



COE COLLEGE

BIBLIOPHILE

SUMMER 2021



A newsletter for members of the Coe College Library Association

STEWART MEMORIAL LIBRARY DIRECTOR RETIRES



Jill Jack began as the library's archivist in 2007.

Jill Jack, the director of library services at Coe's Stewart Memorial Library since 2011, retired July 2.

Jack started her career at the library in 2007, when former director Rich Doyle rounded up donor money to hire an archivist

to organize the papers of **William Shirer '25**, the journalist who covered World War II and wrote the bestseller, "The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich." After a national search, he hired Jack. "It quickly became apparent that I had a highly skilled archivist and academic librarian dedicated to her dual professions working in the Henry Archives," Doyle said. "I made it my job to keep Jill on the job."

And he did. At the end of the Shirer year, Jack became the library's head of reference. When Doyle retired in 2010, Jack became the library's interim director and in 2011 was named the library's director, while continuing as the college archivist.

"It was a great library when I got it," Jack said. "Rich did amazing things during his 31-year tenure as director — his vision for expanding the library both physically and technologically, creating a modern library. The library transitioned from using a card catalog to an online system, bringing the internet to the library and across campus, and the building renovations doubled the size of the library. My goal was to continue to move the library forward bringing it to meet the demands of a 21st century library and specifically bringing our library further into focus for faculty, students and scholars' frame of reference."

A national search will be undertaken for Jack's successor.

Derek Buckaloo, Coe professor of history, said Jack "has been a consistent 'force for good'" in her years at the library. "Approachable and caring, she always stayed focused on having the library support the work of its patrons, students and faculty alike," he said. "She is a joy to work with, and she will be missed."

LIBRARIANS TEACHING

One of Jack's main goals as the library's director was to expand the role of librarians as educators and valuable members of the faculty and Coe community.

"To do this, I expanded the teaching role of the librarians, getting them in the classroom and working more with students. I wanted librarians to be seen and recognized for everything they do," Jack said. "Everybody had to teach. We revamped our teaching curriculum, programs and services and reached out to the Coe faculty. By working together, we have become a permanent part of many faculty's courses."

"We revamp our programs and classes every year — what worked? What didn't," Jack added.

"Students change so fast. Librarians have to be on the forefront of change. Students have access to so much information and technology in their daily lives. However, in an academic environment, you need to learn how to use sources differently, like 'How do you validate a Twitter account to use in a research paper?' We have to know that because we have to teach it, to help students research their topics and to do it using valid resources."

Jack also encouraged the Stewart librarians to teach in areas where they have expertise. Jack taught Gender Studies Capstone courses for four years. Laura Riskedahl, now head of reference, was an embedded librarian in upper-level art courses.

Teaching, Jack noted, is not a new concept for librarians. "We've always worked with students throughout their research process. They come

in with a research topic, as a librarian, we help them narrow it. 'Look at this.' 'Have you considered this?' Librarians have always taught, but now we're teaching whole classes these skills, while still helping students one-on-one."

LEARNING COMMONS

Another goal Jack had early on was adding a Learning Commons in the library, "though I didn't know what it would look like," she said. "In 2014, when the Coe administration came to me and said they wanted to put in a Learning Commons in the library, I was very excited to work on the project and what it would bring to the students and the library."

The \$1.2 million renovation of the library's main level brought together the academic support services that help Coe students succeed at college — and life. The Learning Commons opened up the library, updating the look by adding modern workstations, additional study rooms with writable walls, conference rooms and comfy furniture. Students could talk to career consultants or get help with their writing or speaking assignments.

"The Learning Commons created an enriched, engaging and creative approach to teaching and learning that has benefited the entire Coe community," Jack said. "It's worked out great."

Gina Hausknecht, Coe professor of literature and creative writing who worked with Jack on the Learning Commons, said the project "clearly fit Jill's conception of the library as the vibrant center of students' academic, intellectual and social life, at the literal and figurative heart of the college. ... Jill and her staff make Stewart Memorial Library at least as much about people as about books and information. Jill is a connector: at work and out in the world, she brings people together. She has committed her life to social justice in its many forms, and for Jill, this isn't abstract but is about individuals living better lives in solidarity with each other."

With the Learning Commons came upgrades in wireless internet service throughout the library, along with new computers, a computer lab and dual monitors. An “interactive display system” was added to a new seminar room, allowing for display of all things digital. Another advanced, interactive system offered a 90-inch screen.

And, as every homeowner knows, there’s nothing like a remodel to point out the other areas that need work. And so it was for the library. Jack noticed “the library looked old. We needed to spruce it up. So we upgraded as we had the finances for it.” Walls were painted, worn-out chairs and couches were replaced or recovered. More study rooms were added as were new book displays, signage and modern dividers at computer tables. Media Technologies was upgraded, with a MakerStudio, and a Virtual Reality room was eventually added.

“It was lots of little things and a few big things,” Jack said. “I wanted to keep that traditional library feel with modern elements. There’s something about walking into a traditional library that oozes knowledge. I wanted to keep that but also wanted students to walk in and find the space usable — with the double screens and the whiteboards they expect. I want the library to feel like a home for our students. And I do think students appreciated the small — and larger — changes that have big impacts.”

THE SHIRER PAPERS

One of the first things Jack did as interim library director, in October 2010, was organize a three-day symposium on the papers Shirer, the “larger than life” journalist and author William L. Shirer 1925, had donated to the library’s George T. Henry College Archive.

“I really wanted people to know about the Shirer papers,” Jack said. “I was amazed at the interest. Two well-known Pulitzer Prize journalists attended and spoke, even though I couldn’t really pay them. I heard from other journalists about the influence he’d had on their lives. Journalists continue to read and reread Shirer’s works, and some of the ones I talked to were floored to find out his papers were here at Coe. My goal was to bring Shirer back to life and have people understand the connections between his world then and ours now. The symposium was a huge undertaking, but my library colleagues worked hard on it, and it was a success. It really put the word out on the Archives, Shirer’s papers and Coe.”

Jack and her staff also organized other exhibits at the library in conjunction with the past decade’s anniversaries of World War I and World War II. One was on Joseph Kitchen, a longtime Coe violin instructor who donated his diaries and pictures from World War I. Another was on B.D. Silliman 1917, a Cedar Rapids attorney who donated his papers detailing his role as a prosecutor in the Nuremberg trials that followed World War II — trials covered



*Front row: Hongbo Xie, Jill Jack, Laura Riskedahl
Back Row: Linda Hummel, Jeff Schulte, Harlene Hansen, Sandy Blanchard, Cberi Pettibone*

by Shirer, which allowed the library to present both their perspectives. Another exhibit and workshop was presented by J. Malcolm Garcia ’79, who donated papers from his globetrotting career as a journalist, including the war in Afghanistan.

“We also have the Paul Engle ’31 papers,” Jack said of the writer and poet who was the longtime director of the Iowa Writers’ Workshop. “Basically, our exhibits have been aimed at ‘look what we have,’ to let our students and faculty know about this resource and how they’re available for research. It’s such a benefit to our faculty, particularly our history faculty and students.”

‘ALWAYS ABOUT BOOKS’

Jack had a number of jobs before she came to Coe, but they “always have been about research and books.”

A Chicago native, Jack “grew up” in the downtown Chicago Public Library. At the University of Iowa, she majored in history and political science, working at the UI Main Library while a student. She earned a master’s degree in American history with an emphasis in African American and Native American history while working at the UI bookstore and a feminist bookstore. She earned her master’s degree in library science at Indiana University in 1994, surprising her friends, who’d told her in the 1970s she should be a librarian, a suggestion she’d immediately dismissed.

Jack worked at the Cornell College library for five years and then started her own archiving company, while working full time and part time for Kirkwood Community College and the State Historical Society. She was The History Center’s archivist before joining Coe.

DONORS & STAFF

It’s impossible to pick the best part of being a library director, Jack said, but working with donors is toward the top, whether it’s working with a family on the donation of someone’s papers or seeing donors respond to the director’s annual fundraising appeal for the library.

“I wish I could meet them all and tell them how incredible their support is and how critical it is to the library to have that support,” Jack said. “They’re really wonderful.”

Jack, 63, is convinced she’s made the right decision about retiring. She’s lived with serious heart issues since she was 14, and her spouse, Diane Finnerty, died in December 2019. So, all things considered, it’s time; though she allows she’ll miss the work and the library’s staff of seven.

“I just love my colleagues,” Jack said. “We haven’t had a lot of turnover, which is one of the reasons we’ve been able to maintain excellent service and quality. Everybody goes above and beyond. They have our history. We get along, not that we don’t have differences, but we settle them for the good of the group. We all have the same goal — to be of service to our students and faculty. We love the work and the students.”

Assistant Archivist Harlene Hansen, who’s worked with Jack since 2007, said Jack “is a great boss, always ready to answer questions and give advice when asked, but wanting you to explore and carry on with your job without interfering,” Hansen said. “I always have found her wealth of knowledge inspiring. She has always taken extra time to have conversations about everything, not just work. I’m hoping she will find the time in retirement to spend a few hours where I believe one of her passions lies — in archives. If she does, I won’t have to say goodbye.”

LAURA RISKEDAHL BECOMES HEAD OF REFERENCE



Laura Riskedahl is the new head of reference for the Stewart Memorial Library at Coe College. She joined the library in 2008 as head of media technologies and moved into the reference job in December 2020. Riskedahl and Hongbo Xie have been named interim co library directors following the retirement of Jill Jack.

The head of reference is a forward facing position on campus that needs continuity and leadership,” she said of the position that includes management of campus research databases and library research instruction across campus.

This past spring, Riskedahl co taught a research methods class, showing students how to find information and then evaluate it — what’s legitimate, what’s not. One discussion topic concerned a photographer who was taking pictures of a monkey. The monkey grabbed the camera and took a picture. Who owns the copyright to that picture? The question went to court, and the monkey lost, sort of. It’s

complicated, as are many of the issues that come up in assessing online information in the 21st century.

Riskedahl said one of her goals is to work more with Coe students in mid- and upper level classes. “I’d like to develop modules for faculty members to use on evaluating sources, on visual literacy — how to evaluate images ethically — mind mapping, brainstorming, citation management and organization of resources, how to use them and how to spot ‘fake news,’” she said.

Riskedahl, a Mount Pleasant native, grew up in Marshalltown and won a full tuition scholarship to the University of Northern Iowa in studio art, where she majored in painting and printmaking and minored in women’s studies. After graduating, she volunteered for two years with the Grout Museum of History & Science in Waterloo where she curated the papers from a woman’s lifework.

That convinced me I wanted to become an archivist and honor people, preserve their stories,” she said, noting her day jobs were in a bookstore and as a barista. “I wanted to be in a service profession.

She enrolled in the master’s program in library science at the University of Iowa, pursuing her interest in archiving but adding classes in digital archiving “because people don’t know collections exist if they’re not online.” While taking classes, she assisted the registrar at the UI Museum of Art, managing donor and artwork records, preparing condition reports and digitizing the collection, and she also worked for UI Digital Library Services. After earning her master’s degree in 2007, she spent a year at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, as a metadata librarian, digitizing items from the archives and cataloging images for research collections.

She returned to Iowa in 2008 to accept the media technologies position at Coe. Now in her 13th year with the library, Riskedahl noted she is now the junior staffer, with everyone else having been there more years than she has. “And that’s great, a real strength for Coe students, faculty and staff,” she said.

Riskedahl lives in a loft apartment in Czech Village in Cedar Rapids with her trusty cat, Olive. And, yes, she likes cat videos.

THE YEAR OF COVID-19 *at the library*

‘GLAD IT’S OVER’ AND LOOKING AHEAD, WITH FINGERS CROSSED, TO A MORE NORMAL FALL

When the pandemic closed down the nation in March 2020, the Coe campus and the Stewart Memorial Library also closed, with classes and services continuing online.

The library remained closed for the summer to prepare the building for a safe, socially distanced fall term “where everyone would be safe,” said Sandy Blanchard, head of the circulation department for 30-plus years. Students and faculty were able to check out materials by filling out an online form and then picking up their bagged or boxed items on the upper level of Gage Memorial Union.



“We took turns working in the building to retrieve books or movies, checking them out and then taking them to Gage,” Blanchard

said. “Only a couple of us were in the building at one time.”

It was “a very separated summer,” said Cheri Pettibone, the library acquisitions assistant who played a major role in setting the library’s COVID-19 protocols. “Zoom meetings and electronic communication got us through, but we are happy to be back together in person.”

During the summer the library staff moved hundreds of chairs from their normal positions to storage areas in the building to create safe social distanced study spaces; posted room capacity, directional and friendly reminders to “mask up” signage throughout the library’s four floors; gingerly moved the Perrine Gallery’s baby grand piano and a few pieces of art to a safe location. Physical Plant brought in plexiglass dividers for service counters, hand sanitizer dispensers, installed floor directional signage and moved the heavy Perrine Gallery furniture to side galleries which were temporarily staged for storage. With the Perrine Gallery a newly empty space

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Physical Plant moved in small tables and the IT Department installed computers harvested from various locations on campus to create a socially distanced 25 person computer lab in the Perrine Gallery.

And then came the August 10, 2020, derecho, which decimated the trees and damaged buildings on the Coe campus. The campus, like all of Linn County, lost electrical power, but Coe, being on the same grid as St. Luke's Hospital, had electricity restored before most people, so it set up charging stations for all the dead cellphones in people's hands.

In the fall of 2020, along with the rest of the campus, the library reopened to Coe students, faculty and staff but remained closed to the public. Everyone who entered had to wear masks, and if they worked in the library, check their temperature and sanitize. The library limited its hours, but it began opening earlier, at 7:15 a.m., because classes were starting earlier and some students needed to use the library's computers and Wi-Fi to attend their virtual classes.

One of the COVID-19 protocols required the books and movies returned to the library be quarantined for 24 hours before being reshelfed, Blanchard said.

"We were all so nervous," she recalled. "I initially wore a mask and a face shield because I'm always talking to students. It was a tough year. This past year, I hired 17 student workers, and I've never seen their full faces. We've always had on masks. We're not talking as much, and we're staying 6 feet away from each other. It seems like it's been hard for the student workers to

build friendships as they did in the past. They've been isolated in their rooms, so they weren't able to see each other outside of the library either. They weren't able to bond like before."

Blanchard came up with a floater system to make sure two people — from her staff of around 30 students — were on the circulation desk evenings and weekends. The floater would check in and then could go home if two people showed up or could stay and wipe down the "contact areas" on desks, tables, phones and computers, a constant task during the year of COVID-19.

The spring 2021 term was "a bit more relaxed," though masks and social distancing were still the rule, Blanchard said. This summer, Coe is hosting the College for Kids program for middle schoolers. Blanchard said the library opened for the parents who drop off their kids and come to the library to work until it's time to take their children home. It is the first time the public was allowed in the building in 15 months.

"I'm looking with hope to the next academic year," Blanchard said, expressing a hope shared by all. "We did what we had to do this year, and we took every day as it came. Even when we had to shut things down, we were able to get together and talk about how to do that.

"It's been challenging, I think, because this has gone on for so long," she said. "I was here during the library's major renovation and expansion in 1988. And I lived through installing our first computer system and digitizing our collections. Those were momentous years. This one was, too."

MORE GEORGE HENRY NEGATIVES DONATED TO COLLEGE ARCHIVE

George Henry's family has donated thousands more negatives of Henry's photographs to the Stewart Memorial Library archive that bears his name.

George Henry '49 photographed all aspects of Coe campus life from the mid 1940s, after he returned from flying B 24 Liberator bombers in Europe during World War II, through the mid 2000s. He was at Coe concerts, speakers, sports games and commencements. He always had a camera with him, photographing families, weddings, buildings, hospitals, schools, nature and anything else that caught his eye.

The latest donation came this spring as Henry's sons, Jerry and Jeff, were cleaning Henry's home in Cedar Rapids to be placed on the market and sent seven carloads of negatives to the archive for sorting. (See related article by Jerry Henry.)

The George T. Henry College Archives at the library now hold tens of thousands of Henry's prints and negatives, according to Jill Jack, director of library services and college archivist.

In terms of archival value, she said, "negatives are good to have for the long term because they can be reproduced at any size. Prints are good in the short term because you can more easily see the pictures. Ideally, you have both.

In the latest donation, Archivist Assistant Harlene Hansen sorted through the boxes, noting Henry had labeled almost 90% of his negatives. The sorting was helped along with an app on Hansen's cellphone that projects a negative's image, making it easier to identify the subject of a picture.

"We took two carloads, about 20 boxes, of negatives to The History Center," Jack said.

They were thrilled. They already have George's papers and his pictures of prominent Cedar Rapids families and buildings. This donation adds to that collection along with pictures from small Linn County towns.

Jack said the archives also preserve pictures and negatives representative of Henry's decades of whitewater rafting trips in the West and his pictures of black bears in Minnesota.

As for Coe, it is hard to express the value of this collection, all of it assembled by one photographer," Jack said. "It tells the pictorial story of Coe through decades of growth, in photos by a man who knew and loved the college. We are deeply appreciative of his vision and that he so carefully preserved the pictures he took. It's a gift to Coe. It's a gift to history.

MY PHOTOGRAPHER DAD CHRONICLED COE'S HISTORY FOR 60-PLUS YEARS

HE WAS A WIZARD IN THE DARKROOM ... AND HE NEVER THREW ANYTHING AWAY

By Jerry Henry, Special to the Bibliophile



Imagine for a moment a wizard in white hair with a white goatee sitting in dim yellow light in an underground cavern. A menacing black

machine shoots light out the bottom onto a blank piece of paper forming an eerie image. The wizard waves magic wands of different sizes blocking the image from the paper at various points until, with a sudden click, the image disappears. The paper is moved into a nearby tray filled with a wizard's brew of chemicals. Slowly, a ghostly image begins to appear. The ever-darkening image is moved to another tray and finally, at the perfect moment, moved to one called the stopper. It is sloshed around a few times, then plucked from the tray, revealing a spectacular black-and-white image where nothing had existed only a few moments before.

If you attended a Coe College event between the mid-1940s and the mid-2000s, you probably saw this wizard with a camera settled on his shoulder, with several leather bags carrying flash attachments, film and other needed equipment in tow. His pictorial legacy is one of the hidden gems of Coe College. He is my dad.

You probably didn't think about how those great pictures from the dances and the sporting events and the famous visitors to Coe came to be. But every one — well over 100,000 images just for Coe alone — had a negative and a proof sheet, and many had several tries to get the shading just right. The good pictures went to the clients, the negatives went into a filing system, and, like most people from the Depression era, almost nothing my dad touched ever went in the trash.

Recognizing the historical value of his work, George Henry, along with his

second wife, Kay Shive Henry, set about preserving the remarkable collection. They donated the money to create a world-class storage facility at Coe and used one of Kay's sons, Mike Shive of Modern Piping, to design the facility to meet the exacting standards required of an archive. The archive in the Stewart Memorial Library was dedicated Oct. 21, 1999, allowing George to place many of his 100,000-plus negatives into protective storage in the aptly named George T. Henry College Archive.

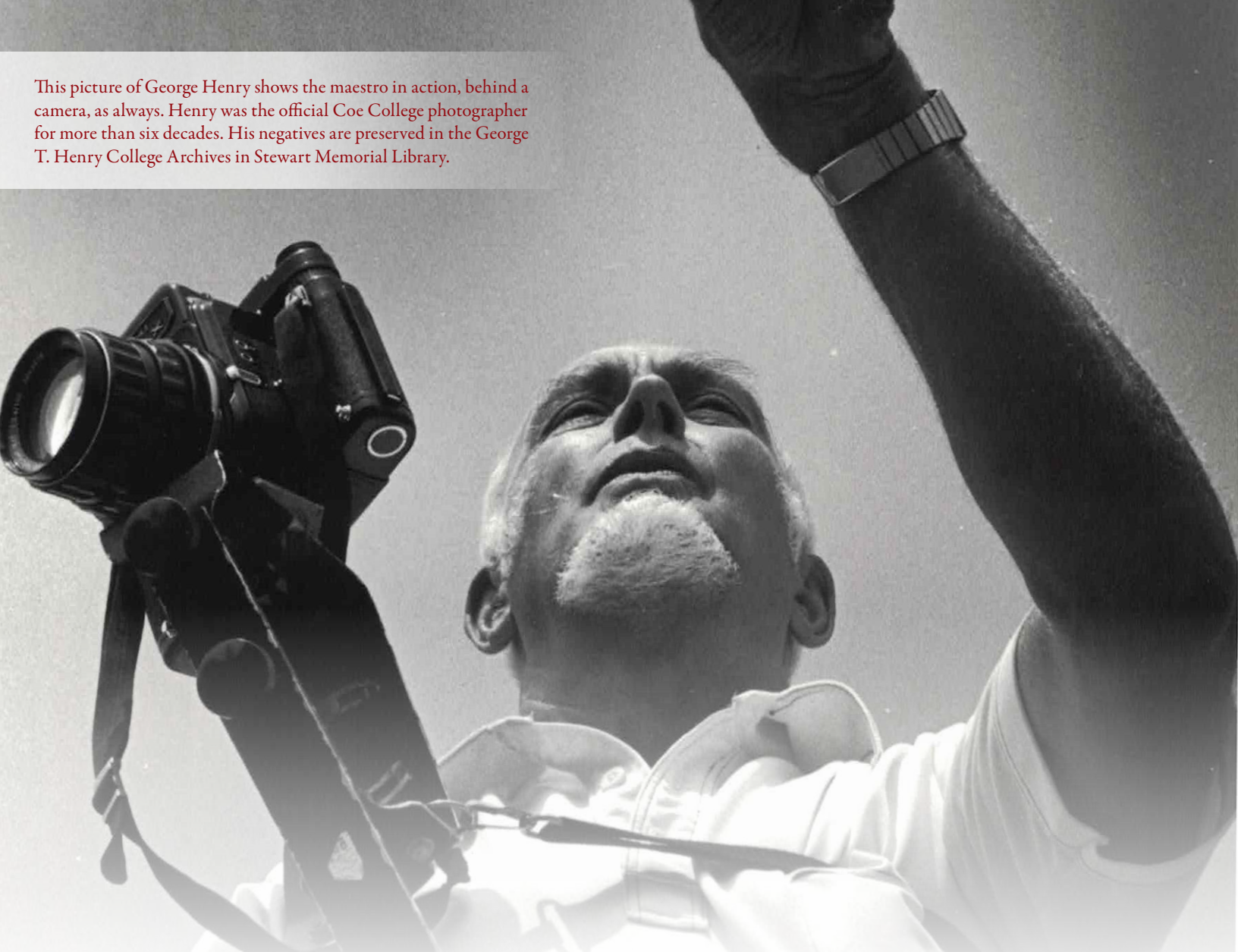
But that is not the end of the story.

George is now 98 years old, and it has been a few years since he has taken pictures for Coe. He has used his negatives, along with pictures from others in the area, to create three historical books on Cedar Rapids, a pictorial history of Coe and a book on his summer job of more than 40 years as a whitewater river guide on rivers in the western United States. He continued to move negatives in and out of the archives until just a few years ago. Now the time has come to empty his home and the workplace of the past 50 years and prepare it for sale.

When my brother and I began looking at the size and scope of our dad's collection still at the house, we were overwhelmed. We called Stewart Memorial Library, and Harlene Hansen, who works in the archive, agreed to come take a look. She brought along the library's Cheri Pettibone and, after a look around, they offered to help with the sorting of pictures and negatives. We sent them off with a carload of what we thought were most of his Coe negatives outside the archives. We were wrong.

As we continued to dig into the far corners of the huge house on Grande Avenue SE, we continued to find more negatives and pictures. Some had been

This picture of George Henry shows the maestro in action, behind a camera, as always. Henry was the official Coe College photographer for more than six decades. His negatives are preserved in the George T. Henry College Archives in Stewart Memorial Library.



damaged by water and dampness, while others seemed out of place when discovered. We would accumulate a car full of artifacts and take it to Stewart, and, after sorting, they would return a small set of family negatives and photos to us. An agreement was reached so the library could pass on materials to The History Center, Cornell College and Mount Mercy University, if that's where they would best be at home.

We found numerous unexpected treasures: unknown pictures that had apparently not made the grade for the intended purpose, including pictures of Louis Armstrong, Martin Luther King Jr., Doc Severinsen, Robert Kennedy and more. There were multiples of what we began to call George Henry's greatest hits, pictures he was obviously fond of, which were reproduced many times over the years, probably because the previous batch of the picture had been forgotten or was not readily available.

We discovered our dad was an artist in numerous areas, including finding folios of his drawings from classes with Marvin Cone, hand-tooled leather creations and woodworking projects. He was clearly a creative artist who just happened to end up in photography. We found experimental photos published as examples in various photographic journals. We found his artistic vision recognized in multiple photo competitions. We found notes and letters from famous personalities. It

was a remarkable documentation of a fabulous, well-lived life.

We are winding down our house cleaning, and the home soon will be for sale. We have taken six or seven carloads of "evidence" to Stewart and probably have one small stack of pictures left to deliver. Thanks to Coe, we have been able to sort through multiple thousands of negatives and hundreds of pictures to get them to their most beneficial place. While the negatives remain George's property until his death, he has given Coe permission to use them as needed. Upon his passing, the negatives are inherited by my brother, Jeff, and me. They will be valued professionally and then donated to Coe, giving Coe an unrivaled pictorial collection of more than 50 years of history as seen through the artistic lens of a single individual. To our knowledge, this is the only collection of its kind for a college or university in the country.

Lucky for Coe, George Henry was an exceptional talent at his chosen profession ... and someone who never threw anything away.

The author is a retired public school orchestra director, professional violinist and occasional Coe adjunct professor who teaches a string fundamentals course. He and his wife, Jennifer, live in LeClaire, Iowa, where he pursues writing as an avocation.



Flunk Day

AT THE LIBRARY

It wasn't the typical Flunk Day at Coe College on April 19, but it was a day off classes.

The "Safe Campus Flunk Day" featured an outdoor karaoke session, yard games, a cookout and food trucks, with masks required indoor games at the Stewart Memorial Library.

Students made coasters, buttons and magnets in the library and put together

puzzles. They played giant Jenga, dominoes, trivia, Scrabble and other games. Staff reported it was a lively day, with a number of students participating and having fun.

It was really wonderful to have so many students in the library at once," said Cheri Pettibone, library acquisitions assistant who helped organize the activities. "We were able to keep them safe, but it was one day this year students could relax in the building and just have fun.



≡ Many Thanks ≡

TO THE CLASS OF '21

The Coe Class of 2021 included eight graduates who were student workers at the Stewart Memorial Library during their undergraduate years. We're proud of our graduates, who are busy with new jobs or in graduate school, and we're grateful for the hours they spent working at the library. They are:



BRITTANY NEILSEN



BRUNO VALLIM



CECI PITSTICK



CHRISI HOWELL



DEBORAH KIM



JANIELLE COBLER



RYLEY McMAHEN



SIMON CROCKER



FOLLOW US!

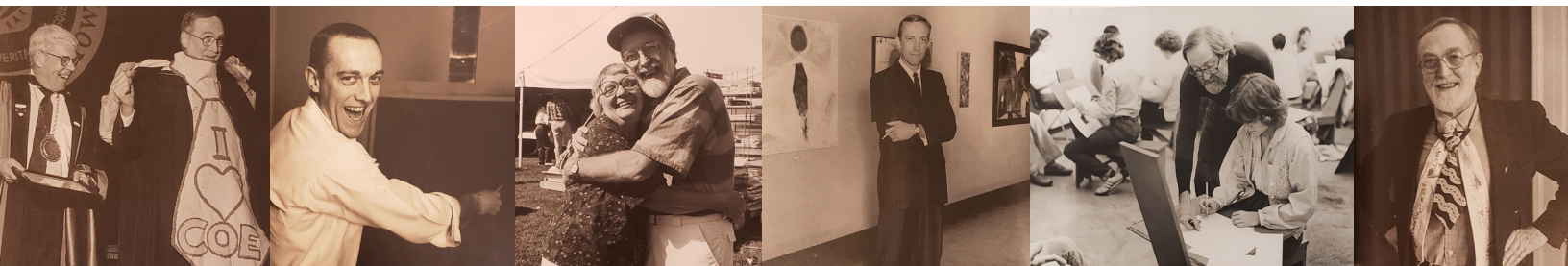


Keep up-to-date on what's happening at the
Stewart Memorial Library in the heart of the Coe College campus.

You'll find our accounts on **Instagram** (@coelibrary)
and on **Facebook** (Coe College Library - Stewart Memorial Library).

Hope to see you there!

IN MEMORIAM



ROBERT KOCHER, 1929-2020

Retired Coe Art Professor Robert Lee Russell Kocher died February 16, 2020, in Cedar Rapids, at the age of 90. He and his wife, Joan, were “Coe royalty,” and Kocher, in particular, “was a great friend of the library,” said Jill Jack, director of library services.

Paintings by Kocher — and of Kocher — are found throughout the Stewart Library, and he was a frequent visitor, brightening many a day with his wit and humor. In October 2019, he and his wife, also an artist, presented a 50-year retrospective art show in the Sinclair Galleries. Because of Bob’s love of colorful and crazy ties, everyone attending the celebration was asked to wear two or more ties. “It was fun and a wonderful show, with so much diversity in their

art,” Jack said. “It helped viewers glimpse lives of artistic creation and exploration.”

Kocher was born December 19, 1929, in Jefferson City, Missouri, and graduated from the University of Missouri with a degree in art and zoology and then earned a master’s degree in painting. He served in the Missouri National Guard for four years and then taught art for four years at Culver-Stockton College in Canton, Missouri. Famed Coe art professor Marvin Cone recruited Kocher in 1959 to come to Coe, where Kocher became a full professor in 1971. At Coe, Kocher was chairman of the Art Department for many years, director of the art galleries and curator of the college’s art collection. He was a practicing artist throughout his

career, exhibiting widely. He retired in 1995 as the Marvin D. Cone Professor of Art Emeritus.

He and his wife — fixtures at Coe concerts, plays, lectures, athletic events, alumni functions and Thursday Forums — received Coe’s Eliza Hickok Kesler Outstanding Service Award in 2006 and the college’s Distinguished Service Award in 2011. They established the Kocher Visual Arts Endowment, which brings a visiting artist to campus each year and annually supports a prize in art to a Coe student. Memorial contributions may be made to the Kocher Visual Arts Endowment at alumni.coe.edu/makegift.

ELINOR DAY '49



Elinor Kanaskie Day '49 was downsizing in 2019 and needed to donate a houseful of books. She was no longer driving and called the Stewart Memorial Library to see if they could help. The answer was yes, and two Coe students came to her Cedar Rapids home and packed and hauled away cartons of books. “You might mention that in the Bibliophile,” she said at

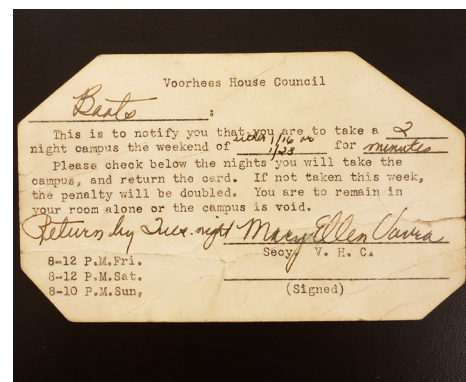
the time, “in case there are other Bibliophile readers of a certain age wondering what to do with their libraries.”

Day, who died December 10, 2020, had more gifts to give. Her photos from her Alpha Gamma Delta sorority days and its reunions now reside in the library Archives, along with the “World War II Experiences of the Coe 22”. She also donated a “campus card” for “Boots” Kanaskie, issued when she was late getting back to her residence hall one night. She chuckled at the memory.

Elinor Kanaskie grew up in Chicago and chose to attend Coe because it was the only liberal arts college she could find with a journalism major. After graduating, she worked for the Cedar Rapids Gazette. She and James H. Day married and had four children. She was the chief communications officer for the Cedar Rapids Community School District and then directed the communications programs for two Cedar Rapids-based insurance companies and Mount Mercy College. She ran her own

public relations consulting firm and, at age 70, co-founded the Cedar Valley Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America. She wrote and/or edited five books and was a member of the Cedar Rapids Public Library Board of Trustees and active in the Catherine McAuley Center, United Way, Discovery Living and Salvation Army.

She was awarded the Coe College Alumni Award of Merit in 1999.





ALUMNI AND FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

Added to the George T. Henry College Archives, 2020-2021

Adamson, Tom. *She Speaks of Long Ago*. 2021. (Tom Adamson, Class of 1972)

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