To Beeghly Library Friends:
To all alumni and friends: the executive committee of the Friends of the Beeghly Library welcome you to an open house at the library from 2:00 to 4:00 on Friday, June 10 and again on Saturday, the 11th from 9:30 to 5:00. There will be a small book sale as well as Friends buttons and framed copies of the Alma Mater. You are also welcome to attend the annual business meeting at 8:30 in the Information Commons of the library.
Sincerely, Harriet Kaylor, President of the Friends of the Library

Along with other festivities on Alumni Weekend, Beeghly Library will host a BOOK-SIGNING SALE for one of its board members, Robert E. Wagoner, emeritus Professor of Philosophy, who has just published a new book entitled SPINNING AND SEX—Glimpses of Women, Work and Love in Bygone Times.

The book is published under the auspices of the Huntingdon County Historical Society and features about eighty etchings and engravings that portray the domestic spinning of yarn and thread in the 18th and 19th centuries. Professor Wagoner’s accompanying discussion identifies the practice of this craft uniquely with the role of women in those and preceding centuries. Spinning by drop-spindle or on a wheel was a virtually mandatory skill for women of all classes in Western Europe because it assured that women would be able to clothe children that they brought into the world and that they were adequately prepared for marital responsibilities. For poor women spinning was a means of subsistence when all else failed, even after the beginning of the Industrial Revolution. For wealthier women, spinning was a demonstration of superior skill and taste for quality fabrics. In both cases the spinning wheel became the visible guarantee of a woman’s femininity and continued to play a prominent role in nostalgic depictions of the love life of women as well as their work life—until finally the new factory system made hand-spinning into an antique craft.

THE BOOK-SIGNING SALE WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE LIBRARY LOBBY ON SATURDAY JUNE 11, 2011, from NOON until 2:00 PM

A new addition to the Information Commons….

The Orphan’s Chair (circa 1877)

by Jan Hartman

The Orphan’s Chair, found in storage last summer and given a new home in the library’s Information Commons, inspires contemplation about what life might have been like during the winter of 1877-78, when several Juniata students were moved to the safety of an abandoned farmhouse in the countryside during an outbreak of smallpox in Huntingdon. (Vaccine was generally available but not required.) The chair was built by students and/or faculty at the farmhouse.
Greetings, and thanks again for your support of the library. The library lost a dear friend this winter in Dr. George Dolnikowski. We think of him often and his wife Joanne is much in our thoughts. The library had a display of Russian literature in memory of him this past January.

The library has had a busy semester with a poetry reading, part of the Liberal Arts Symposium, and an exhibit on German resistance to the Nazi Regime called the White Rose – all taking place in the Klaus and Ellin Jaeger Information Commons. We have continued to weed our print collection, to make space but also to rearrange shelving advantageously. Also, we have added a bit to our accessibility through technology, with the help of librarian Jason Mickel, by adding Twitter and Google Voices to our web page. It is part of an “Ask a Librarian” section, where someone can click and electronically send a message to a librarian without being in the building. Of course, we still like meeting people in person the most, but as students exist more and more in cyberspace, shouldn’t the library move to meet them there?

Hope you have an enjoyable spring!

Kind regards,
John Mumford