

The University of Pittsburgh's (UP) Center for American Music of the University Library System has been awarded a grant of \$39,826 for a 2008 National Leadership Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The grant funds a planning conference scheduled for May 2009 at UP to develop strategies for creating an electronic directory for Resources of American Music History. The project is a partnership between the Center for American Music and the Society for American Music, a constituent member of the American Council of Learned Societies (www.american-music.org). One of only nine planning grants made nationally by IMLS (16 planning grant proposals were submitted, with a total of 104 total proposals being submitted), UP's project was identified by the granters as "one that will have an impact on library and information services and serve as models to libraries across the nation." Experts in information technology and in American music archival and library resources will participate in the planning a new comprehensive reference tool for American music history.

Iowa State University's Parks Library has received a \$200,000 grant from the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust to transform its former microforms staff and storage area into a large flexible computer classroom for library instruction. The area is adjacent to the library's new Learning Connections Center, which combines traditional reference features with an information commons and multimedia production studios. The new classroom will be designed so it can be used

as an open computer lab when not being used for teaching.

Acquisitions

A gift of Don Knotts memorabilia has been given to the West Virginia University (WVU) Libraries. Among items donated by Knotts' widow, Frances Yarborough-Knotts, are a thick stack of playbills, many with covers bearing Knotts' wide grin, that mark his work in dozens of stage productions over a span of decades. Knotts starred in performances of classics such as *On Golden Pond*, *Harvey*, *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*, *You Can't Take It with You*, and *The Odd Couple*. In *The Odd Couple*, he took on the role of Felix Unger to Art Carney's Oscar Madison. Along with playbills, the donation also includes boxes of articles and promotional materials, pictures of Knotts on stage, personal letters and writings, pages of handwritten stories and jokes, multiple *Matlock* scripts, his Screen Actors Guild card, and a scrapbook of photographs and newspaper clippings compiled by TV Land. There is also a watch that Andy Griffith presented to Knotts upon his departure from *The Andy Griffith Show*. Yarborough-Knotts said it was one of the few items Knotts treasured enough to store in a safe-deposit box. The watch was especially meaningful because of the humorous personal message Griffith and the show's producers had engraved on the back. Along with the number five are the words: "See, we thought we'd put 5 on it because you've been here for 5 years." Yarborough-Knotts' donation of memorabilia is the third such gift to the WVU Libraries. She previously donated several items in early 2007, and the first gifts were given in January 2006, just one month before Knotts' death. ♪

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