

# Illinois State University **Milner** *matters*

Newsletter for library science alums, librarians who are Illinois State graduates, retirees, and the friends of Milner Library

## Vice president for Academic Affairs and provost

On Saturdays, when her mother would drive into town for grocery shopping, the eight children were dropped off at the library with the expectation that they would scramble back into the car with an armload of books.

The Nebraska farm family didn't have any money for extras, but Margaret and Herman Everts always made sure their children had library cards that would allow them to pull books from the shelves of the city's Carnegie library.

Those visits made such an impression on Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost Sheri Everts that she started out teaching children's literature and still seeks out quiet space and a book when she has a few minutes.

"Libraries have always been vitally important in my life," she said. "Spending time there, turning the pages, for me, it's a signal to relax. Even if I only have 15 minutes, it's the place that I go to. I think of that Emily Dickinson poem, there is no frigate like a book. It's an opportunity to travel to other domains."

She started reading to her children before they were born and still gets the urge, even though they've left home.

"I read to them every day until they were quite old," she said, smiling. "I still try and do that but they're in college now so that's not something they allow much anymore."

Since joining Illinois State University in July, one of her responsibilities is overseeing Milner Library. When she interviewed here, she walked through the library. It was a welcoming place, easy to navigate and she particularly likes the clusters of overstuffed chairs and perimeter seating that encourage students and faculty to gather and talk, like Barnes & Noble.

"If a person hasn't been to a library in 20 years, she'd be astounded at how different it is," she said. "It may not be as quiet; the learning is noisier. There may be computer keys clicking in the background or conversations going on, but it's still learning."

One of the biggest challenges for libraries is offering virtual visitors the same resources and services as those who brush through the revolving doors but she believes Milner is there.

"Milner has done a wonderful job of moving and changing with that tide of growth. Serving digital natives, as well as the digital immigrants, like myself, is a daunting task, but one that Milner is well-positioned to do."

She also gave the library high marks for reaching out to the community, citing the lecture series and the Alexander Hamilton exhibit.



Sheri Noren Everts

"Milner has done a wonderful job of moving and changing with the tide of growth."

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**First home:** Geneva, Nebraska, grew up on a farm with seven siblings, all college graduates

**Parents:** Margaret and Herman Everts

**Why she has a catcher's mitt on her bookshelf:** It was her father's, who pitched on the St. Louis Browns farm team. She still remembers the thud of the baseball he'd throw against the encyclopedias all winter long.

**Accomplishments:** First-generation college graduate; began her career as a middle school and high school English teacher, held various positions at University of Nebraska-Omaha from 1994 to June 2008, including interim senior vice chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs; first female provost at Illinois State University

**Education:** Bachelor's degree in English and secondary education, master's in literacy education and English, Ph.D. in administration, curriculum, and instruction

**Spouse:** Jay Noren, president of Wayne State University in Detroit; between them they have four children

**Favorite book as a child:** *Nancy Drew, The Mystery of the 99 Steps*

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"I love what they're doing with the Alexander Hamilton exhibit. Not only do you have an actual place to go and things to read and do, but there are lectures and role-playing and a connection to local public libraries that's just marvelous. No matter how people learn or best connect to new information, they have it covered."

The provost doesn't see libraries closing their doors anytime soon.

"We'll always have libraries. They'll just change and grow as the 21st century demands. The use of technology in a library is and should be one of the centerpieces for how we combat the notion that libraries are a thing of the past. You hear people say everything's online and you can use your Kindle reader for books, but that misses an important aspect of the library being the center of the academy that it is. It is that information resource that people expect it to be, whether that's online or in a central location."

She is well aware of the physical challenges Milner faces and has been called during heavy rains when water was pouring in. When funding becomes available, Milner is high on the list.

"It is a priority," she said. "I know there are challenges with water. And I came from a campus where we had to mud jack the library for a number of years and used private funds to jack it back up and lay a concrete floor so it'd stop sinking. These are issues campuses around the country are dealing with as buildings age, but there are no dollars from the state to provide the upkeep for in essence state buildings."



Dean Cheryl Elzy

## Dean's column

Friends, colleagues, and alums—

Peppered through this issue of *Milner Matters*, you'll find evidence of something we don't talk about too much, but is always at Milner—research and scholarship.

Research, scholarship, publication, and presentation go on all of the time here at Milner as you would expect because it is what makes us faculty. It is one of the reasons we all became academic librarians and—no small matter—it is actually required of us by the University. So in this issue I want to highlight just a few of the projects that are underway to put the spotlight on our high-quality faculty and staff members who not only provide great reference service, teaching hundreds

of instruction sessions each year, and creating high quality print and electronic collections for our patrons—but create new knowledge through their research and share it with their colleagues through publication and presentation. I can't mention everything, but allow me to share a few.

In a very timely research project, Julie Derden (teaching material center) and Angela Bonnell (government documents) conducted mock elections here in Milner and in 30 surrounding schools. Resources about elections were provided, along with voting materials. More information about the project and results are available at [www.Library.ilstu.edu/page/1363](http://www.Library.ilstu.edu/page/1363).

Through the LSTA-funded Illinois Center for Information Literacy, Dane Ward (associate dean, public services) is working with a dedicated group of librarians and educators through the state to enhance the ability of Illinois students and citizens to find, evaluate, and use information in order to improve the quality of personal, professional, and community life.

Sarah Williams (science and technology), Chad Kahl (instruction services), Angie Bonnell (government documents), and Bruce Stoffel (reference services) conducted student focus groups regarding Search It, Milner's federated search engine, to learn about student use of Search It, their satisfaction, and how they'd suggest incorporating it into Milner's Web site more effectively.

Priscilla Matthews (cataloging) has several research projects in the pipeline, ranging from an index of mystery series characters in short stories, to a serials review index column every six months to the overlap of types of headings in our online catalog. Given that I'm not a cataloger, I'd suggest you contact Priscilla for more details on that last one!

Jean MacDonald (languages and literature) will soon have an article out with two of the librarians at Illinois Wesleyan on evaluating reference services from a student perspective with an eye to marketing strategies.

As you can see, interests and activities are many and varied. All of these and more serve to raise the campus and national profile of this great institution!

Research, scholarship, publication, and presentation go on all of the time here at Milner... because it is what makes us faculty.

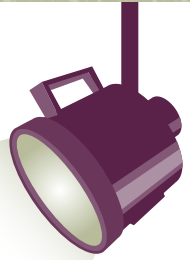
## Spotlight on government documents

Milner Library enjoys the distinction of being among the first libraries in the nation designated as a federal depository library.

In March 1858, when the University was less than a year old, Illinois representative Owen Lovejoy granted the University Library—at that time, a collection of fewer than 300 books—the honor of becoming an official depository for resources published by the Government Printing Office. We were one of only three Normal School libraries in the nation given this distinction. Today Milner serves as one of the oldest members in a network of approximately 1,250 federal depository libraries across the nation.

Depository libraries provide free local access to publications of public interest and educational value from all three branches of the federal government. Within an academic setting, the depository collection offers curriculum support for students and faculty in all disciplines. With the University's commitment to civic engagement via the American Democracy Project and Political Engagement Project, students take advantage of a wide variety of government publications. Recent popular items include reports assessing the Iraq war and the Mitchell Report investigating steroid use in Major League Baseball. Perennial favorites include the No Child Left Behind Act, government research on smoking, and demographic data from the Census Bureau.

After 150 years Milner's depository collection consists of over a million titles. Within the last decade, access to government information has expanded to provide anytime/anywhere access to more than 30,000 government titles available full-text through our catalog. We welcome all from the campus and community to browse our historic and current resources online or on the 4th floor. Please call (309) 438-2354 for assistance.



## Inside Milner

### Retirements

**George Palmer** retired in August. He served as the business librarian for many years.

**Pat Werdell** retired on October 31 after 22 years of service in the Access Services Department. She worked in a variety of jobs including circulation, reserve, and finally in Interlibrary Loan Lending.

**Corine Kinsolving** retired in December after 31 years at Milner Library with 25 of those years in the Bibliographic Services Department.

### New employees

**Ross Griffiths** has joined the library as preservation librarian. He has an MLIS from University of Pittsburg and a B.A. in history from Temple University.

**Maria Hertel** is working in the Learning Resource Center. She is mainly working with Teaching Material Center (TMC) items.

**Liz Ritter '08** has been hired to work in Interlibrary Loan Lending. She worked as a student worker for four years while getting her undergraduate degree in animal science.

### Accomplishments

**Angela Bonnell** presented "Every Vote Counts Campaign at Milner Library" at the annual American Library Association annual preconference, Got Elections: Informing the Public, in Anaheim, California.

**Kate James** presented the poster "The Art of Collaboration: Creating an Effective Workflow for a Digital Project" at the 13th Online Audiovisual Catalogers biennial conference in Cleveland, and was a panelist for "You Are Not Alone: Digital Projects in Illinois" at the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois forum in Chicago.

**Kathleen Lonbom** presented "Global Perspectives: A Celebration of Children's Art and Imagination" at the World Library and Information Congress: 74th International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions conference and council in Quebec.

**Julie Murphy** and **Julie Derden** presented the poster session "Prepared to Partner?: A Survey of New Teacher Preparedness to Utilize School Librarians and Media Centers" at the American Library Association's annual conference in Anaheim, California.

**Ted Schwitznier** and **Sandy Roe** presented "Periodical Holdings Going in New Directions: Checking, Changing, and Cleaning Serial Holdings in a Physical Reorganization Project," and Schwitznier presented "Complex Publication Patterns Theory and Practice" at the Ex Libris Users of North America conference in Long Beach, California. Schwitznier also presented "MARC Holdings Conversion: Now That We're Here, What Do We Do?" at the North American Serials Interest Group Conference in Phoenix.

## Meet Barbara Todd

Although I have been a part of Illinois' first public university since my freshman year in 1976, I must confess to having known little about our wonderful resource known as Milner Library. Through the years I have studied there, checked out books, slept in the comfy chairs (as a student not as an employee), and used other resources available to students and faculty/staff. Little did I know that I was just scratching the surface.

Since assuming the responsibilities of a development officer for Milner, I have grown in my knowledge, expanded my personal horizons, and met many wonderful people. I have learned the history of the library, "met" Abe Lincoln and Alexander Hamilton, visited the special collections, and spent time with many wonderful people. Did I already mention the wonderful people? Sorry...it is worth repeating.

One of the most rewarding aspects of my job is to connect people with passions they have. There are many people passionate about Milner Library. In the past few months, I have worked with donors on three different endowment funds that will support their Milner passions well into our University's future.

The Eunice Speer fund, although established several decades ago, is now supporting librarians who need to complete certification for school library positions. The Kate Charles fund was established to honor this internationally known author and Illinois State Library Science alumnus Carol (Fosher) Chase. When fully endowed, it will support visiting mystery writers, as well as purchase books and materials. An anonymous donor has established a fund that will allow Milner and its staff to continue to be national leaders in library issues. Anyone may contribute to any of these funds.

My work on these funds and with these donors has been a joy. What's your Milner Library passion and how can I help connect you?

Barbara Todd , Executive director of internal campaigns, (309) 438-2592 or [bttodd@ilstu.edu](mailto:bttodd@ilstu.edu).

## Tidbits

### Eunice H. Speer Scholarship Awarded

Vicki Hall has been awarded the Eunice H. Speer Scholarship for the 2008 fall semester. Vicki is an elementary school librarian for five schools in Springfield. The scholarship is awarded to a current or potential student to take required coursework at Illinois State for the library information specialist endorsement. Vicki completed four classes in the program when she was awarded the scholarship. Her future plans are to include the library information specialist coursework towards a master's in curriculum and instruction.

"I am excited to have been chosen as Illinois State University's Eunice H. Speer Scholarship award recipient for the fall semester of 2008! The award is especially meaningful to me because I am the first recipient for the award in nearly twenty years. The knowledge I have gained through my library information specialist classes at Illinois State University has prepared me for working with the students, staff, administration, and parents in my school district, Springfield Public Schools #186" Vicki said.

### Fire it Up

The homecoming theme this year was "Fire It Up," and that is just what Milner Library did. The library took second place in the campus decorating contest with bears being shot out of cannons in the library's entrance way (the Redbirds played the Missouri Bears). Milner's walking entry in the parade took, first place once again. Twenty-four Milner student workers, volunteers, and librarians donned aprons and chefs hats shouting "BBQ THE BEARS!" while roasting skewered stuffed bears over a tissue paper fire. Illinois State pride truly "Fired Up" our students, faculty, and staff to create a fun and spirited homecoming 2008!

### Illinois School Library Media Association (ISLMA) Reception

Over seventy school librarians attended the 2008 Illinois State University Alumni Reception at the ISLMA conference on November 7. As the PowerPoint rolled with news about Illinois State, folks gathered in groups to reminisce about the past and share what is happening in their lives both professionally and personally. Old friends reconnected and new friends were made.

## LSTA Grants awarded

### Imagine Illinois and Beyond: Celebrating creativity through the eyes of our children!

Milner Library has been awarded funding from the Illinois State Library to create digital images of artworks from the International Collection of Child Art (ICCA), a resource of the Library's Special Collections. Digitizing this collection of graphically exciting artworks from the children of Illinois, the United States, and more than 50 countries and cultures will provide global electronic access to the imaginative vision that shapes a child's creative pursuits. The digitization project will serve as a gateway for students, educators, researchers, and the public at large who are interested in viewing and learning about the inventive and inspiring perspectives that young artists bring to our world.

The ICCA includes over 8,600 pieces of art from more than 50 countries and cultures. F. Louis Hoover, Illinois State distinguished professor of art emeritus and former University Museum director, initiated the original children's art collection in the 1960s. Under the developmental direction of Barry Moore, emeritus professor of art, the resource of children's artworks grew to include the work of young artists from other countries. The digital conversion of the ICCA will provide global access allowing this multicultural resource to be broadly shared, appreciated, and studied. Digitizing the children's original artwork will provide rich primary sources to students, researchers, educators, and the public at large, collectively enhancing viewers' knowledge of children and their creativity.

Kathleen C. Lonbom, art librarian and director of the ICCA, applied for a Library Services and Technology Act grant in the spring and recently learned that \$85,934 has been awarded to Milner Library to fund the project. Funding for the grant was awarded by the Illinois State Library, a division of the Office of Secretary of State, using funds provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the federal Library Services and Technology Act.

The International Collection of Child Art includes over 8,600 pieces of art from more than 50 countries and cultures.

### Batching it: Updated and expanded local serial holdings data in OCLC

Sandy Roe, serials librarian, was awarded grant funding through the Library Services and Technology Act to identify and implement steps that will bring Milner Library's print and electronic serial holdings records into compliance with the OCLC specifications for batch processing local holdings records. Batch processing will enable Milner Library to enter and maintain local holdings data once in Voyager, and upload the data through OCLC's local holdings record updating service, reducing the amount of staff time currently committed to data entry for serial holdings. The grant will also allow Milner to put its electronic serials holdings information into OCLC for the first time, which in turn will support initiatives such as Interlibrary Loan and collection comparison and analysis.

## Alumni update

**Vivian L. Chandler '72** is now a retired librarian. She said she was happy to receive *Milner Matters* as she spent a lot of time in the old Milner Library. Chandler went on to say that Eunice Speer and Jean Nelson were her two favorite people at Illinois State University. From their training she was a school, college, and public librarian for 30 years. Chandler loved her years as a librarian and credits Speer and Nelson.

**Marcia Lemon Brandt '81** is the library media specialist at Herscher CUSD #2. Congratulations are in order as she completed her master's degree in library and information science from University of Illinois in May 2008. Brandt's youngest son is currently a freshman at Illinois State University. He is the third generation to attend Illinois State.

## Alumni news

We welcome updates from alumni for *Milner Matters*. Please fill out this form and return it to Illinois State University, Milner Library, Alumni News, Campus Box 8900, Normal, IL 61790-8900, or e-mail to [ttucker@IllinoisState.edu](mailto:ttucker@IllinoisState.edu).

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NAME (MAIDEN NAME IF APPLICABLE)

CLASS YEAR

TELEPHONE

E-MAIL

---

MAILING ADDRESS

---

PRESENT OCCUPATION/EMPLOYER

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NEWS/COMMENTS

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Thank you for sharing your news with other alumni.



## 2009 spring events

Please join us for any and all events sponsored by Milner Library. For additional information visit our Web site at [www.Library.ilstu.edu](http://www.Library.ilstu.edu) or contact Toni Tucker at (309) 438-7402 or [ttucker@IllinoisState.edu](mailto:ttucker@IllinoisState.edu).

## Upcoming events

*All events are free and open to the public.*

### February 17

"Meeting the Lincolns:  
Adventures in Nonfiction"  
Young adult and children's  
author Candace Fleming

February 17

7 p.m.

Circus Room, Bone Student Center

### April 1

Edible Book Festival  
11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Main Floor, Milner Library

### April 2

"Measure Him by the Sentiment  
of His Country: Abraham Lincoln,  
Fredrick Douglass, and the Triumph  
of Antislavery Politics"

James Oakes, Lincoln scholar

2 p.m.

Main Floor, Milner Library

### April 9

"Democracy Remembered: Abraham Lincoln,  
Jesse Fell and the Stevensons"

Adlai Stevenson III

2:00 p.m.

Main Floor, Milner Library

### April 30

Research roundtable: An exhibit  
of recent scholarly works by  
Milner librarians and staff

1 p.m.

Old Main, Bone Student Center

### April 30

Bryant Jackson lectureship  
featuring Gloria Cronin

"A Modernist's Dilemma:

Saul Bellow and His Junk Philosophers

Re-calling God"

2 p.m.

Old Main, Bone Student Center

