



# newsletter

CAMPBELL UNIVERSITY FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

FALL 2024 | VOL 33, NO 2

## He Knows “How to Keep Christmas Well!”

BY CINDY A. ADAMS, CIRCULATION MANAGER

**B**ah humbug!,” Ira David Wood III said loudly, gruffly into the microphone.

He quickly added, with a bit of a twinkle, “I don’t get to say that much any more.” After all, Wood retired last year from his long-time role as Ebenezer Scrooge at Raleigh’s Theatre In the Park.

Wood’s musical comedy adaptation of Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol* has become a holiday institution in Raleigh. And his address at the 2024 Friends of the Library Annual Dinner, like the Dickens classic, took guests on a trip through past, present, and future. “Ebenezer Scrooge is a close friend of mine,” Wood said. “I’ve gotten to know him over 50 years. And each year he’s changed a bit.”



*Ira David Wood III addressed the Friends of the Library on November 8, 2024 in the Oscar N. Harris Student Union Ballroom. He also announced the release of his newest book, The Bittersweet Voyage of the Golden Ship Hatteras.*

In his lively address to Friends and other guests on November 8, Wood shared personal anecdotes and reflections on the experience, and role, of a lifetime. Along the way there were lessons on mortality and human connection, coincidences and adventures in healing, self awareness, hope, and pure simple joy.

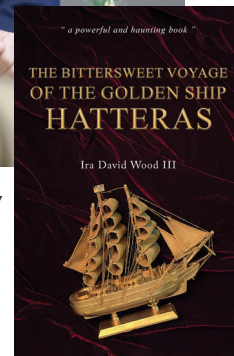
Over his years playing Scrooge, Wood found “an incredible grasp of human psychology” in Dickens, who he considers a benefactor.

Library Dean Sarah Steele wrote afterward: “Friday’s address by Ira David Wood III

was both a lesson in theater and a therapy session. From my seat, I looked out into the ballroom from time to time. When you were not laughing, I saw many of you

wiping away tears.”

As Wood retraced his path to Scrooge, he recalled being mesmerized, enraptured as a college student watching the first UNC School of Dance performance of *The Nutcracker* ballet. “When the curtain came down I couldn’t get out of my



from the dean



Dear Friends,

Christmas is only weeks away. Is your heart ready? Our Friends of the Library Dinner speaker, Scrooge himself, helped us better embrace the season. I invite you to view the recording of Ira David Wood III's address to the Friends of the Library [library.campbell.edu/friends/](http://library.campbell.edu/friends/).

In Christmas list format, I would like to share what the Friends of the Library have generously funded in 2024 through gifts and endowments.

- A fully furnished Archival Reading Room dedicated to individual and student research.
- A cozy "Book a Librarian" space for prescheduled student research consultations.
- Professional development travel opportunities for five librarians.
- A mobile AV cart and document camera.
- Archival storage materials.
- Seven new circulating laptops for student checkout.
- Zeta scanner repair costs.
- Patron counters for our library entrances.

Your gifts and friendship matter to the library. Thank you!

It was a pleasure speaking with so many of you at the Friends of the Library Annual Dinner. We look forward to seeing you again soon. May "God bless you every one!"

Merry Christmas!

*Sarah M. Steele*

Sarah Steele  
Dean of the Library

# Cozy Addition Fulfills Student Needs

BY MEREDITH BEEMAN, HEAD OF REFERENCE & INSTRUCTION

Not so long ago, you would have seen two desks upon entering Wiggins Library – the Circulation desk on the left and the Reference desk on the right. During the 2022-2023 academic year, the library adopted a single service desk model to lessen students' confusion about where to go for help. The transition to a unified Library Services Desk on the left side of the main floor was a success. But it presented us with a new dilemma: What to do with the Reference desk space?

A team of librarians met to discuss potential options and determined that having a dedicated space for research consultations would not only answer some student concerns and provide some

much-needed change, but also help us better market our pre-scheduled consultation service. In Fall 2023, librarians held several focus groups with students who had used our research consultation services during the semester. The students all reported the same things.

Those who worked mainly with librarians in their offices wanted a space that feels cozy like the office but not as cramped so they could spread materials out to work. Those who had consultations in library open spaces wanted somewhere that would be more private, especially if they were working on sensitive research topics they wouldn't want other patrons to hear about.

After receiving additional student input about the types of furnishings they thought would be the most appealing in the space, the librarians discussed how we might want the space to look – for example, would it be behind a wall of glass or other material? Floor to ceiling or cubicle style?

Using inspiration from spaces in the Lundy Fetterman School of Business, the librarians opted for a glass-enclosed space that incorporated frosted film on the bottom of the glass wall for added privacy. We added small accent pieces in the space to enhance the cozier feel the students wanted.

*Continued on page 4*



*Signage for the newest Wiggins Library addition draws Campbell students to the "Book a Librarian" space, with comfy seating and ambient lighting. A double-computer station allows librarians and students to collaborate together and utilize library resources, both digital and physical.*

## JOIN US!

### LIGHTNING TALKS

Friday, February 21, 3-4pm

Enjoy a trio of short, informal talks by faculty from different disciplines as they discuss their recent and current research and the research process itself.

[library.campbell.edu/lightning-talks](http://library.campbell.edu/lightning-talks)

### WIGGINS MEMORIAL LIBRARY 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ACADEMIC SYMPOSIUM

Wednesday, March 26, 10am-6pm

Join us for this annual campus tradition highlighting the best of students' original research projects and creative works.

[library.campbell.edu/symposium](http://library.campbell.edu/symposium)

The next step was to find funding for the new Book-a-Librarian room. Thanks to a generous donation from Lifetime Friend of the Library Mayor Luther “Lew” Starling, Jr., we were able to work with a contractor who began construction on June 27, 2024. They had the space completed, accent pieces and décor installed, before students returned to campus in August.

Since the semester began, we’ve conducted more than 60 research consultations in the space, with excellent feedback from students. Some of their comments follow:

- “I loved the space because I could talk at a normal level without having to worry about disrupting others working.”
- “It is quiet, so I was able to focus better.”
- “It was in private, and having two monitors and chairs was nice to have so more than one person is able to collaborate in the space.”
- “The space is very cute and cozy; it’s also private so you can just focus in on talking about your research.”
- “The separate space provided privacy and limited any outside distractions.”
- “Very chill vibes 😎”

This new addition to our library space enables Wiggins librarians to provide even better support to students seeking research consultation assistance. When you have time to visit, please stop by the library to see the “Book A Librarian” space in person! ■

## WIGGINS WORKS

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Brooke Taxakis, Head of Access Services & Student Success Librarian, attended the Access Services Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, hosted at the Georgia Institute of Technology (November 2024).

Jennifer Seagraves, Instructional Pedagogy & Curriculum Materials Librarian, collaborated on a podcast episode for The HIPster Camel

Podcast, with Dr. Sherry Truffin and Dr. Eric Dunnum.

Jennifer Seagraves facilitated the workshop, our Relationships Matter: Exploring Campus Connections, in the Teaching Resource Center (TRC) (August 2024).

Hannah Holmes, Reference & Instruction Librarian, attended the NC Live Marketing conference at the Chapel Hill Public Library (September 2024).

Librarians Marie Berry, Hannah Holmes, Holley Long, and Jennifer Seagraves were awarded a Campbell University Overcoming the Status Quo grant for their Primary Source Bootcamp for faculty and staff held in December.



# Welcome Back, Hannah Holmes!

BY ABIGAIL PORE, REFERENCE & DISTANCE LEARNING LIBRARIAN



This Fall, Wiggins Library welcomed back a familiar face in a new role. After completing her Library Science master's program at UNC-Chapel Hill, former Circulation Assistant Hannah Holmes returned to fill the role of Reference & Instruction Librarian.

Hannah liaises with faculty in the health sciences, fine arts, and foreign language disciplines, in addition to working directly with

student patrons, overseeing the library's Instagram, and working on the Student Art Gallery.

Holmes reflects on one of her favorite Wiggins memories, her first Gallery exhibit, saying, "I loved learning how to exhibit work, create an artist statement by interviewing the artist, and marketing the display to campus. It was extra special because the artist actually traveled from DC to come see their exhibit, so we got to meet and talk! That experience showcased how much the Gallery means to the artists."

Today, Hannah is working to connect the Art Gallery to more of the campus by "[including] interdisciplinary work and highlighting students from across campus

who are creating art either in their class work or personal life, even if it does not fit the 'traditional' definition of art."

Not "just" a former employee, Holmes graduated from Campbell in 2021 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English. When reflecting on the changes from student to faculty staff, Holmes notes: "It's been a great honor to see Campbell from each point of view, and I feel like I learn more about both it and me in each phase. Each role at Campbell has only grown my love for my alma mater and increased my appreciation for how much goes into supporting students and preparing them for purposeful lives and meaningful service, just as I am living out here at CU." ■

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## Turning a New Page

BY HANNAH HOLMES, REFERENCE & INSTRUCTION LIBRARIAN

Wiggins warmly welcomes its newest hire, Ms. Vonnie Linn, Circulation Assistant! Linn began her career at the library in late November, bringing with her a love for helping others and a knack for communication.

Linn is pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Divinity, focusing on ministry. She has been serving at Manna Church for more than 13 years, and says about her association, "I am most proud of being a facilitator of a small group for women on Saturdays which encourages them to go outside of their comfort zone. We tackle hard topics and foster a sense of commu-

nity and belonging through that."

A native of North Carolina, Linn has lived in Pennsylvania as well as Florida, setting her roots back in NC when she was stationed at Fort Liberty during her military service.

Linn is most looking forward to making a difference in the lives of college students and working in an environment that fosters growth and creativity. ■





From the top: Head Elf Lori Poston, one of the library's three talented Graduate Assistants, manned the Elf Station, where our "littles" crafted while their "biggles" enjoyed our speaker. Dressed to the nines, two special "littles" show off their crafts kits. Before her invocation, Friends President and English Professor Dr. Sherry Truffin called A Christmas Carol "the classic redemption story."

seat," Wood said, describing how that performance lit an inner fire in him to "be part of something like that production that left people feeling the way they did during the holiday season."

After being invited to play Uncle Drosselmeyer in the ballet's second year of performances, Wood had the opportunity to put together a production called *Christmas Is ...* The upshot was that, "Christmas

is what you bring to it. And what it gives you in return." During that time, Wood also appeared in Paul Green's *The Lost Colony* and productions of Shakespeare plays.

"We had done *Taming of the Shrew* and *Romeo and Juliet*," he told the Friends, "but Shakespeare hadn't done a Christmas play." So Wood and collaborators Terrence Mann and J.K. Farrell went to "the next best English author" and went to work on a script. "I knew I wanted it to be a musical comedy," Wood remembered. "We took as much from the book as we possibly could, all of the spoken lines. But I didn't want [Scrooge] to be the morose character Dickens wrote about. I wanted Scrooge to delight in wrecking Christmas."

Wood's adventures with Dickens through the years included meeting the wife of Dickens' great great grandson in Charlotte, NC, of all places. Visiting the House of Mercy, a hospice for AIDS patients his mother helped found there, Wood found himself looking up at a lifesize portrait of Charles Dickens. An Englishwoman in riding boots and jodhpurs came in and said, "Oh, I see you've met Charles." She had come to nearby High Point to have a reproduction of Dickens' writing desk made to auction off for the charity. During their conversation, they discussed how Dickens' story of Tiny Tim had championed advances in medicine, just as his works like *Oliver Twist* informed child labor reforms. She also invited Wood and the company to visit Kingston upon Hull across the pond, which they did later, and met the great, great, great grandson himself.

Wood told us how proud he was of the robe Hollywood costume designer Rita Riggs designed for his Scrooge, which looked like a robe famed director John Huston wore. He told of his creation, with Mann and Farrell, of the lullaby Bob Cratchet sings to his son in the play, and how they felt compelled to proudly call friends when they finished writing it at 2am. And he told how the company embraced and seemed to inspire

Charlotte, a terminally ill woman, to return for three years past her expected lifespan.

What a rich and rewarding run! Since retiring last year – as Scrooge, Wood has relished being able to sit in audience this year and “have an out of body experience watching my son Ira IV do the role.”

The riches Wood shared with Friends were the perfect kickoff to Christmas 2024. As Dean Steele said later, “I know that those of us who heard him speak will enter this holiday season with a renewed resolve to, as Dr. Truffin prayed in her invocation, ‘spread light’ to those around us through our actions and attitudes.” ■

Special thanks go to CU alumni Kevin Nelson and his wife Sabra for lending their Dickens Village for the event. The collection was started by Nelson’s parents and passed down; Kevin and Sabra added to it, creating a thriving display, over the years.



Scrooge himself poses with a Campbell student holding a new copy of A Christmas Carol, purchased from the CU bookstore.



Photos courtesy of Bennett Scarborough Photography. To view all event photos: [tinyurl.com/friends2024photos](https://tinyurl.com/friends2024photos). Event Recording: [tinyurl.com/friends2024recording](https://tinyurl.com/friends2024recording).

## CELEBRATING DEVOTION: NEW LIFETIME FRIENDS



From left: Professor of Chemistry and Friends Vice President Dr. Lin Coker congratulates fellow Lifetime Membership inductee Access Services Librarian Marie Berry. And Ashley Mattox Wood and husband, guest speaker Ira David Wood II, visited with new inductees Danielle Davis and husband Dr. Britt Davis, former Campbell VP of Institutional Advancement.

# Meet the Graduate Assistants

BY ABIGAIL PORE, REFERENCE & DISTANCE LEARNING LIBRARIAN

For the 2024 Academic Year, the library's crop of helpful Graduate Assistants includes one brand new to us (Logan) and two+ (Cynthia and Lori with pup-assistant Parker) who began as student workers last year and transitioned into a role with added responsibilities. All three are crucial members of the Wiggins Memorial Library team.

Logan Blackmon, our newest GA, is local to the area, hailing from Dunn, North Carolina. She is a 2nd-year dual Master's student, working toward a Master's in Business Administration and a Master of Science in Public Health. While she's new to Wiggins, Logan's first year of graduate school found her serving as GA in the medical library at CU School of Osteopathic Medicine. Logan particularly enjoys the relationship-building aspect of her position, especially when it comes to getting to know library student workers. When it comes to downtime, she says "I love to read, I have read over 100 books this year!" She also is very close with her family, enjoying time with her young niece and nephew in particular.



Cynthia Fnu, a Master of Arts in Christian Ministry candidate



from Myanmar, came to Campbell looking for a program that "allows me to study both [theology] and Church music." Since becoming a GA, Cynthia says she has loved working with librarians and library staff as she has "learned a lot from their excellent management skills, decision-making, seasonal plans to improve the Library, and communication skills with all patrons and guests." When not studying or working in the third floor CMMC, Cynthia enjoys visiting the nearby Cape Fear River to listen to the water or music and reading books in a quiet park.

Lori Poston is also a Divinity School student, and brings her service dog, Parker, with her to the library. Lori says the family atmosphere at Campbell is what drew her to the Master of Divinity program.



Alongside Parker, she brings a brightness to the Wiggins team and the student assistants she liaises with regularly. Her favorite part about working at Wiggins has been "watching people learn how to do new things," and Lori has inspired students and library staff alike to learn new things. She spends free time reading Braille, and has introduced many librarians to the State Library's accessibility services and new technology. ■

## PARKER SPEAKS



Q: Where are you from?

A: *Rochester Hills, Michigan*

Q: What degree program are you in?

A: *Master's in Napping*

Q: What drew you to Campbell?

A: *Pup Cups from Starbucks*

Q: What is your favorite thing or anecdote about the library?

A: *I found my first Care Bear at the library. Now I love them!*

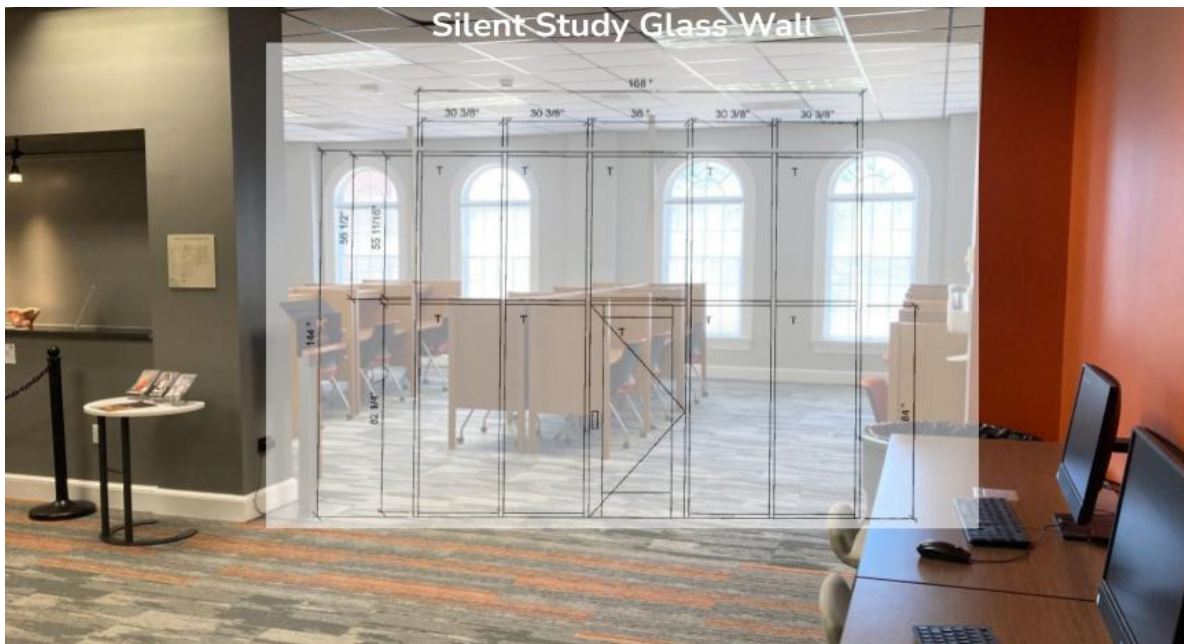
Q: What do you enjoy doing in your downtime?

A: *Playing with my Care Bears!*



# Students Asked. We Listened.

BY SARAH STEELE, DEAN OF THE LIBRARY



*Construction of a proposed silent study glass wall has been approved by the Friends of the Library officers.*

In a Spring 2024 Library User Survey, several student respondents commented that Wiggins Memorial Library’s second floor, which is open overnight for study, can be noisy. One person shared this idea for remedying the problem: “The quiet section with study carrels on the second floor should be enclosed with a glass wall with doors.”

To test students’ interest in a Silent Study Glass Wall, Reference & Instruction Librarian Hannah Holmes issued a whiteboard survey and an Instagram poll. An overwhelming majority of respondents believed this would be helpful.

From quotes gathered to price the construction project, Southeastern Interiors, based in Erwin, NC, offered the best price. Friends of the Library officers Dr. Sherry Truffin and Dr. Lin Coker approved the expenditure using Friends of the Library gifts.

To our pleasant surprise, after the Instagram poll was posted, SGA Junior Class officers reached out offering to help fund the wall’s construction, further solidifying student support for the project. Our Friends of the Library and the SGA Junior Class will be recognized on a donors’ plaque near the Silent Study Glass Wall.

The Silent Study Glass Wall, just beyond the Student Art Gallery [library.campbell.edu/gallery/](https://library.campbell.edu/gallery/), will separate the 2nd floor open study area from the nook in which 24 study carrels overlook the Academic Circle. With a view that also includes Butler Chapel, students soon will be able to study *quietly* as they pursue their vocational calling. ■



Follow us on Instagram @campbell\_lib

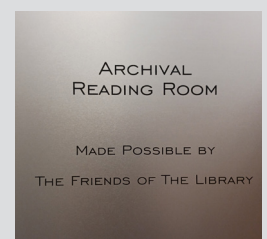
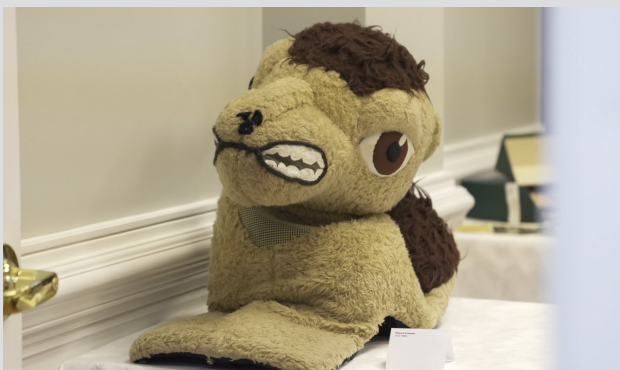


## FROM THE ARCHIVES: THANK YOU, FRIENDS!

It is with much gratitude and excitement that we share pictures of the library’s new Archival Reading Room for this “From the Archives” installment. Thanks to you, Friends of the Library, we now have a quiet, secure, beautiful, dedicated space for archival research. We hosted two successful

open houses that served as “soft launches” for the reading room, and we also are hosting a December primary sources workshop in the space. Interested in a tour or want to use the reading room for some archival research of your own? Please contact me at ([long@campbell.edu](mailto:long@campbell.edu)) or Marie Berry at ([berrym@campbell.edu](mailto:berrym@campbell.edu)). ■

*Holley Long  
Metadata & Digital Initiatives Librarian*



*Clockwise from top: Gaylord is that you? An older Gaylord visited the Archival Reading Room during open house. A student stores items in the lockers outside of the reading room, and a plaque outside of the room thanks the Friends for their contributions. Scan the code to read more about current initiatives within Campbell Archives. Students participated in an open house scavenger hunt.*

# Congratulations, Graduate!

*Caps off to the graduate - dreamers today, leaders tomorrow!*

We say farewell to one of our student workers, Alexis Denton, who is graduating with her Bachelor's of Art in History in December. We are so grateful for her years of service as a Wiggins Student Assistant and wish her the best of luck in her future!



## STAFF REVIEWS

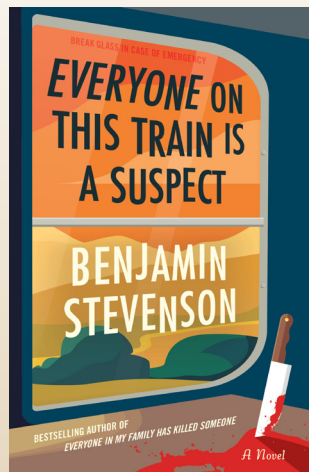
### EVERYONE ON THIS TRAIN IS A SUSPECT

By Benjamin Stevenson  
Harper Audio, 2024

*Everyone on This Train Is a Suspect* is a fast-paced, humorous whodunnit with well-drawn characters. Written in the first person, the book has a main character, Ernest Cunningham, who recently gained fame as the author of a true crime book *Everyone in My Family Has Murdered Someone*.

The organizers of the Australian Mystery Writers' Society invite Cunningham to participate in a crime-writing festival aboard the Ghan, a passenger train that travels from the northern to the southern coasts of Australia. Cunningham hopes that, while on board, he will find inspiration for his next book — a novel this time. Instead, he finds himself embroiled in yet another series of murders as jealousy and treachery erupt between the five writers set to be featured at the festival.

Fans of Anthony Horowitz's novels *Magpie Murders* and *The Word is Murder* will enjoy Benjamin Stevenson's *Everyone on This Train Is a Suspect*. Like Horowitz's offerings, this work is a meta-novel, a style of storytelling that writes the author into the story and calls attention to the process of writing fiction.



My favorite aspect of the book is its humor. For example, one of the writers criticizes Ernest's writing style:

"You want to know the difference between pulp and literature? Between a real writer and just a writer? I'll tell you: adverbs."

"Adverbs?"

"You use too many of them," he said, derisively."

I found the clues to the identity and motive of the novel's first murderer to be not very well concealed; but the characters have skeletons in their closets, and Ernest deftly uncovers their back stories in a way that is sure to surprise you in the end.

I highly recommend *Everyone on This Train Is a Suspect*, and members of my mystery book club who have read the first in the series tell me that *Everyone in My Family Has Murdered Someone* is even better. Looking for a holiday-themed mystery? Stevenson has just come out with a third installment: *Everyone This Christmas Has a Secret*. Enjoy! ■

Holley Long  
Metadata & Digital Initiatives Librarian

*What are you reading?*

*Check out our Oasis collection for fun reads like this!*

# Join the Friends

I/we wish to  JOIN the Friends of the Library or  RENEW my/our membership at the indicated level:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributor: \$50 Annually | <input type="checkbox"/> Life*: \$1,000                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainer: \$75 Annually   | <input type="checkbox"/> Campbell Student: \$5 Annually |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron: \$150 Annually     |   |

*\*Life membership can be paid in four \$250 yearly payments or payroll deductions.*

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*Title First Last*

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

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**NEWSLINE STAFF: CINDY A. ADAMS, HANNAH HOLMES, ABIGAIL PORE**

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