

Communications

Award Thanks Professor and Continues Mentoring Cycle

Lynne Fors knows the impact of mentoring. She has honed her knowledge in special collections and rare books as the student of Professor Emeritus Donald W. Krummel, widely respected for his scholarship and teaching in this specialty. Fors also is the first recipient of a scholarly fund created by Krummel's former students and associates in gratitude for his influence in *their* lives. The stipend Fors received defrayed the cost of attending Rare Book School at the University of Virginia this past summer, which provided yet another opportunity for professional growth.

"Professor Krummel is an incredible mentor," Fors says. "He has provided me with invaluable opportunities, both academically, through encouraging me to pursue research, and in terms of library work, through numerous introductions to other librarians and scholars in my field. I'm pleased that I am the type of librarian that this fund is meant to support. I'm also grateful that such a fund exists, because I think that it is important to support all types of librarians, no matter how specialized."

The Donald W. and Marilyn Krummel Endowment Fund helps master's students attend educational programs and professional events that deal with the graphic and artifactual evidence of books. Alumni and friends made gifts to the school in honor of their professor at his 1997 retirement; the Krummels added a small gift of their own and focused the award.

"Many students with strong academic backgrounds and interests in subjects like rare books and music choose to come here," Krummel says. "Library work in these specialties is exciting and important, but positions are also very competitive. The University of Illinois is blessed with exceptional collections and top librarians in these areas, but those who want to pursue specialty careers also very much need to get to know and work in the larger community of experts."

“Lynne has the career objectives and an interest in rare books that is similar to mine,” adds Krummel of his namesake award’s first recipient. “The fund is intended to nurture student interest in books, history, and music, which have fascinated me all my life. Lynne has done very good work. With the award from this fund, she was able to add to her knowledge beyond her GSLIS courses.”

“His generosity of spirit is inspiring,” says Susan Barrick, assistant dean for outreach and development. “When his former students proposed the fund, they wrote: ‘During his tenure at GSLIS, Don has earned many accolades for his scholarship and teaching. And, for many of us, he has linked us with professional contacts, rewarding positions, and compatible mates—well beyond the call of duty for any advisor. You might say that Don has helped us make the best connections in our lives.’ They formed this fund as a lasting tribute to a professor who already had given so much—and Don gave even more, by ensuring that the fund reached endowment status.”

Krummel’s mentoring ability influenced Fors even before they met. She worked in the library at Smith College as an undergraduate, where her supervisor fanned an interest in special collections and rare books. When it was time to apply to graduate programs, this supervisor suggested pursuit of a degree at the University of Illinois under the tutelage of her own mentor—Krummel. Once enrolled at the U. of I., Fors took the classes that Krummel continues to teach, including bibliography and library history. Out of these grew her Special Collections exhibition, “*Chez la Veuve: Women Printers in Great Britain, 1450–1700.*”

“I knew I wanted to work in *this* library,” Fors says of her role as a graduate assistant in Special Collections at the U. of I. Library. “This truly is the place for people who know they want to work in rare books and special collections. The University has an incredible collection, and great faculty to support it.”

It’s not common to make a decision to commit to such specialized work so early in an LIS career, she concedes, but she’s sure of her path. “I can see myself doing this type of work for the rest of my life,” says Fors, who completes her M.S. degree in library and information science this December. Attending Rare Book School with the help of the stipend was another step along that path: “The course I took reminded me that in this specialization I need to be able to ‘do it all’—donor relations, cataloging, acquisitions, handling security, collection appraisal—and it’s exactly this diversity of tasks that interests me. I also had a wonderful opportunity to meet other professionals in the community in which I want to work.”

The Krummel Fund is available to support attendance at other events, such as summer institutes at the American Antiquarian

Society, the Book History Conference in 2000, and music bibliography conferences.

The Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois is consistently ranked one of the top three library and information science programs in the U.S. The University of Illinois, founded in 1867, is regularly named one of the leading universities in the country.