We are happy to bring you our fall issue of BookFriends featuring Director John Mumford's interview with retired philosophy professor, Dr. Robert Wagoner. I had a personal interest in reading what Bob had to say since we have known one another for nearly 70 years. Further, at least two of my high school senior humanities students went on to become outstanding students for Bob. Enjoy the newsletter!

Sincerely, Harriet Kaylor, President of the Friends of the Library.

Interview with Robert Wagoner—by John Mumford

I heard that Joe Paterno likes to read the Aeneid in Latin, something to do with the idea of a hero, do you do much reading still of the classics?

Yes, I like to read and reflect on many works, such as the Iliad, and the works of Plato and Aristotle that are basic to western civilization, but not just to read, to think about them and apply them to everyday life. They are part of my mental machinery having taught them for so many years. It is good to have these works to fall back on in personal life and in thinking of things such as politics. I also think of the plays of Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, and the poetry of Sappho, and something that I realized after many years is that the poets and philosophers were opposed to each other. Plato was forced to deal with Homer and criticized him, but without getting too deeply into it here, Plato feared the artists and for good reason. They presented a philosophy that was against the rational views of Aristotle and Plato. I was always puzzled as to why Plato spent three books criticizing the poets and Homer until those thoughts occurred to me. But the Iliad and the idea of tragedy in life, is unforgettable, and many of the Greek tragic playwrights derive their vision from Homer.

What have you been reading lately?
Some books I have been reading lately, well to start with is Nicholas Ostler’s Ad Infintum, which is a biography of Latin.
Memories about Ken and Jane Crosby

From Dr. Richard Livingston, former student of Ken’s and Juniata alum, class of 1957

Ken and Jane Crosby affected my life by their gracious hospitality and seemingly effortless way of bringing people together for stimulating exchanges and discussions of ideas. I remember being invited to their Mifflin Street home for some Sunday evening discussion groups and for quite a few suppers. On one occasion they invited Esther Doyle and me to join them for a lovely afternoon picnic in the park beside the Juniata River. Every time we were together, the event was filled with significant and lengthy talk. I have never known anyone who was so constantly positive and gracious as Jane. Even when, sadly, her memory was mostly diminished, she was still so appreciative and pleasant to all around her that visits with her were uplifting and enriching.
As always, thank you for being a Friend!

Our Friend Bob Fisher

Dr. Bob Fisher passed away this summer. He was a true Friend of the Library as well as being a friend to us in the Library. We looked forward to his visits when he would take the time to drop off journals for our collection and check up on us and say, “Hello!”. He gave to our collection such things as Tico Times (Costa Rica), Karst Chronicles, Journal of Cave and Karts Studies, and NSS News. In addition, Bob donated many books concerning various fields related to biology. He was truly interested in the library. Bob always brought his biology classes to the library for instruction. We were greatly saddened at his passing and have already missed his visits to the library.

View From the Director’s Office:

Well, the view today is a nice October day filled with sunshine and cool crisp air. It has been an interesting semester, a positive innovation has been that students must now type in their id’s in order to use our library printer (they do a massive amount of printing here). This has cut down drastically on paper usage because students are now placed in a more responsible position when printing out items. Also, our new hours (until 1am) has answered requests by some students to stay open later. We are monitoring that situation. Recently, some new “treasures” from HB Brumbaugh’s museum have been re-discovered. We look forward to giving them the proper treatment they deserve. More about that in coming Newsletters, and thanks for your kind support of the library!

Sincerely,
John Mumford
As always, thank you for being a Friend!

BOOKFRIENDS

Winter 2009

Newsletter of the Friends of the Library

L.A. Beeghly Library—Phone: 814-641-3452—Email: houckc@juniata.edu

FRIENDS WHO KNEW KEN OR JANE CROSBY?

We are still looking for stories about how the Crosbys affected the lives of Friends of the Library or others. If you have such stories, please contact either Harriet Kaylor, current president of the Friends, at hbkeck@pennswoods.net. You may also reach Harriet Kaylor by phone (814-643-4508) or send your story to her at 111 Edinburgh Court, Huntingdon, PA 16652.

As always, thank you for being a Friend!