

The library introduced a chat reference service this year so our students are able to ask us questions either through our website or via their Instant Messaging service.

**Big Stuff:** *Grow the Friends.* How do we get the Friends involved and expand our numbers? Suggestions included identifying specific areas or collections that need attention. Bring awareness to the organization, invite the outside community to events, advertise and let needs be known. The Friends could be involved with fund raising to support projects and material conversion.

*Develop a library endowment.* The library can use additional funds for specific collections or projects. Funds for books are currently divided by programs and majors with some departments receive more funding than others. We also have some private funds such as the Cusack Fund and the Sustainable Development Fund whose monies purchase materials for their specific subjects or departments. Perhaps we need more of this type of funding.

*The Archives* is another area that is growing and could use additional funding for digitalizing historical information, and for purchasing supplies and equipment such as cabinetry for housing documents. Sister Jean has indicated that she will be retiring in the near future which will result in the need to search for a professional archivist.

**Friends Concerns and Comments:** Discussion continued about how to fund the academic collections via the traditional budget process, private donations and other options. Suggestions were made to possibly share department funds; work with the Development Office to find donors who would be interested in supporting specific collections or projects; have fund raising events; and consider utilizing programs instead of endowments. Kathy Kremer has started a program for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year students called "Community Fellows". These are 1<sup>st</sup> generation college students who could be retention risks. Kathy suggests we use this group to promote the library in the local neighborhood as there is a community outreach component that is a part of this program. Another idea was to have postage stamps customized with pictures of the library on them and sell these for fund raising. It was suggested that the first thing we do is friend raise and then move on to fundraise. LEED certification was also mentioned - what if anything -can the Friends' do to assist in this endeavor?

**Friends' Newsletter:** Copies of the newly designed summer 2008 edition of the Friends' Newsletter were distributed to members highlighting the library move, accomplishments, happenings and much more. Copies are also available in the library.

Brunch refreshments were provided at the meeting.

Minutes taken by Kristine Derks