Ellen Buchanan’s **love of stories** began at a young age.

“I come from a family of readers; we love books,” Buchanan says.

So it made sense that when she saw the opportunity to tell others’ stories, she took it: first at a public radio station in South Dakota and then at KCJJ in Iowa City. In 1989, Buchanan brought her passion for storytelling and local history to ICPL with *Tell Me Your Story*, a series of interviews with people who made a difference in Iowa City. “There are so many amazing men and women whose stories have shaped our community and made it what it is today,” she says.

Buchanan recorded 40 programs for *Tell Me Your Story*. Guests included former University of Iowa football coach

For 35 years, more than 4,200 people have given their time to the Library, assisting with book check-ins, materials maintenance, prepping supplies for events, planning teen programs, operating The Book End, and serving on the Board of Trustees and on the Friends Foundation Board of Directors.

“Volunteers make it possible for staff to focus on helping patrons,” says Stacey McKim, the Library’s volunteer coordinator. “The behind-the-scenes work they do is part of what makes ICPL great.”

Just how much work are we talking about? Volunteers have served more than 251,000 hours at the Library since 1980.

“I think it’s amazing how much people love the Library and that they want to spend their time with us,” says Patty McCarthy, the Library’s Development Office Director. McCarthy oversees The Book End. Proceeds from this volunteer-run operation benefit the Library’s Children’s and Teen Summer Reading Programs, Art Purchase Prize, and new materials for the Library collection.

Nearly 300 volunteers gave 9,138 hours of service during the 2014 calendar year. Chuck Felling provided part of that
number. A volunteer for more than 15 years, he checks in Library materials every Tuesday morning.

“I always enjoyed the Library and I’ve always loved books,” says Felling.

Felling also gives his time at the food bank and senior center. He says he loves working with the people at the Library and seeing which materials circulate.

The Library honored its volunteers last month at the annual Adult & Teen Recognition Event. Felling was named Volunteer of the Year and 43 individuals were recognized for achieving milestone hours of service.

For more information about the Volunteer Program, and to fill out a volunteer application, visit icpl.org/volunteer

Hayden Fry.

While Buchanan enjoyed learning more about the area’s big names, she knew there were others who had stories to share who weren’t as widely-known outside of the city’s limits. It was this philosophy that led to the creation of the series One of a Kind.

From 1993 through 2014, Buchanan recorded more than 100 programs for One of a Kind, highlighting individuals who make Iowa City unique, including John Alberhasky of John’s Grocery, and Carol Spaziani, for whom ICPL’s Intellectual Freedom Festival is named. Buchanan produced and hosted her final One of a Kind interview in September 2014.

Buchanan credits her two researchers for their tireless efforts and assistance. Suzanne Richerson filled the role first, followed by A.K. Traw. Buchanan calls the experience “a profound privilege.”

“These were people from all walks of life and they were so generous in sharing their stories,” she says.

Every Tell Me Your Story and One of a Kind video interview is available for checkout. The programs also can be viewed online at video.icpl.org or downloaded at www.icpl.org/podcast/

“It means so much that we have an archive of oral histories of people who have made Iowa City what it is today,” says Bond Drager, the Library’s AV specialist. “Ellen has given our community a priceless gift.”

Though she is retired, Buchanan hopes the Library will continue to share people’s stories.

“I think it would be wonderful to have a new perspective because there really is no way to stop,” she says. “Everybody has a story to tell.”
The Iowa City Public Library’s Children’s Room is host to a new interactive exhibit: Playing is Learning.

Playing is Learning emphasizes the importance play has on children’s development. Eight skills were identified – creativity, self-regulation, spatial awareness, language, healthy bodies, number knowledge, social skills, and conceptual thinking – which research has shown improves while children have fun.

The Library invites parents and caregivers to test the data by playing the “Game of Games.” Each card in this interactive game contains two parts: “Did you know?” describes an aptitude play builds while “Try this at home!” describes games parents and children can play to develop each skill.

The Library’s exhibit includes cards from the “Game of Games” deck for patrons to use during Library visits or to take home. Parents also can purchase the entire “Game of Games” deck for $7 at the Help Desk.

“We are excited to have this exhibit at the Iowa City Public Library, and to provide more opportunities for families to play and learn together,” says Children’s Services Coordinator Vickie Pasicznyuk.

Playing is Learning is a collaborative project with The University of Iowa, the DeLTA Center, the Obermann Center for Advanced Studies, the National Science Foundation, The Iowa Children’s Museum, and ICPL. For more information, visit www.playingislearning.org.
A Day in the Life of the Library: June 26, 2014

- 5 volunteers worked at the Book End. Sales totaled $98
- 306 items were checked out, 252 were checked out at Self-Checkout, 869 items were renewed
- 256 holds were placed, 292 holds were processed, 256 hold notices were sent
- 10 bus passes issued
- 19 Study Rooms were used
- The Library Board discussed the Library’s Mission, Values and Goals for the Library’s new Strategic Plan
- Issued 20 headphones at the 2nd Floor Page Station
- Delivered Library materials to 32 inmates at the Johnson County Jail
- The Business Office posted a permanent Library Assistant III position
- 437 people entered the Library between 10 and 11 a.m.
- trainers a new Check-in Volunteer
- Fizz, Boom, Pow! Zinghoppers children’s program (STEM Programming)
- 437 people entered the Library between 10 and 11 a.m.
- Social media: Posted 2 images on Instagram; sent out 8 tweets; had 8 posts on Facebook and received 2 new likes.
- Senior Tech Zone (55+ group)
- Received requests for 4 Interlibrary Loan items from other libraries and received 9 Interlibrary Loans for our patrons from other libraries
- Copyright Image: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/
2015 summer reading program
It's a bird... It's a plane...
No, it's the Iowa City Public Library's Summer Reading Program!

June 1 - August 9
This summer everyone can be a super hero!

Babies, Toddlers and Older Childrens: Every hero has a story
Every Hero Has a Story participants will receive a game card to track their progress toward meeting summer reading goals. The game card for babies and toddlers promotes early childhood literacy skills, and participants can attend weekly storytimes & special programs at the Library. The preschool through sixth-grade game card has three levels of prizes to keep participants motivated throughout the summer. Every student who turns in a completed game card will be entered in the grand prize drawing.

Adults: Everyday Heroes
Participants will receive an oversized bookmark to track their progress toward meeting summer reading goals. Adults can either read five books, or read three books and attend two Summer Reading Program events to receive a prize and be entered into the grand prize drawing.

A complete listing of programs can be found at srp.icpl.org
Anyone who completes a game card or bookmark early and wants to keep going can pick up a bonus Game Card. Completing the game card will result in one additional entry for the grand prize at their program level.

Registration for the Summer Reading Program begins May 18. Patrons can register in-person at the Library or online at srp.icpl.org.

Teens: Unmasked
Unmasked participants will receive an oversized bookmark to track their progress toward meeting summer reading goals. Teens can either read five books, or read three books and attend two Summer Reading Program events to receive a prize and be entered into the grand prize drawing.

This year’s teen activities include crafts, movies & games.

The Library thanks the following sponsors for supporting the Summer Reading Program: ICPL Friends Foundation, Aspen Leaf Frozen Yogurt, Blank Park Zoo, Chick-fil-A, the Iowa Children's Museum, Iowa City Parks & Recreation, McDonald's, and Westdale Bowling Center.
Are you ready to be WOWed?

WOW -- Weber on Wednesday – is a month-long program created specifically for local history buffs. WOW is held in conjunction with Irving B. Weber Days, which honors Iowa City’s unofficial historian, the late Irving B. Weber.

Plum Grove Gardens Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow
Wednesday, May 6 at 7 p.m. in Meeting Room A
Iowa State Extension Master Gardeners Betty Kelly and Caroline Murphy will talk about the gardens at Plum Grove, the home of Iowa’s first Territorial Governor. Co-sponsored by the Iowa State Extension Master Gardeners of Johnson County and the Johnson County Historical Society.

The History of Downtown Iowa City
Wednesday, May 13 at 7 p.m. in Meeting Room A
Author Marybeth Slonneger will share fascinating facts about Downtown Iowa City. Co-sponsored by The Friends of Historic Preservation.

Iowa City Food History from 1830 -1900
Wednesday, May 20 at 7 p.m. in Meeting Room A
Join Rachel Wobeter, a UI Museum Studies student, for this talking tour of Iowa City’s food history with refreshments. Co-sponsored by Historic Foodies.

History of Corner Grocery Stores of Iowa City
Wednesday, May 27 at 7 p.m. in Meeting Room A
Tom Schulein will present details about Corner Groceries in Iowa City. Co-sponsored by the Iowa City/Johnson County Senior Center.

Other WOW events include genealogy classes, a scanning event for the Library’s Digital History Project, and a speech about Helen Lemme presented by Lemme Elementary School students. Visit icpl.org for details.

In Memory of Barbara Curtin
In Memory 1944-2015
Barbara Curtin loved her family, reading, and public libraries. She served as the Library Development Director from 2000-2004. Barbara’s legacy will continue thanks to many generous gifts received in her name to purchase books for all ages.

Enjoy an energizing evening with Library friends on Sunday, May 17, during the Friends Foundation’s newest fundraising event: Looking Forward.

The fun will begin in Room A at 6 p.m. with “The Future: From Fiction To Fact” presented by Dan Reed, UI Research and Economic Development Vice President, and Brooks Landon, author and UI Professor of English. Guests will have a lot to talk about after hearing these two futurists whose acclaim is in technology and science fiction.

Guests will also be treated to appetizers and libations, and the opportunity to learn more about the beloved Library during informal “behind-the-scenes” tours. Reservations are required. $125 per person. Online registration available at icpl.org/support/looking-forward. Registration ends May 8.

Do you live to golf? Do you love the Iowa City Public Library? If you answered yes to both questions, we want you for the Third Annual Library Links Golf Classic.

All funds raised at this event will be used by the Library to continue providing dynamic collections, programs, and resources that make it the busiest public library in Iowa.

Join us for a day of fun and prizes on Friday, June 26, at Finkbine Golf Course in Iowa City. The event begins with lunch for golfers at 11:30 a.m. with a 1 p.m. Shotgun start. Register online at icpl.org/support/library-links.

For more information on Looking Forward and/or Library Links, contact Patty McCarthy, Development Director, 319.356.5249 or patty-mccarthy@icpl.org
Thanks a Million
to all our Donors
who have contributed over
$1,000,000
in the last five years to
keep the library strong.

Friends