



The Bibliophile



Spring, 1998

A newsletter for members of the Coe College Library Association

Ten good years of growth and change for the library

Our 10th anniversary is approaching. Growth and dazzling change are the watchwords for the first decade of the renovated and expanded Stewart Memorial Library, which was officially rededicated in December, 1988. In that nearly ten years, the building's inviting design continues to inspire those who enter, the collection has grown to 213,000 volumes, use of the library has almost doubled, and electronic resources have moved in big time.

"I am truly amazed at the staggering improvements we have achieved—all because the Hall Foundation saw fit to support our library building program to get us started and Coe College Library Association members have given their generous ongoing support to build our collection," says Richard Doyle, director of library and computer services. "The phenomenal use increases tell it all."

A few highlights:

- Almost \$2 million dollars in endowment gifts and \$310,000 in Coe College Library Association memberships have transformed the collections, services, and facilities. "We are fortunate to have had consistent donors who have provided us with the financial resources to buy the items we needed at the optimum time to buy at the best price," says Doyle.
- Among these gifts are 10 new library endowments, including two by new friends of the college who had no prior relationship to Coe, two by the many friends of retiring English Professors Cannon and Woodruff, one by Winnifred Cone herself to support the book collection in the arts, and the remainder by alumni who believe in the centrality of library services to the mission of the college.

Students are still enjoying the beautiful windows in the second floor reading areas. The library has become a prime meeting place for students.

- Nearly 60,000 new items—ranging from scholarly monographs to a re-release of a monaural classical music piece on compact disc—have been added to the book, periodical, and audiovisual collections in nine and a half years. "Series once beyond our purchasing power have been added, notably the 30-volume *Dictionary of Art*, and the second edition of *The Oxford English Dictionary*," adds Doyle. One fourth of the collection is 10 years old or less.
- The digital library is now campuswide. From 10 word processors in 1988, we have grown to 100 networked microcomputers in the building (and a total of 600 in academic buildings, residence halls, and offices campuswide), each performing a myriad of digital activities. We are on our second-generation library computer system, and many of our reference resources are housed worldwide and delivered right to faculty of-

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"Since the renovation, I think that the library is really the crown jewel of the campus. The library staff are, as they were before, superb—highly competent, personable, approachable, and always willing to go out of their way to help faculty and students."

*—Dr. Allen Fisher,
professor of sociology*

"Among the many benefits offered the community by the 'new' building was the capacity to shelve a collection that would double the number of Coe's then-current volume count. In considering this joyous challenge, I thought that the creation of the CCLA might provide both motivation and method through which book lovers among Coe alumni and friends could hasten the growth of the soul within the vastly enhanced body of the college library."

"The response from alumni and friends...has been extraordinary! I join all who benefit from access to Coe's collection in thanking the loyal and generous bibliophiles who constitute the Coe College Library Association. What a great first decade!"

*—Dr. John E. Brown,
Coe Chancellor*

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Poet Sarah Lindsay, whose late father, Dr. Charles Lindsay, was a beloved professor of mathematics at Coe for 40 years, gave a Perrine Gallery reading from her first book of poetry, *Primate Behavior*, a nominee for the 1997 National Book Award, in November.

"The library is so much more pleasant to work in than it used to be. In part, it's the extra space we have, but I think the light from those wonderful windows looking out on the campus is even more important. I especially like reading or working in the second floor reading room..."

"I think the creation of the Perrine Gallery, and especially the large reception room on the second floor, was a stroke of genius. It's a room we've had so many wonderful occasions in...I remember particularly the celebrations of the careers of Stan Watkins and Duane Carr just before their retirement, and Sarah Lindsay's reading of her poetry with a beaming Charles Lindsay in attendance."

—Dr. Peter Wickham,
professor of chemistry

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ices and student rooms in the residence halls.

- Upgrades to the physical facilities continue, most notably the renovations in the Fisher Music Library and Chemistry Library branches (in Marquis and Peterson Halls), the addition of a whole new department of Computer Services, and the recent installation of the Gayle Whipple Browsing Area.
- Twenty-two new paintings have been added to the permanent collection, including 10 by Conger Metcalf and seven by Marvin Cone. Also on display are three important works lent by the Cone Family Trust: *Davis's Dummy* (considered to be one of Marvin's most important works), *Self-Portrait with "Malnutrition,"* and the original Grant Wood *Malnutrition*, a portrait of Marvin painted by his longtime friend and colleague. "Coe is blessed with an incredible art collection that has continued to grow," says Doyle, "and it's out on display for library patrons to enjoy every day."

The Perrine Gallery and the Richter Room have also proved to be important gathering places for the Coe community and Cedar Rapids visitors. The Perrine Gallery is the perfect space for small receptions for faculty, parents, and alumni reunion groups, as well as for such activities as the Coe-Mound View Neighborhood Open House or the Chamber of Commerce Leadership classes. Visiting writers give readings in Perrine almost weekly in the fall and spring. And the Richter Room is busy

nearly every day or evening during the academic year with events such as faculty committee meetings, three student Bible study groups, and sorority alumni groups.

Campus Visit Days for prospective students always begin in the library. And touring groups of school children and traveling adults come to see the Coe Permanent Collection of Art displayed throughout the building. When the 1997 Senior Class decided on its gift to the college of three laser printers, the students specified that these printers "be put in the library," showing the students' perception of the library as the center for all types of information.

"My parents were really impressed with the library when they came to visit. It's a really comfortable place to be," says first-year student Melissa Stifter from Winsted, Minnesota. "If you like a little background noise (when you study), the first floor is great because that's where the tutors meet with students. And the second floor is nice and quiet for those who like that environment."

As predicted 10 years ago, the renovated and enlarged library has become the vital center of the academic enterprise on Coe's campus. "I know I'm biased," says Doyle, "but this is an outstanding academic library...We have the resources we need for who we are. And we are grateful for it."

Tri Deltas give Coe Cone's *Old Quarry*— a painting with an interesting campus history

Artist Marvin Cone, like most fathers, didn't want to disappoint his daughter.

When Doris Cone Weeks (Coe '45) was president of the campus chapter of Delta Delta Delta sorority during her senior year, she asked her dad if she could borrow a painting to hang on the bare walls in the chapter house on A Avenue NE. Marvin selected *Old Quarry*, *Stone City*, which was hanging in their home, and told Doris to take it for the house.

By 1970 the Tri Delta alumni chapter was concerned that the painting was too valuable to be hanging in the chapter house. They couldn't afford to insure the painting, which was valued at \$1500 at the time, so they loaned it to the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art. During the 27 years it was there, it was exhibited three times but was otherwise in storage.

Last fall, as Coe's Delta Eta chapter of Tri Delta sorority prepared for its 85th anniversary, *Old Quarry* was retrieved from the

Museum of Art. At the gala anniversary banquet in Cedar Rapids Crowne Plaza Five Seasons Hotel on October 11, the painting was unveiled and officially given to the college, with President James Phifer accepting on Coe's behalf.

Robert Kocher, emeritus professor of art and gallery curator, says the painting was done during the time of the Stone City Art Colony's existence, 1932 and 1933. "Coe also owns *River Farm*, *Roadside Farm*, and *Road to Waubeek* that were from the same period, when Cone and Grant Wood had the artists' colony," notes Kocher. "*Old Quarry* is a valuable piece, which will expand Coe's Cone collection on permanent display in the Winnifred Cone Gallery."

Doris Cone Weeks, reached by phone in her home in Ottawa, Ontario, said that she is "very pleased that the painting is back at Coe College."



Coe President James Phifer accepts gift of Marvin Cone painting at Tri Delta's 85th anniversary celebration in October.

New books by '60s alumni among titles added to Alumni-Faculty Collection

New books by 1960s Coe alumni Ed Gorman '68, Dan Guenther '66, and Dr. Jane Slaughter '63—plus a book in which Dr. Shelby Steele '68 is a contributor—are among the new volumes added to the special collection in the library's archives room.

Among Gorman's four most recently added suspense novels is *Black River Falls* (1996), which has been optioned by ABC for an upcoming TV movie. Guenther's first book of poetry about the high country of Colorado, *High Country Solitudes* (1997), has proven to be so popular that it is already into its second printing. And Slaughter, who is an associate professor of history and director of the Feminist Research Institute at the University of New Mexico, describes a little-known part of World War II history in *Women and the Italian Resistance, 1943-1945* (1997).

Steele, whose book *Content of Our Character* received considerable critical acclaim a few years ago, is a contributor to Stan Faryna's

Black And Right: The Bold New Voice of Black Conservatives in America (1997).

Two new books by The Rev. Dr. Charlie Shedd (Coe '37), *How to Make People Really Feel Loved: And Other Life-Giving Observations* (1996) and *What Children Tell Me About Angels* (1995), are sure to give you a positive spin on life in general. They are Shedd's 43rd and 44th books, written from a lifetime of bringing a message of love and laughter to church congregations and general audiences.

The complete list of new acquisitions for the Alumni-Faculty Collection follows:

Boland, Jan Dockendorf and John Dowdall. *Giuliani, Hummel, et al, a Potpourri of 19th-Century Salon Music on Period Instruments*. Somerville, MA: Titanic, 1987. [Boland, instructor in Music (Flute), 1977-; Dowdall, instructor in Music (Guitar), 1978-]

Buchan, Vivian. *Memperiapkan dan menyajikan presentasi secara sukses*. Jakarta, Indonesia: Arkan, 1997, c1995. [Buchan, Coe '33]

Falk, Signi Lenea. *The Vogue of the Courtesan Play*,

"Coe's library has an aesthetic attraction that makes it distinctive from any of 100 or so college and university libraries I've seen, man and boy. I'm referring not only to the gallery on either side of the main entrance, with its matchless collection of Marvin Cone's paintings, and the Conger Metcalf galleries flanking the entrance to the Perrine Gallery, but to the scores of other works of art hung throughout the main and second floors. From almost any perspective on these floors, you can look up and see a beautiful—or at least an interesting—painting or drawing..."

—Dr. Charles Cannon,
Howard Hall Professor of
English Emeritus

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Conger Metcalf

"All of us in the art department are happy to see that the collection has been able to grow as much as it has. All the really important art books, we've acquired. The late Frank McDonald was certainly one donor who helped make this possible. He was a great friend of the library—particularly in the area of art books."

—David Goodwin, Marvin Cone
Associate Professor of Art

"For a school our size, I think our collection of literary criticism and theory is very respectable. I am often pleasantly surprised and impressed by what we have..."

"I have found Rich Doyle not just highly responsive to my purchase suggestions but very encouraging."

—Dr. Gina Hausknecht,
assistant professor of English

Artist Conger Metcalf dies in Boston

Conger Metcalf, whose 48 paintings are permanently displayed in two Coe library galleries, died February 18 at his Beacon Hill home in Boston. A native of Cedar Rapids who studied with Grant Wood and Marvin Cone at the Stone City Art Colony, as well as with Alexandre Iacovleff and Karl Zerbe in Boston, Metcalf was 83.

He graduated from Coe College in 1936 as a music major in piano. Soon afterward, he chose art for his career and moved to Boston, where he painted and taught art at Boston University's School of Fine and Applied Art. A 50-year retrospective exhibit of his work was shown at the Boston Athenaeum and in Coe's Sinclair Galleries.

Coe's collection of his work reveals the distinctive colors and superbly drawn figures that come alive in his paintings. Utilizing a difficult

technique few others have mastered, Metcalf painted in muted oils on clay-coated paper. As Kathryn Schultz of the Cambridge Art Association wrote of him in 1995, "Profound technical skill has been the foundation of Conger's paintings throughout his long and wondrous career."

Even though he lived in Boston for over 50 years, Metcalf always considered Cedar Rapids his home, according to his close friend Marguerite Gurekian of Boston.

"Conger truly loved the two galleries housing his work," says Richard Doyle, director of library and computer services. "Each visit to Cedar Rapids required a review of his art hanging in the library. He was a severe critic of his work and a loving admirer of his models. He always had a story ready to tell about one of the individuals he painted."

Alumni-Faculty Collection—continued from page 3

- 1602-1610. (Thesis - Ph.D. University of Chicago, 1948) Gift from Signi Falk, 1997. [Falk, Professor Emerita of English]
 —. *The Tulls and Cornell College*. Cedar Rapids, IA: Coe College Faculty Publication, 1992?. Gift from Signi Falk, 1997.
 —. Article, p. 117-123, "The Profitable World of Tennessee Williams" in John D. Hurrell's *Two Modern American Tragedies: Reviews and Criticism of Death of a Salesman and A Streetcar Named Desire*. New York, NY: Scribner's, 1961. Gift from Signi Falk, 1997.
Fisher, Allen and David Hay. *In the Heart of the City: A History of First Presbyterian Church, Cedar Rapids, IA, 1847-1997*. Cedar Rapids, IA: First Presbyterian Church, 1997. [Fisher, Professor of Sociology, 1978-; Hay, Professor of Religion, 1971-]
Gorman, Ed. *Black River Falls*. London, England: Headline Feature, 1996. [Gorman, Coe '68]
 —. *The Fatal Frontier*. New York, NY: Carroll & Graf Publishers, 1997.
 —. *The First Lady*. New York, NY: Tom Doherty Associates, 1996, 1995.
 —. *Love Kills*. New York, NY: Carroll & Graf Publishers, 1997.
Guenther, Dan. *High Country Solitudes*. Louisville, CO: Grand River Publishing, 1997. [Guenther, Coe '66]
 Garland, Hamlin, with **Paul Engle.** *Christmas in Iowa*. Iowa City, IA: Midwest Heritage Pub. Co., 1984. [Engle, Coe '31]

- Schmidt, Duane A.** *3 Steps to the Million-Dollar Practice*. Tulsa, OK: PennWell Books, 1984. [Schmidt, Coe '52]
 —. *Schmidt's Anatomy of a Successful Dental Practice*. Tulsa, OK: PennWell Books, 1996.
Shedd, Charles W. *How To Make People Really Feel Loved: And Other Life-Giving Observations*. Ann Arbor, MI: Vine Books, 1996. [Shedd, Coe '37]
 —. *What Children Tell Me About Angels*. Ann Arbor, MI: Vine Books, 1995.
Slaughter, Jane. *Women and the Italian Resistance, 1943-1945*. Denver, CO: Arden Press, 1997. [Slaughter, Coe '63]
Stanko, Paul David. *Evolutions*. Minneapolis, MN: A440 Studios, 1997. [Stanko, Coe '88]
Steele, Shelby. Contributor, p 143-151, in Stan Faryna's *Black and Right: The Bold New Voice of Black Conservatives in America*. Westport, CT: Praeger, 1997. [Steele, Coe '68]
Stuelke, Theron R. *The Coach in World War II: Guiding a Team in the Southwest Pacific*. Chapel Hill, NC: Professional Press, 1996. [Stuelke, Coe '31]
Sutton, Virginia Chase. Contributor, p. 190-195, in Leilani Wright's *Fever Dreams: Contemporary Arizona Poetry*. Tucson, AZ: The University of Arizona Press, 1997. [Sutton, Coe '76]
 Witwer Senior Center Class on creative writing. *Remembering Elizabeth Bender: By Some of Her Friends*. Cedar Rapids, IA: The Class, 1991. [Bender, Coe '25; Foster, Marvel Ada, Coe '24]