

Jean E. Lowrie—A friend, a mentor, a leader in Librarianship

“Dr. Lowrie was the person who inspired me to become active in school librarianship during her leadership at Western Michigan University.

Her wise counsel and guidance have encouraged me to reach out to the international community, and to help people learn to ‘assist, share and lead.’ Pioneers like Jean are a rare breed.”

Gerald Brown, former student
Honorary ambassador,
International Association of School Librarianship

“...she is a friend and colleague from whom I learned a great deal. Her dedication to school librarianship, even in retirement, is admirable and commendable.”

Ruth Cady
Library Media Specialist, retired
Manchester, California

“I doubt that many people are aware of the enormous contribution Dr. Jean E. Lowrie has made to librarianship, in particular school librarianship, worldwide. She has always been untiring in developing school libraries around the world and has used her untiring imagination to point out new ways to lead the developments.”

Sigrun Klara Hannesdottir
Former National Librarian of Iceland



Jean E. Lowrie: Biographical Information

Born October 11, 1918 in Northville, NY, Jean E. Lowrie was well educated in both librarianship and elementary education:

- BA, 1940, Keuka College
- BSLS, 1941, Western Reserve University*
- MA, 1956, Western Michigan University, Elementary Education
- PhD, 1959, Western Reserve University*
- DLitt, 1973, Keuka College

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

- Director, department head, professor, first woman President of Faculty Senate Western Michigan University School Library, Kalamazoo
- Executive board, International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions
- Founder, president, executive secretary, International Association of School Librarianship
- President, American Library Association (ALA)
- President, board of directors, American Association of School Librarians
- First recipient of the ALA American Association of School Librarians Distinguished Service Award
- Past president (eight years), Friends of the Hoke Library, Martin County, Florida

**Now known as Case Western Reserve University*



Dr. Jean E. Lowrie

THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION
School of Library & Information Studies

The Jean E. Lowrie Endowment



Shaping the Future of Leaders in School Media



The Jean E. Lowrie Endowment

About the endowment

The “Jean E. Lowrie Endowment” was established to support school media program students at The Florida State University School of Library & Information Studies with scholarships and fellowships. Dr. Wayne Wiegand, F. William Summers Professor at the College, and his wife Shirley Wiegand, created the scholarship to honor Wayne’s former professor and mentor at Western Michigan University.

Dr. Lowrie was instrumental in providing Wayne with the opportunity to receive a National Defense Education Act Fellowship while at Western Michigan University’s School of Librarianship.

“Little did either of us know how much that fellowship would mean to me, how much easier it made my efforts to finish my education, provide for my family, and prepare for what has been a wonderfully rewarding career in the world of librarianship. Despite the huge demands on her schedule, she somehow always found time to counsel and advise me. I am forever grateful to her.”

Dr. Lowrie was director of the school of librarianship at Western Michigan University (1963–1981). She served as president of the American Library Association (1973-74), was the first recipient of the ALA’s American Association of School Librarians Distinguished Service Award (1978), and founded the International Association of School Librarianship.



Dr. Wayne Wiegand

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