Friends Corner
Southern Oregon University/Friends of Hannon Library

The Friends of Hannon Library Board has had a productive year. Several series of PSA's (Public Service Announcements) have aired on Ashland Fiber Network (AFN) and Charter Communications to announce Hannon Library events. The first PSA aired in November and was revised twice over winter term. A new revision will announce the annual benefit event, Experience Shakespeare. The Friends are excited about this year’s event, scheduled for May 1. To find out more about the benefit, please read the front page article.

Based on an inquiry from a prospective Friend of Hannon Library, a new category of “Lifetime Membership” was added to member categories. These and other measures aimed at building the Friends membership are paying off. Membership has increased 8 percent since September 2015.

During winter term, there were three programs in the Friends Library Lecture Series. At a well-attended slide lecture on January 19, 2016, Anne and Keith Chambers provided fascinating glimpses of the Namaqua stoll community of the Pacific nation of Tavola. After the lecture titled “Rising Water, Sinking Culture: Challenges Facing a Pacific Andol Nation,” the anthropologists fielded questions about Tavola culture from a rapt audience.

More than ninety people attended the William Stafford Birthday Event on the evening of January 27. The audience was enthralled by readings from local ports such as Doré Appel, Anna Beauchamp, Lowren Inada, Michael Jenkins, Minta Miles-Kubota, Richard Meorschl, and Vince Wixon. This commemoration of the beloved poet laureate was cosponsored by the Friends of William Stafford.


The SOU Friends of Hannon Library is a membership organization that was established in 1975. The Friends are committed to improving the Hannon Library collections and resources. Membership includes library privileges, participation in a series of evening talks, the opportunity to associate with fellow bibliophiles, and the satisfaction of supporting Hannon Library. Call 541-552-6441 for information about upcoming events or to become a Friends member.
Library Acquires Valuable Miller Collection

In December, Brian G. Booth of Portland gave Hannon Library a collection of Joaquin Miller materials. The collection contains first-edition, signed works by Miller, literary criticisms, and other items, including postcards of Miller’s homes, a photograph portrait with a signed letter, one of Miller’s business cards with a handwritten note, and an envelope addressed by Miller. Joaquin Miller, who has been deemed the first poet laureate of the American West and the father of the Sierra Nevada, lived in gold-mining camps and later with Native Americans until his death in 1913. He was an express rider, journalist, and gold miner, as well as an Oregon county judge. His early volumes of poems, Spwem (1868), Joaquin (1869), and Saga of the Sierras (1871) portrayed frontier life and received local, national, and international acclaim. Joaquin Miller went on to publish nearly forty books, many of which were republished multiple times. The Joaquin Miller collection acquired by Hannon Library is focused on books and materials written during the first two decades of a regional specificity, specifically southern Oregon and northern California. This gift, Hannon Library now possesses a preeminent collection of Joaquin Miller materials, which is the second largest in the state.

Hannon Library has scanned and mounted full-text digital editions of two Joaquin Miller works, Unwritten History: Life among the Mines (1875) and Paquita, the Indian Gipsy (1885) as part of the Southern Oregon Digital Archives project. Scanning and adding more Miller works from the new collection is a priority for the future.

This new collection of Joaquin Miller materials is currently being processed and will be available in Hannon Library’s Special Collections. Researchers will be able to use these materials under supervision.

Other Significant Materials Received

Hannon Library has received several important gifts since our last newsletter. Southern Oregon Public Television’s television program Hannon Library’s DVD 21: Art 21 and the companion hardcover book to this series, which features eighteen contemporary artists. The Southern Oregon Central Labor Council donated two DVDs on current topics, The Man Model and Mall-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price, and the companion hardcover book to this series, which features eighteen contemporary artists. The Southern Oregon Central Labor Council donated two DVDs on current topics, The Man Model and Mall-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price, and the companion hardcover book to this series, which features eighteen contemporary artists.

The Center staff currently includes Director Kay Saggmiller and Curriculum Specialists Hart Wilson and Laura Young. Faculty can utilize their expertise in identifying, evaluating, and disseminating resources, networking, and organizing extensive professional development activities. The center staff currently includes Director Kay Saggmiller and Curriculum Specialists Hart Wilson and Laura Young. Faculty can utilize their expertise in identifying, evaluating, and disseminating resources, networking, and organizing extensive professional development activities.

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