

Coe College BIBLIOPHILE

Fall/Winter 2003/04

A newsletter for members of the Coe College Library Association

Library gets new server, students get improved service

Last August, when the campus was buzzing with the arrival of students and faculty and staff were preparing for a new academic year, the library's computer system was undergoing a transformation. In the final days before classes began, the library installed a new server — a Hewlett-Packard Proliant ML370 to be exact.

"Up to this point, the library had been using a 1995 version of the server, essentially making it a Model-T in terms of computer hardware," said **Randy Roeder '86**, head of library technical services.

The old server performed well for Coe — seven years of faithful service without a major breakdown. But the library was no longer able to get parts or service from the manufacturer and had reached a point where the old server was too small and too slow to provide superb services to students. So the College decided it was time to update the server.

"Software is much more sophisticated now and requires more memory and speed than the old server was able to provide," continued Roeder. "With so many students using computers in campus labs, in their

dorms and even off campus, we need to provide service efficiently and quickly. The new server positions us to take advantage of the latest software that our library systems vendor has to offer. It all comes down to providing the best services possible for our students."

What does the server do, you might ask? As the electronic front door to the digital library, the server is an important piece of equipment. It houses the integrated library system, including acquisitions, cataloging and circulation. This means the server can track a book from the time it's ordered, to arrival, to checkout. In fact, the server holds the records for all of the resources that the library purchases, subscribes to, and orders. It keeps track of the material checked out of the library and accounts of library patrons. However, once the library patron returns the material, the link between the patron and the material is no longer recorded. The

CCLA donors — thank you!

Gifts to the Coe College Library Association totaled \$43,526 in the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2003. These gifts are used to buy books for Stewart Memorial Library. Thank you to all new and renewing members for your important and generous efforts to help the library enrich its superb collection.

server also tracks the library's budget and incoming gifts to the Coe College Library Association (CCLA).

While much of the transition to the new server is transparent to the user, the processing speed is a noticeable change: running certain reports that used to take 20 minutes is now instantaneous.

"Old Quarry, Stone City" is temporarily on display above the fireplace in the library's Richter Room.

The painting will eventually be returned to Pleasant Hill, the former Armstrong estate that was donated to Coe College. Director of Library Services Richard Doyle is quite pleased that this 1936 Marvin Cone '14 painting is on display. Doyle noted that just like the fireplace in the den at Pleasant Hill (1933), the fireplace in the Richter Room is also made of Stone City limestone.



Whipple '35 donates latest addition to the Cone collection

A true patron of the arts, **William Whipple '35** recently donated two **Marvin Cone '14** paintings to the library's permanent collection of art: "Old Red Barn" (1956) and "Fourth Flight, 1954." These paintings join other works by Marvin Cone and hang in the Gayle Schroeder Whipple Browsing Area on the main floor of Stewart Memorial Library. Cone, a member of the Coe faculty from 1919-1960, was one of Iowa's best-known artists.

Coe celebrated this donation with a reception honoring Whipple on October 10. Rich Doyle, director of library services and Robert Kocher, Marvin D. Cone Professor Emeritus of Art, joined Coe President James Phifer in making remarks about Bill Whipple and his unwaivering generosity to Coe.

"One more genuine piece of beauty has been given to Coe," said Phifer. "This painting is emblematic of the commitment Bill Whipple has made to Coe College, and I am truly grateful."

Bill Whipple then told of how he met

Marvin Cone in 1932 when Cone was painting backdrops for "Smiling Fruit," a play in which **Gayle Schroeder** (Whipple) '33 had secured a lead role.

During the reception, Whipple also presented Coe with a portrait of Gayle painted by **Joan Thaler**. The painting was likened after a photo taken for "Coe Beauties" and published in the Acorn. The painting now hangs in the Gayle Schroeder Whipple Browsing area.

Before concluding the reception, Whipple read Paul Engle's poem "Library" to an emotional crowd and followed thunderous applause by presenting Stewart Memorial Library with a framed, signed copy of the poem.



Photo by George Henry '49

Attending a reception in his honor, William Whipple '35 stands between the two Marvin Cone paintings he recently donated to the college's permanent collection of art. The paintings are "Old Red Barn" (1956) and "Fourth Flight, 1954."

"It's always a pleasure for me to come to this library," said Whipple. "It's the crown jewel of this campus."

Benjamin '75 establishes book and scholarship endowment

Amidst the excitement of the 1972-76 cluster reunion on campus Oct. 24-26, **Kim Benjamin '75** added some excitement of his own. He presented Coe College with a check for \$25,000 to establish The Blossom (Bebe) Baird and Jacob (Jack) Samuel Benjamin Endowment for scholarships and books.

Through the scholarship portion of the endowment, Benjamin will help make higher education more accessible for students in the form of financial aid, and, through the book portion, he will help the library meet its continual need to acquire new books. Benjamin created this endowment on behalf of himself, his wife, Mary, their daughter, Josie, and Kim's three siblings Saul, Marlene and Mallory, in memory of his parents.

During the ceremonial presentation of the

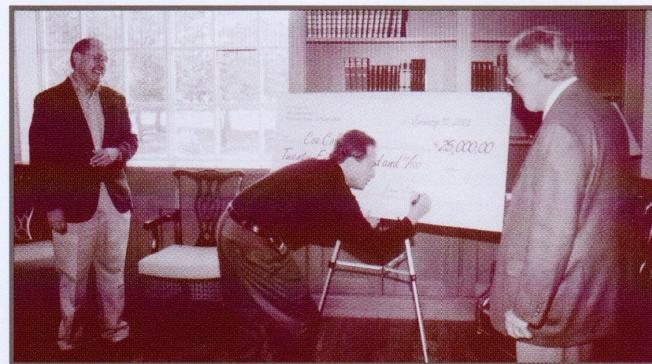
check, Benjamin informed an unsuspecting and awed crowd that this check was just the beginning, and that he would grow the endowment to \$100,000 over the next three years noting, "Through this gift, I'm catching up for the years that I didn't give anything to Coe."

"My parents did not attend college, yet both were intellectually curious throughout their lives and passed on that strong curiosity to each of their four children," noted Benjamin. "This fund is created to honor the memory of our parents who treasured books as windows into other worlds and who sacrificed much in order to

give their children opportunities and access to a wider world against which their own lack of formal education often stood as a barrier."

A feature Benjamin found attractive about the endowment is that he is able to work with Coe in setting the criteria for scholarship recipients and book selection.

"This is a wonderful and powerful gift," said Coe President James Phifer. "Books and scholarships touch the lives of students in such a remarkable way."



President James Phifer and Director of Library Services Rich Doyle, look on as Kim Benjamin '75 signs his name to a check creating an endowment for scholarships and books. Benjamin has pledged \$100,000 in memory of his parents.

Photo by George Henry '49

1972 film brings laughter, reminiscing

It was standing room only in the Stewart Memorial Library AV Theatre on Saturday, Oct. 25 when alumni from 1972-76 gathered to watch — many for the first time — the student-produced home movie filmed on Coe's campus in 1972. The film's producer, **Steve Cone '72**, a Coe trustee, was present and gave a brief introduction to the film, which he produced for the Coe Admissions Office to help recruit students during the 1970s. Jack Chapman helped produce the film, and the late Jack Laugen served as executive director.

The 16mm color film, which depicts student and academic life at Coe during the 1970s, is fragile and in need of restoration. The library agreed to show the original film one time during the recent 1972-76 cluster reunion on campus before returning it to the George T. Henry Archives.

"This was the perfect audience for this film," said Rich Doyle, director of library services. "We were excited to share this piece of Coe history with this group of alumni because they are this history." Indeed, during the 20 minutes of the film were frequent

eruptions of laughter and reminiscing at plaid bell-bottom pants and outdated hairstyles on the men and women. There were even scenes of students smoking in class. Many of the alumni present recognized their friends — and in some cases themselves — in the film.

The library's archives contain more than 80 minutes of silent outtakes that did not make the final cut into the film. This film is the third in a trio that the library hopes to preserve and make available to alumni on VHS cassettes and DVDs. The estimated cost of preserving the film and the outtakes is \$10,000.

Coe part of "The Stones of Summer" national book signing tour

"The Stones of Summer" by **Dow Mossman '66** is a huge, hilarious, and delirious volume," wrote **Ann Struthers** in her 1972 review of the book for the "Iowa Alumni Review" at the University of Iowa. Despite rave reviews, it took 30 years and a documentary about the search for Mossman for his book to gain its well-deserved national attention.

On Saturday, Oct. 25, Coe's campus was once again alive with activity surrounding "The Stones of Summer" and the award-winning documentary film "Stone Reader." The day's events included a screening of

Mark Moskowitz's "Stone Reader" in the Kesler Lecture Hall followed by a reception and book signing in the library's Perrine Gal-



lery. This was the second Cedar Rapids book signing for Mossman, who, just a few days earlier, attended a similar event at the local Barnes & Noble. Mossman and Moskowitz recently completed a national tour that included screenings of the film and book signings in 10 cities, including Boston and New York.

Dow Mossman '66 signs copies of his novel "The Stones of Summer" in Stewart Memorial Library.

Photo by George Henry '49

Religious services find home in library

This past fall semester, the library became the center of Christian worship for many Coe students and other members of the Coe community. Christians from many denominations and backgrounds gather every first and third Sunday for an evening of worship, prayer and fellowship. These services, held in the AV Theater, are led by students who serve as peer ministers as part of the ministry of the college chaplain, Rev. Kristin Hutson. The students enjoy singing contemporary Christian music and listening to thoughtful student preaching. Once a month, the people

who gather celebrate the Lord's Supper under the leadership of Rev. Hutson. Following these Sunday services, participants stay for fellowship and conversation over a free dinner hosted by the Office of the Chaplain. In addition to the interdenominational Sunday service, Catholic students celebrate a traditional Mass every other Thursday evening in the library's Richter Room with Father Phillip Schmitt. Students, faculty, staff and friends of the Coe community are welcome and encouraged to attend these worship services.



President Phifer hosted a reception for parents and alumni in the Perrine Gallery during Homecoming/Parents' Weekend on October 3. This year was the first time the college combined Homecoming and Parents' Weekend into one event.

Coe College

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Pictured on the front steps of Stewart Memorial Library are the library student workers who graduated in 2003. From left to right, they are: (back row) Luke Gentzler, Brad Markham, Dave Stevens, Chad Batcheler, Jerry Brantley and Brad Curtain; (fourth row) Jeremy George, Kristin Bott, Lisa Palmer, Katie Skewes and Robyn Dunne; (third row) Sara Nolte, Laura Haas, Tiffany Pierce, Shamra Boel, Scott Fine and Whitney Erickson; (second row) Anita Carruthers, Rose Hammel and Stephanie Coray; (front row) Angie Witte, Mary Allison and Maria Carr.

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