The University of Minnesota Duluth Library will announce winners of the 23rd annual Northeastern Minnesota Book Awards (NEMBA) in an evening celebration on May 19, 2011, in UMD’s Kirby Ballroom. Children’s book author Mary Casanova, of Ranier, Minnesota, will be the keynote speaker.

Forty-nine books are competing in five categories (1) General Nonfiction, (2) Fiction, (3) Children's Literature, (4) Poetry, and (5) Memoir and Creative Nonfiction, for the honor of being selected as the best books published in 2010 that substantially represent northeastern Minnesota in the areas of history, culture, heritage, or lifestyle.

Winning authors in each category will receive a cash prize of $200. The authors of winning books and those chosen for honorable mention will receive a glass plaque as well as 150 NEMBA book seals.

The free community event will kick off at 5 p.m. with a book fair and dessert reception. Barton Sutter, Duluth’s first Poet Laureate, will emcee the formal program beginning at 6:30, featuring best-selling children’s book author Mary Casanova as guest speaker.

Casanova is no stranger to book awards. She has written 19 novels and picture books, earning the American Library Association’s "Notable" designation, “Aesop Accolades” from the American Folklore Society, Parents' Choice "Gold" Award, Booklist “Editor Choice,” and two Minnesota Book Awards. Her books have also been recommended on children's book master lists across the country.

"The greatest reward for me," Casanova said, "is when a young reader tells me she or he loves one of my books. For me, it’s all about communicating writer-to-reader through a character and story." Mary’s life on the Minnesota-Canadian border and her travels have provided the material and inspiration for many of her books. She makes her home in a 100-year-old house on Rainy Lake with her husband, Charles, and their three "above average" dogs and their horses, Jay and Midnight.

NEMBA is presented by the UMD Library with financial support from Friends of the Duluth Public Library and Lake Superior Writers. No reservations are required. For more information, go to the NEMBA Web site at www.d.umn.edu/lib/nemba/index.htm or call 218-726-7889.

SEE NOMINATED TITLES LIST AT
Lake Superior Writers and the UMD Library present
A NEMBA Writing Workshop
with
Best-Selling Children’s Author Mary Casanova

Wednesday, May 18
6:30-8:30 pm

UMD Library
4th floor Rotunda
Duluth, MN

To register, email Charlene@clovervalleypress.com
or call 218-525-4552

NEMBA Keynote Speaker to Lead Writing Workshop

Lake Superior Writers and the UMD Library will present a writing workshop featuring best-selling children’s author Mary Casanova the evening before her keynote address at the 23rd annual Northeastern Minnesota Book Awards (NEMBA). Casanova will lead the writing workshop in the rotunda reading room at the UMD Library from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 18.

Mary Casanova is best known for her Dog Watch series and the Chrissa (American Girl) series, as well as many other notable children’s books. She won the 2009 Moonbeam Children’s Book Award for pre-teen fiction and the 2010 George Morrison Artist Award for her creative contributions to the genre of Young Adult Literature, often celebrating northern Minnesota in her works.

About writing specifically for children, Casanova said, “If it’s true that writers should ‘write to express, not to impress,’ then nowhere is this more important than in writing for children. They are the toughest critics, demanding first and foremost a good story.”

Lake Superior Writers is a financial supporter of NEMBA and has for the past several years coordinated a writing workshop presented by the NEMBA keynote speaker.

Registration for the writing workshop is required. The fee is $35 for Lake Superior Writers members and $40 for nonmembers. Contact Charlene Brown (Charlene@clovervalleypress.com or 218-525-4552) to save your place.
Business Research Launch Pad — Relaunched

After many years of growth, Reference Librarian Jim Vileta’s Business Research Launch Pad at http://www.d.umn.edu/~jvileta has been revised and “relaunched.” The new site contains over 400 subsections and 20,000 links, bringing together UMD Library resources and web-based business sources in one place, organized to foster research.

Over the past 15 years, the site has played a central role in Vileta’s outreach and work with UMD’s business and economics faculty and students. According to Professor Stephen Castleberry, Sr., “The site organizes an overwhelming amount of information in one place in a very user-friendly way. Everything you want is there. I link to it from my own site and list it on class syllabi. In fact, the American Marketing Association selected it for its award recognizing the best marketing site in the world.”

This year, the Launch Pad moved to a CSS design without frames, providing a more professional and consistent look. “It was a big project, with so many pages to be revised and many new pages to construct,” said Vileta.

UMD’s Labovitz School of Business and Economics considered the award-winning site to be so essential that it provided a grant as well as technical assistance to support the redesign. The library’s systems team and student employee Paul Gearring also provided crucial assistance. Hundreds of hours of labor went into the project.

Vileta is very happy with the new look and believes that it makes the site easier for students and faculty to use. He encourages students, faculty, and staff to climb on board and prepare for lift-off!
Memo from the Director

You may have read that the Duluth Public Library has removed VHS videotapes from its collection, and you may be wondering if the UMD Library is going down a similar path. Well, the simple answer is yes, but we will be doing it more gradually.

We have not been actively adding videotapes for some time. We have primarily been purchasing DVDs, or when possible, making licensing arrangements for digital streaming. Nevertheless, the library has 6,798 VHS videotapes in its collection. In the last twelve months, we have had 1,010 circulations. So our figures suggest that faculty members are less reliant on VHS videotape for use in the classroom and as reserve assignments.

Videotape usage in campus classrooms will become more problematic as equipment becomes harder to acquire. For the most part, we expect that UMD’s Information Technology Systems and Services will have videotape players in classrooms during the upcoming academic year. After next year, we expect that faculty who want to use a videotape in class will need to check out a system from ITSS and wheel it to the classroom. With that in mind, the UMD Library will develop a VHS videotape replacement strategy.

From a financial standpoint, we know that we would be unable to replace 6,798 tapes. Even if we had the necessary resources, we wouldn’t do it because many of these titles have not circulated for many years. However, we will identify which titles have been actively used over the last few years, and our librarians will work with faculty in their assigned campus departments to determine the priorities for replacement. We recognize that there may be some needed videotape titles that don’t have a DVD version or streaming alternative. If that is the case, we will retain the videotape.

So be assured that no matter what future video technology emerges, the UMD Library is committed to making sure that faculty have the necessary video materials to support their classes.
Student Employee Appreciation

The contributions of student employees were celebrated by the UMD Library during National Student Employment Week, April 11–15.

This year, students were treated to the popular “sandwich day” mid-week. Each student employee was invited to choose a sub sandwich for lunch.

On Friday, staff joined student employees in an after-hours barbecue, and the more courageous students competed in a gameshow called “Who Wants to Be a Tenaire?” designed by Sunshine Carter and Rory Litwin.

Try Our Chairs – We’re Experimenting!

Have you noticed the odd assortment of study chairs in the library’s second floor learning commons area? We’re experimenting! You’ll find various types of furnishings, designed to be reconfigured for use by study groups as needed.

The chairs in the area are samples for you to try. Please let us know which you find to be most comfortable for study by completing an online survey at http://z.umn.edu/chairs.

Once a chair type is selected, it will be ordered in colors and fabrics that complement the library’s décor. Depending on the cost, the UMD Library expects to purchase four to six chairs of each style selected, for a total of approximately twelve to eighteen new chairs.
Staff Profile: Paul Hanson

Interlibrary Loan Lending and Document Delivery Specialist Paul Hanson does many tasks at the library on a daily basis, such as supervising the circulation desk, shelving materials, maintaining monograph and periodical stacks, troubleshooting circulation desk computers, as well as managing interlibrary loan retrieval and lending.

Paul began employment at the library in 1989 after previously working with video and sound media for the Duluth School District, but he wasn’t a newcomer here even then. He had completed his bachelor’s degree at UMD.

Recently, Paul added responsibility for “Get It” to his repertoire of duties. Get It! provides system-wide paging and direct lending of materials among University of Minnesota libraries.

Patrons are catching on to the fact that they can perform research, discover materials, and request them online. Within a very short time, the items are pulled and delivered to the desired U of M circulation service point.

“Get It allows students and faculty to collect research materials quickly — usually within two days locally and three days statewide. As more patrons become aware of the service, its popularity increases,” said Hanson.

Preliminary Get It statistics show that UMD Library fulfilled almost 200 Get It requests in November 2010, and that number has steadily increased, exceeding 500 item requests in March.

When not keeping up with Get It requests or working on other projects at the library, Paul enjoys reading science fiction, political and social issue nonfiction, and books about birding, plants, and gardening. He also enjoys watching science fiction videos; astronomy, anthropological, and feature films; as well as political and social issue documentaries. He listens to rock, blue-grass, jazz, folk, alternative, country, and ambient music. His hobbies include garden sculpting, hiking, and playing guitar.

Paul was honored with a UMD Outstanding Service Award in 2000 for his contributions to the Library Building Move project, and in 2008 he earned the Director’s Award for Contributions to the Duluth Community from the Duluth AFL-CIO Community Services Committee, United Way of Greater Duluth.

One of his most memorable experiences was the opportunity to visit with the late Senator Paul Wellstone in his office the day that Wellstone voted against sanctioning action against Iraq back in 2002, just days before he died in a plane accident.

“He was exhausted from defending his decision on the Senate floor and with the media, yet took the time to...
Looking for Old Duluth Newspapers?

Staff of the Northeast Minnesota Historical Center (NEMHC), located in the Library Annex, have published an online library guide that details historical Duluth newspapers available on microfilm in the UMD Library.


The new guide is also linked from the NEMHC home page http://libguides.d.umn.edu/nemhc in the Resources box.

STAFF NEWS


The annual Minnesota Library Association Conference (MLA) will be held in Duluth October 12-14, 2011. Reference Librarian Jodi Carlson Grebinoski and Duluth Public Librarian Julie Kapke are co-chairing the local arrangements committee.

Reference Librarian Pam Enrici was elected to a second three-year term as a CAPA (Council of Academic Professionals and Administrators) Senator. Pam will continue to help represent the views of the Academic P & A class of employees in the University of Minnesota’s Academic Senate.

Systems Team member Dan Filipiak left his library position for one in the School of Pharmacy (Duluth). During his time at the library, Dan helped with creative solutions such as the digital sign, RSS feeds, MyU - MyAccount, and more. We will miss him greatly. The good news is that he will still be on campus. Dan's last official day at the UMD Library was February 8, 2011.

Computer Systems Specialist Doreen Hansen attended the Library Technology Conference March 16-17 at Macalester College in St. Paul. The conference included sixty sessions as well as a “technology petting zoo” and poster sessions. Doreen presented a poster session on the UMD Library digital sign project.

In January, Reference Librarian Rory Litwin presented an IS Colloquium at the UCLA Graduate School of Education & Information Studies. He talked about his endeavors as a small press publisher with Litwin Books and Library Juice Press in the context of a longer tradition of independent and progressive publishing in the library arena. Litwin has published 27 books on library-related topics since 2006.

Multimedia Hub & TechCenter Join Library Automated Circulation

The next time you check out equipment from the Multimedia Hub on the library’s second floor or from the TechCenter in 165 Kirby Plaza, the loan will become part of your library account.

This should make it easier for borrowers as well as staff to keep track of due dates and future bookings.

Call 726-6087 for the Hub and 726-6222 for TechCenter assistance.
UMD Library Hours

Spring Finals Week
May 7 - 13, 2011
Saturday, May 7 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 8 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 a.m.
Monday-Thursday, May 9-12 7:30 a.m. - 2:00 a.m.
Friday, May 13 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Summer Hours
May 16-July 29, 2011
Monday-Thursday 7:30 a.m.-9 p.m.
Friday 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Sunday Noon-5:00 p.m.
Saturday-Sunday, May 14-15 CLOSED
Monday, May 30 CLOSED
Monday, July 4 CLOSED