Thank you to this year's CCLA members for their help

Although numbers were smaller than those of last year, the 383 membership gifts to the library's acquisition fund added $22,652 to the funds available to purchase new books for the library in the 1991-92 fiscal year. (The previous year's 454 memberships yielded $42,443 for acquisitions.)

Thank you to all who have made your membership gifts over the past year, and if you haven't yet renewed your membership for 1992-93, you may still do so through June 30, 1993.

Roses for the librarian?
Rogers gets them from students

"I really do enjoy helping people find answers and learn about library resources and the library research process," says Coe reference librarian Betty Rogers, who is completing her 21st year at the college.

She likes the diversity of the questions she's asked. "In larger academic libraries, librarians are frequently subject specialists," says Rogers. "I like the wide range of subjects you deal with in a library the size of Coe's. I also really like getting to know students."

And that's where the roses come in. "I'm sure that librarians at larger research universities don't get roses for help given on a student's honors project," grins Rogers, "but I have. Students also come back four or five years later to say, 'Thanks. You really helped me.'"

As much as she loves her work, Rogers didn't always know she wanted to be a librarian. Her major at Mt. Mercy College, where she did her undergraduate work, was biology. "But my first real job was in a library," she explains. She found she loved it and began working on her master's degree in library science at the University of Iowa, completing it in 1990.

"I still use my background in biology on a daily basis in the library," Rogers hastens to add. "This week I'm scheduling on-line searches with students taking a botany course. It requires me to be able to understand the terminology they are bringing to me." Rogers can dial into the biological literature database from the computer in her office and retrieve article citations for material relevant to the topics the students are investigating. "In the process, I'm also teaching the structure of computerized databases and how to access those databases," she explains.

In addition to this kind of one-on-one assistance of students coming to her from a particular class, Rogers fields student questions at the library's reference desk. She also plans instruction in library orientation for groups of students, particularly at the beginning of the year.

Her department is responsible for the interlibrary loan program, which allows Coe students and faculty to borrow materials from other libraries—and other people to borrow from Coe's collection.

"There's something called library literacy," says Rogers. "We want our people to become independent, intelligent library users, and because we are an academic department we have a responsibility to help and to teach."
BIBLIOPHILE

A five-year update:
Library use up 300% overall—77% among students and faculty

It's been five years since construction began on the renovation and expansion of Stewart Memorial Library in May, 1987. What difference has the new facility made at Coe?

In that time the book collection has grown from 155,855 volumes to 176,430—a net increase that takes into account the withdrawal of 11,926 volumes judged to be out-of-date or non-essential. The library has been able to add an average of 6,500 new volumes each year.

Even more impressive is a 77% increase in the use of the library within the Coe community. Circulation has grown from 21,550 to 37,118—including a 53% increase in student use, and a 118% increase in faculty use.

Library director Richard Doyle also compared total circulation figures for all library patrons (including community users, as well as students, staff, and faculty). The total number has increased 300%—from 1,553 checkouts in the base year of 1986-87 to 6,225 in 1991-92.

Doyle concludes that the new building and computerized access systems “have revolutionized library services at Coe College.” Gifts from the Hall Foundation of Cedar Rapids, Coe alumni and friends, and the Coe College Library Association made it possible.

He adds that the reputation of the library has risen considerably in the architectural and library communities since the new facility opened. “They come from far and wide to see the building and discuss our services as a first stop in planning for enhancement of their own library facilities,” says Doyle.

Corner House Gallery helps Coe art students with exhibition proceeds

"Small Works Show," an exhibition of work created by area artists, many of whom are Coe faculty and alumni, is on display at Cedar Rapids' Corner House Gallery through December 24. Ten percent of all the proceeds from works in this show will go toward Coe College art scholarships.

Works in the show are 7 x 10 inches in size and are of mixed media.

The exhibition opened at the Corner House on October 16, and the following morning owners George and Janelle McClain hosted a brunch for the artists in Perrine Gallery of Coe's Stewart Memorial Library.

Last year two Coe students received art awards of $200 each, and $2,600 was used to begin a fund that will permanently endow an art scholarship for Coe College.

President John Brown and his wife, Nancy, pose with Corner House Gallery co-owner George McClain (center) at the opening of the gallery's 1992 Small Works Show, with proceeds benefiting Coe art students.
Faculty recommend some good reading

Coe's 1992 Reading Guide describes six books that faculty members have read and are recommending to others. These titles might be good additions to your gift list this holiday season—and all of them are available at the Coe Library.

Susan Dobrian, associate professor of Spanish, recommends The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love, by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Oscar Hijuelos. She believes it captures the rich flavors of Hispanic life in the U.S. in post-World War II New York City, as seen and lived by Cuban immigrants—avoiding the flat stereotypes often used. "The novel celebrates a true Hispanic gusto for life and beckons us to cross into the dreams and ambitions of people who enrich our culture by holding true to their own."

Coe Writer-in-Residence Ann Struthers recommends a new book of poems by Iowa poet Robert Dana, What I Think I Know. She recalls British poet Sir Stephen Spender's description of Dana as "a master of the single line which crystallizes the seen and remembered image." In this book, Dana uses mostly Midwestern scenes and images, but Struthers adds, "once Dana lifts them up in his almost faultless syntax they become charged, significant, powerful. The reader looks at the ordinary world which is no longer ordinary and starts out again for a world which is difficult, but also extraordinarily fascinating."

William Flanagan, associate professor of sociology, suggests Devil on the Cross by Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, whom he describes as one of the most important African writers of our time. Flanagan says this story is much bigger than a personal tragedy, with the victims being women, workers, the peasants of Kenya, and their cultures and traditions of social responsibility. "The author uses the ordinary characters in this novel to challenge the direction of change, to resist. Devil on the Cross is a parable and the political subtext is plain. Fiction is the vehicle, change the object."

Paula Sanchini, associate professor of biology, says Wonderful Life: The Burgess Shale and the Nature of History is much more than a book about a fossil bed. It's true that the Burgess Shale of British Columbia is the world's most important collection of early Metazoon animals. But author Stephen Jay Gould "weaves transcendent messages" into his story of the Burgess Shale, according to Sanchini. "Gould challenges us to abandon our cosmic arrogance and recognize that our fate may yet lie with the Burgess Shale oddities."

Nükhet Yarborough, associate professor of psychology, recommends A.S. Byatt's Possession: A Romance, which she describes as more than a romance—a thriller, a mystery, a satire of academia, and a love story all in one. The author, who has taught literature at University College in London and published critical work on Wordsworth and Coleridge, creates two believable fictitious Victorian poets, whom two contemporary British scholars are trying to learn more about. Intricate subplots, teeming with legends, myths, and motifs, make the book rich, says Yarborough, yet "surprisingly easy and delightful reading."

The complete reviews of these books are available through the Coe Public Relations Office, by calling 399-8605.

New drawing added to Metcalf Collection

When artist Conger Metcalf '36 was in Cedar Rapids in September to open a Coe exhibition of his latest work, he brought a large-scale drawing entitled "Cantante" with him. The subject of the drawing, concert singer and teacher Louis Garland Davis of Providence, Rhode Island, was also present at the opening.

Metcalf, Davis, Metcalf's Boston neighbor George Fanning, and Metcalf's business associate Marguerite Gurekian made a gift of the drawing to Coe College for the permanent Conger Metcalf Collection.
Coe alumni collection totals 381 titles to date

Users of Coe's computerized catalog can now learn immediately if a book they are inquiring about was written by a Coe alumnus or alumna. Under the category "Coe notes," the author's connection to Coe College will be described when the full book citation is called up on the computer screen. (Some 165 books by faculty authors are also identified under the "Coe notes" category.)

Dr. Charlie Shedd '37, Presbyterian pastor and best-selling author, made the most recent and one of the largest contributions of books to the alumni collection in July, when he donated 42 of his books (some being different translations or editions of the same title) to the library. Included are his books on marriage (How to Stay in Love), ideas for churches (How to Develop a Thriving Church), for young people (The Stork is Dead), for parents and grandparents (Smart Dads I Know), on managing your life (Word Focusing: A New Way to Pray), on writing (If I Can Write, You Can Write), and his biography of his first wife, Martha (Remember, I Love You).

In a letter to library director Richard Doyle, Shedd wrote, "It gives me a good feeling to know that all my books will be in one place for the years to come."

Other alumni book collections of considerable size in Coe's alumni group are 54 titles by the late poet and educator Paul Engle '31, 21 by the late father of sociology Edward Alsworth Ross (who graduated in 1886), and 18 by journalist/historian William L. Shirer '25.