



## INSIDE ARTHURLAKES LIBRARY COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES

### 2012 Faculty and Staff Philanthropy Award Winner: Library Director, Joni Lerud-Heck

At the Mines Century Society Dinner this past September, Arthur Lakes Library Director Joni Lerud-Heck, received the Faculty and Staff Philanthropy Award for 2012. This award is bestowed on faculty or staff members who demonstrate outstanding volunteer and philanthropic commitment to the Colorado School of Mines and its mission. According to the selection committee, “Joni and her husband, Tom Heck support a variety of different initiatives on campus, but much of their focus is on helping to sustain the resources provided to Arthur Lakes Library while modernizing the space and building a 21st century library for today’s Mines student.” In addition, Joni and Tom have supported faculty chairs, scholarships and fellowships for students as well as Library special collections such as the Russell and Lyn Wood Mining History Archive and Center for Ropeway Studies.

Joni has engaged in philanthropic activities at Mines nearly every year since her appointment as Library Director in 1989 and has been a member of the President’s Council for the past 16 years. Joni’s devotion and generosity toward modernizing and expanding the Library’s space and resources has served as a sterling example to others. As current Mines geology student Alex Borchert noted at the award presentation, “Joni asked me to represent the undergraduate class at a panel to evaluate renovations to the library and the amount of work and commitment she put into those meetings really showed me what being passionate about your job means.”

Joni’s passion for libraries and the geosciences is reflected in her academic and professional career. After completing a Bachelor’s and Master’s degree in Geology from the University of North Dakota, she earned a Master’s degree in Librarianship at the University of Denver in 1979. After working in private industry, she became Director of the



*Congratulations to Joni Lerud-Heck,  
Library Director.*

Library at Montana College of Mineral Science and Technology, then Director of the Arthur Lakes Library in 1989. In 2003, Joni received the Peter Schmidt Award from the Frieberg Mining Academy for support and recognition of cultural heritage in mining, metallurgy and geoscience libraries and was awarded the Arthur Gray Leonard Medal from her alma mater, the University of North Dakota for her professional accomplishments in 2007. Joni is active in professional organizations such as the National Geoscience Information Society, the Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries and the American Library Association.

Recipients of the Faculty and Staff Philanthropy Award are presented with a limited edition copy of the intaglio print “Colorado School of Mines Peak”, a mountain named for the school near Berthoud Pass. Like the soaring Rocky Mountains, Joni’s dedication to the Arthur Lakes Library and Colorado School of Mines will continue to awe and inspire students, faculty and alumni in the years ahead.



First Concert,  
CSM String Quartet,  
November 14, 2003

# library arts & culture

## Concerts in the Library Series Showcases Mines Artists

From string quartets to barbershop groups and alternative rockers to belly dancers, the popular Concerts in the Library series has entertained audiences for many years. Audiences are invited to bring a brown bag lunch and enjoy the performances ranging from bagpipers, mandolin orchestras, poetry readings and Mines Little Theatre previews. Held in the Library's Boettcher Room, concerts are scheduled on select Fridays from noon to 1:00 pm during the academic year. Through a generous donation from Rod McNeill, University Advancement, the Concert series has provided cold beverages at every concert for audience members.

The Concert series is the brainchild of the Library Director, Joni Lerud-Heck who envisioned the series as a supportive outreach program to the campus community. According to Lerud-Heck, "The concert series was put into place as part of an effort to increase the Library's relevance to those who use it. In particular, I wanted the students to feel as though it belonged to them."

And belong to them, it does. Since the inaugural concert in 2003, the concert series has featured performing artists from the Mines community including faculty, staff and student performers. Over the years, the Mines Music program has shared its student performance groups with the Concert series including the Flute Choir, CSM Harmonic and Melodic Miners, CSM Trombone Choir, Miner Key Brass, and the CSM Chamber Singers. Faculty and staff performers include cowboy poet and musician Electronics Specialist Rex Rideout, Mines Music Director Rober Klimek; violinist and Engineering



CSM Trombone Choir, December 4, 2009

Professor Cathy Skokan, and classic rock guitarist and Chemistry Lecturer Rob Racicot, who played to a record-setting audience of 102. Student performers have included bagpiper Ryan Balchuck, singer/songwriter Trent Woodbury and alternative bands such as Mine is Clarence and The Dots.

Last April, the Mines campus hosted the first artistic conference (ArtiST) for science and technology universities. At a special Concerts in the Library presentation sponsored by Liberal Arts and International Studies Teaching Professor Toni Lefton, conference attendees read poetry from the participating universities' literary journals including MIT, Georgia Tech and Mines.

As the popularity of the Concerts series increases and the same venue is used for instruction and meeting space, plans to move the collections out of the Boettcher Room will allow us to make this room an attractive and versatile space for these events. Your contributions will move us closer to this goal.

# vision committee

## The Path Forward: Reimagining Arthur Lakes Library

How can academic libraries retain the highest level of relevance? What is the path ahead for Arthur Lakes Library as the Colorado School of Mines and libraries in general undergo changes? How should the staff of the Library direct its energies toward providing the best information services for Mines faculty, staff, and students?

The Arthur Lakes Library Vision Committee formed in September 2011 to address these questions and identify a path forward for the Library. Consisting of seven members, the committee was represented by many areas of the Library: Sherry Muniz from Interlibrary Loan, Lisa Nickum from Government Publications, Wendy Shortridge and Lia Vella from Public Services and Reference, Laura Guy from Systems/Technology, Christine Baker from Collection Management, and Margaret Katz from Preservation and Special Collections. Together, these seven committee members produced a 30-page white paper entitled "The Path Forward: Reimagining Arthur Lakes Library."

In order to gain a full understanding of the current situation in academic libraries today, the committee undertook an ambitious survey of the literature on libraries, which expanded to include information on information technologies as well as innovation in higher education, business, and other fields. During this stage, we were fortunate to have Carl Grant pay us a visit. A library consultant and educator, Carl presented a talk, "What Should Be the Future of Libraries?" and sat down with the Vision Committee for several hours, addressing our questions. Carl's insights were crucial in emphasizing to the committee the importance of the Mines mission statement to the Library's goals, as well as identifying the Library staff's core values and core competencies.

The insights gleaned from the literature review formed Part 1 of the Vision document, and from this snapshot evolved Part 2, which portrays our vision for the future of Arthur Lakes Library. Part 3 offers a list of recommendations.

So, what did the committee find? Many of our "discoveries" and corresponding recommendations were not a surprise.

- As information becomes more available electronically, library users prefer digital to print format
- Flexible, tech-friendly study space is in high demand at most academic libraries



Vision Committee 2011-12, Front Row, L to R: L. Vella, L. Nickum, S. Muniz. Back Row, L to R: W. Shortridge, C. Baker, L. Guy Not pictured: M. Katz

- Users want to find and access information on their own, in a seamless manner, at any time of day or night
- Librarians can maximize their efforts by going outside traditional library space to reach students and other users, and by collaborating with other relevant parties
- User-centered service orientation is becoming increasingly important for all library staff
- Library leadership and management can help make the library staff's work more visible to campus administration and encourage a culture of innovation within the library
- Librarians should leverage previously underutilized strengths in areas such as digital access to special collections, research data curation, and copyright expertise

The energy and ideas generated within Vision Committee meetings and several all-staff gatherings have already led to the beginning of a change. Over the summer, Reference and Public Services staff teamed up with Collection Management to propose and begin a project to create more student study space by "right-sizing" and rearranging the print collection.

What should be the future of Arthur Lakes Library? The Vision document is only the starting point in the process of the Library's path ahead. We hope that it will serve as a touchstone for the many discussions, plans, initiatives, and projects to come.

# Generous Gifts

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Thank You!

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