Friends of the Lyon College Mabee-Simpson Library

3rd Annual Chili Supper Anything but Mild

An impressive array of chilis and soups, auctions items, live entertainment, and a packed house characterized the Friends of the Library’s 3rd Annual Chili and Soup Supper. The Friends raised $1,676.75, which will be used to support Lyon's Mabee-Simpson Library.

In a blind tasting by Batesville Mayor Rick Elumbaugh; David Heringer, Vice President of Administration; and exchange student Marie Laurent Urquidez, “Just Chili” by Tonya Clapp won the mild category, and “Voodoo Chili” by Kenton Adler won the spicy category. Judy Blackwell prevailed in the soup category, winning a copy of The New England Soup Factory Cookbook for her mouth-watering “Chicken & Vegetable Soup.” In addition to the nearly two dozen chilis and soups on hand, a bake sale table offered homemade breads, cookies and other desserts. Library supporters came hungry and left satisfied.

Lucky auction winners took home big ticket items, including an Xbox 360, two Kindles, a Kingston electric guitar, a Vince Lombardi plaque with an autographed card, and a $100 Heuer's shoe store gift certificate. The Xbox and Kindles were purchased thanks to generous donations from Citizens and First Community banks, and the guitar was donated by All-Star Music. Other happy winners received a dinner for six cooked by Hope Spragins, a cheesecake from Nancy McSpadden, original artwork, pottery, and hand-knitted scarves and blankets.

Thanks to everyone who helped make the evening a success, from the library staff, to Kenton Adler and his ear-pleasing guitar, to the many silent auction and bake sale donors, and most importantly, to the diverse crowd of library-supporters who turned out for this annual event.

Let's Stay Friends: 2012 Memberships

The holidays are a time for friendship and camaraderie! In the spirit of the season, we invite you to renew your membership with the Friends of the Library. In addition to renewing your own membership, consider a gift membership for a friend or family member. Friends of the Library members have access to the library’s rich assortment of resources, including online databases that can be accessed from your home computer.

The Friends of the Library is a robust group with approximately 70 current members. While we are a separate entity from the library with a separate budget, our sole purpose is to support the Lyon College Mabee-Simpson Library. In the past year, the Friends of the Library provided $1,500 towards the library’s renovated Tornado Cross courtyard garden, along with $2,000 for books, DVDs and other materials. We also help organize events in the library, such as the spring book sale. Your friendship helps make these efforts possible!

Current memberships expire on January 1, 2012. Memberships are good for one year, and the fees are as follows:
- $10 high school students
- $15 alumni / faculty / staff
- $25 for individuals
- $40 for families

Lifetime memberships are available for $300.
2010 Fire Brings Change to the Library

By Nicole Stroud, Friends of the Library secretary

It has been a little over a year since a fire destroyed Lyon College's student center and dining hall, Edward Commons. A new 44,000-square-foot facility is underway, but in the meantime many campus and community organizations have stepped in to fill the gap.

Lyon's Mabee-Simpson library is no exception. Beginning this past fall, the library has been housing all student mailboxes. The library's many comfortable seating areas and newly renovated Tornado Cross Garden courtyard are just right for reading letters from home.

In an effort to help deal with the absence of a full-scale cafeteria, the Mabee-Simpson library found itself the lucky recipient of a new snack bar. Many libraries around the country are beginning to embrace the idea of snack and coffee bars near the stacks. Students certainly appreciate the ease of a quick bite, especially during long studying and paper-writing stints in the library.

Library director Dean Covington reports that library traffic is higher than ever, and the new services offered in the library deserve a good deal of credit. Giving students more reasons to visit the library gives staff more opportunities to get to know them. These extra visits also help students discover the library as a friendly and warm place to schedule group study sessions, do research, ask questions, or simply curl up with a good book.

The whole Lyon community looks forward to the day that the new dining hall and student center will open, but until then, the Mabee-Simpson library will continue to lend a helping hand. And what better place than a library to open a care package and enjoy a cookie from mom, while studying for the biggest exam of the year?

Friends of the Library 2011-12 Officers

At the Oct. 18, 2011 Annual Membership Meeting, held at the Mabee-Simpson library, a slate of officers was elected for the upcoming year. The Friends of the Library officers for 2011-12 are as follows:

- President: Kenton Adler
- Vice-president: Kurt Grafton
- Treasurer: Marilynn Chlebak
- Secretary: Nicole Stroud

Additional board members for 2011-12 are Cathy Bordeaux, Mike Ennis, Gina Garrett, Polly Livingston, Nancy Love and Helen Robbins.

Many thanks to our outgoing president, Helen Robbins, who continues to serve on the Friends of the Library board in a non-officer capacity.