

Friends of Morris Library

Activity Report

1. In 2010 the Friends began a program to award grants of \$1,000 or less to support special projects proposed by the faculty and staff of the Library. To date we have funded the following programs or projects:
 - *Against the Odds: Making a Difference in Global Health*, a traveling exhibit from the National Library of Medicine.
 - Purchased an Ipad for librarians to use when visiting with faculty off site and as the RoverDawg Librarian.
 - Edible Book Festival
 - Drive by Press
 - Illinois State Historical Society Symposium: *Scared Oaths and Shallow Graves: Illinois and the Civil War, Part I*
 - Remembering Old Main
 - Celebrating the Constitution
 - Remembering the Orient #2 Mine Disaster
 - Traveling exhibit
 - Seminar and exhibit in Morris Library
2. The Friends underwrote the restoration of the frame for the portrait of Abraham Lincoln by Alban J. Conant.
3. Friends of Morris Library joined with the faculty and staff to bring to fruition a patio at the southeast corner of Morris Library. The innovative design features artifacts from Old Main and the Normal Building. The Friends were instrumental in raising over \$121,000 from alumni, current and retired SIUC faculty and staff, businesses, and area residents. The patio was dedicated in October 2010.
4. The ongoing Honest Abe book initiative gives people an opportunity to add books to their own collections for a suggested donation. The funds support Morris Library projects. In fiscal year 2011 the sale raised \$1,106.21.
5. The annual Gala Dinner is held in the Hall of Presidents and Chancellors. With the continuing support of corporate and individual sponsors, the dinner is becoming an effective fundraising event for the Friends. In fiscal year 2010 the dinner raised over \$5,000 to support the activities of the organization.
6. The Delta Award recognizes authors who are from, or have written about, southern Illinois. Recent recipients are:
 - 2010 Jeff Biggers, *Reckoning at Eagle Creek: The Secret Legacy of Coal in the Heartland*.
 - 2009 John Griswold, *A Democracy of Ghosts* and Gordon Pruett, founder of Crossfire Press and former editor of SIU Press' Shawnee Classics series.
 - 2008 James Ballowe, southern Illinois native, poet and author and Taylor Pensoneau, *Brothers Notorious: The Sheltons, Southern Illinois' Legendary Gangsters*.
7. For the first time the Friends of Morris Library has a brochure soliciting membership and outlining the benefits of joining the organization.