

A newsletter for members of the Coe College Library Association

SPRING 2011

FRESH SERVERS PUMP NEW LIFE INTO LIBRARY CATALOG SYSTEM

If – as is sometimes said – the library is the heart of the campus, and if the library's two massive computer servers are the heart of the library, what occurred during this year's winter break might well be called a lifesaving transplant. Over two long days – and with skillful guidance from library technical services staff members Hongbo Xie and Jeff Schulte – the library replaced the critical servers that hold the library's catalog and manage all of its transactions with borrowers, lenders and database sources.

The previous servers were eight years old – a lifetime in computer years. "Our database software system had reached its end of life," says Xie, the library's head of technical services. "The company is no longer servicing

it. If we didn't upgrade our hardware, we couldn't upgrade our software, and we would be using an obsolete system."

With the new servers came more space, faster speed, and the capability to move to a state-of-the-art database automation system called Microsoft SQL. As a result, says Interim Library Director Jill Jack, the online library catalog is now faster and more robust.

"Video clips and book reviews are examples of things we can add to the listings. In general, the new system has greater capacity to do more complex searches. It's a big gain for the library system and the user because of new ways to use the catalog to its full capability."

Jack credits Xie and Schulte with managing the critical changeover to the new servers on

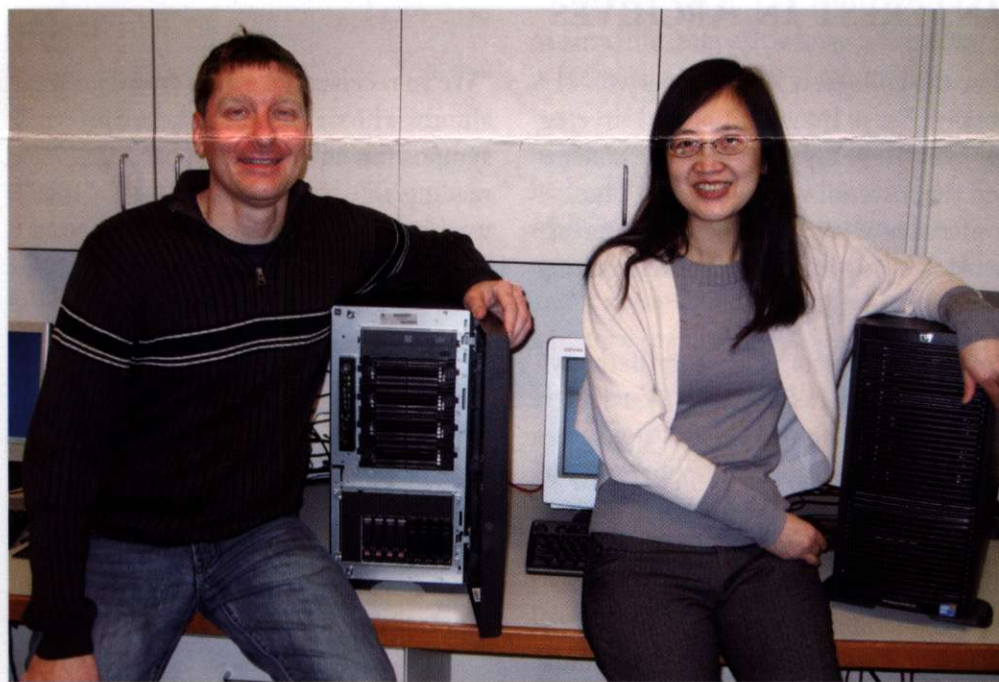
January 5 and 6. "It was a very big operation, and Hongbo and Jeff worked through the transition with a remote provider. There were a few early problems, but they had a handle on it and stayed with it until everything was fixed. It was great to be able to put my trust in them."

Xie admits that, with the entire campus relying on the outcome, "It was kind of scary. But we are pleased, because this will allow us to stay up-to-date with the demands of the catalog." ■

Ebook searching now available through EBSCO

In a fortuitous marriage of resources, the library's major provider of databases, called EBSCO, recently purchased NetLibrary – an important source of electronic books and materials. EBSCO is a database aggregator offering access to dozens of databases in a wide range of disciplines. Stewart Library patrons will now be able to use the EBSCO system to search NetLibrary's broad selection of fiction and non-fiction titles, explains Interim Library Director Jill Jack.

"It's really a wonderful combination of searching, because if you're looking for a certain topic and a whole book isn't about that topic, now EBSCO will do that searching for you and bring up an article or a chapter in a book that pertains to that topic."



▲ Socrates and Confucius: Such are the names chosen for the new library servers installed in January in a complex operation overseen by technical services staff members Jeff Schulte and Hongbo Xie.

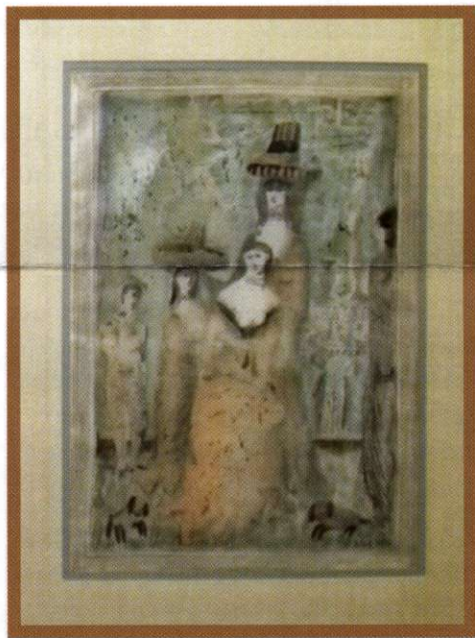
TWO NEW METCALFS ON DISPLAY

When Roger and James Ritvo's mother, Mikki, died last year, she left behind six works by well-known Boston artist Conger Metcalf '36. In search of a suitable place for the paintings, the sons discovered that a large collection of Metcalf works resides at Coe, where nearly 50 of his pieces are on display in two galleries on the second floor of Stewart Memorial Library. The Ritvo sons, who reported that their parents loved Metcalf and his work, decided to donate their mother's collection to Coe last August.

The six new works, which range in size from 11 x 9 inches to 34 x 26 inches, are delicate pieces that were in need of restoration and reframing, says Coe Gallery Director Jen Rogers. After completion of that process this spring, two of the works – an “Untitled” group portrait and an “Untitled” profile of a young woman – have been hung in the entryway of the oversized books area on the library's second floor near the Metcalf Galleries.

“These are very good examples of his work,” says Rogers, “but they are different from others that are on display. What I find most interesting about his work is his experimentation, and these really show that. They are mixed media pieces using graphite and

oil wash on paper. He was really trying to push the materials to the point that they almost become ethereal. We have quite an extensive collection of pieces exemplifying his style. These are unique, but in keeping with his style.” ■



▲ Two recently acquired untitled works by artist Conger Metcalf '36 are on display on the library's second floor. They are among six paintings donated to Coe's art collection by the Ritvo family of Boston.

SHIRER SYMPOSIUM SPARKS INTEREST IN ARCHIVES

In the aftermath of the symposium hosted by Coe last October to mark the 50th anniversary of the publication of *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich* by William L. Shirer '25, Coe faculty, students and alumni are delving deeper into the Shirer Papers and other collections housed in Coe's George T. Henry College Archives. Titled “A 20th-Century Journey: The Influence of William L. Shirer, A Symposium on World Politics, Journalists, and Their Impact on Society,” the three-day conference brought journalists and scholars from around the world to join Coe faculty members, students, alumni and others to remember the contributions of one of Coe's most distinguished graduates.

“For the college, it has been very positive,” says Interim Library Director Jill Jack. “It really promoted the college and the material we have here.” The conference also created greater interest in using Coe's archival resources among faculty and students.

Assistant Professor of History Bethany Keenan has created a World War II seminar based on the Shirer Papers, Jack says. “It has given her an opportunity to look at that field in another light and use primary documents. To have primary documents for use by students at this level is phenomenal.” Coe German classes and classes studying propaganda and human rights are also conducting research in the Shirer Archives.

“We've received messages from alumni who really enjoyed the Shirer symposium and are going back and reading all of his work,” she says. “It's wonderful to reinvigorate people's area of interest or expose people to new information. That's the whole point – encouraging scholarly conversation.”

The library has seen increased interest in other archival collections as well, says Jack, citing materials related to poet Paul Engle '31 and attorney B.D. Silliman '17, a long-time Coe trustee who served as an assistant prosecutor during the Nuremberg Trials. ■

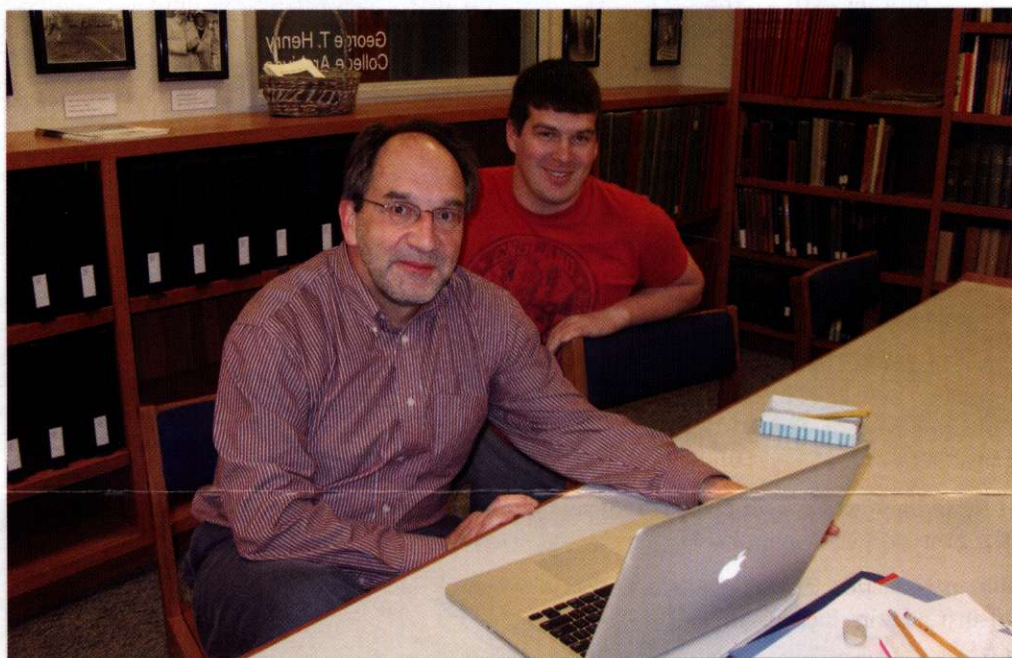
MEET STEVE 1 AND STEVE 2: VOLUNTEERS LEARN WHILE HELPING PROCESS ARCHIVAL MATERIALS

Library staff members refer to them as “Steve 1” and “Steve 2” – a convenient shorthand recognizing the unusual situation of having two volunteers – both named Steve – working in Coe’s George T. Henry College Archives. In a department normally staffed entirely by one part-time person, Archives Assistant Sara Pitcher, the two are making notable contributions to the work of preserving the college’s history.

Steve 1, whose last name is Vincent, is a former history professor working toward a second career as an archivist. In 2006, family circumstances led Vincent and his wife to Iowa City, where she is an associate librarian at the University of Iowa. Vincent, who had been an associate professor at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, decided to “retool,” returning to a field he had enjoyed early in his career – working as an archivist. After completing a Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) degree with an Archives Certificate in 2010, he began looking for the all-important experience expected of entry-level archivists in a competitive job market.

Staff members at the Hoover Presidential Library in West Branch recommended he talk to Stewart Library Interim Director Jill Jack, an experienced archivist, and he found his way to Coe. Jack was delighted to put Vincent to work preparing the college to launch a state-of-the-art manuscript management system called Archivist Toolkit, which will incorporate the archives catalog, finding aids and data about how materials were acquired.

Since last October, Vincent has toiled 18 to 20 hours per week “in the vault,” completing the first comprehensive



▲ Future archivists: Steve Vincent, a former history professor, and Steve Heinen, a Coe junior, are both honing their skills while working in Coe’s George T. Henry College Archives.

inventory of the Archives and converting its contents to the new classification scheme used in Archivist Toolkit. “This is major,” says Jack. “Steve created an organized system by departments and moved all the inventory into a user-friendly state.”

Meanwhile, Steve 2, whose last name is Heinen, is learning about archive work from the ground up. A Coe junior majoring in history and political science, he became acquainted with the field while researching information about careers in history. “I liked the idea of it, and it seemed like a practical way to use a history major.”

Heinen spends about 10 hours a week working in the Archives under the guidance of Pitcher and Jack. His first project involved processing materials related to the life of prominent Coe trustee and Cedar Rapids businessman Russell Knapp ’30. “Through archiving

I learned a lot about who he was and his philanthropical sense,” says Heinen. “My goal was organizing and entering it in a more logical way so we could develop a finding aid and make it more user-friendly.”

Currently, he is sorting through collections pertaining to the college’s founders. “It’s pretty interesting,” says Heinen, who plans to volunteer through the summer and is working with his advisor to create an internship in the Archives next year. Aiming for a career as an archivist, he already has his eye on three graduate schools with archives-specific MLIS programs. “I like the fact that I get to use the things I know about history in a practical way and make it usable to the public.” ■

ALUMNI AND FACULTY PUBLICATIONS ADDED TO THE GEORGE T. HENRY ARCHIVES, 2010-2011

Adamson, Tom. *Down by the Copper Sea*. Fremont, NE: Tom Adamson, 2010. (Tom Adamson, class of 1972)

Allison, Fran. *Television's Classic Kukla, Fran and Ollie 60th Anniversary: five episodes* (videodiscs) EML Library Partnership, 2009. (Fran Allison Levington, class of 1928)

Anderson, Rebecca J. *Career Opportunities in Clinical Drug Research*. Cold Spring Harbor, NY: Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, 2010. (Rebecca J. Anderson, class of 1971)

Bowland, Jan and John Dowdall. *Fireflies Chamber Music*. (sound recording) Buffalo, NY: Fleur de Son Classics, 2009. (Jan Bowland, Instructor in Music, flute, 1977 - ; John Dowdall, Instructor in Music, guitar, 1978 -)

--- *Chamber Music for Flute, Guitar and Strings*. (sound recording) Buffalo, NY: Fleur de Son Classics, 2010.

Butzen, Catherine. *Thief of Midnight*. Eureka, CA: Stark House Press, 2010. (Catherine Butzen, class of 2010)

Clark, Matthew G. "Science in Action" in *The 71F Advantage: Applying Army Research Psychology for Health and Performance Gains*. Paul T. Bartone, et. Washington D.C.: Published for the Center for Technology and National Security Policy by National Defense University Press, 2010. (Matthew G. Clark, class of 1995)

Dangerfield, Joseph. *The MAPP Midwest American Piano Project*. (sound recording) Albany, NY: Albany Records, 2008. (Joseph Dangerfield, Professor of Music, 2007 -)

--- *Quest New Music for Violin & Cello*. (sound recording) Albany, NY: Albany Records, 2010.

--- *Spirals American Music in Moscow*. (sound recording) Albany, NY: Albany Records, 2009.

--- *Viva Concertante!* (sound recording) Albany, NY: Albany Records, 2009.

Frank, Earl. *Myrtle Beach Odyssey*. Baltimore: PublishAmerica, 2010. (Frank E. Humphreys, class of 1968)

Gorman, Edward. *Death Ground*. New York, NY: Leisure Books, 2009. (Edward Gorman, class of 1968)

--- *The Poker Club*. Baltimore: Cemetery Dance Publications, 1999.

--- *Stranglehold*. New York, NY: Minotaur Books, 2010.

Guenther, Dan. *The Crooked Truth: Selected Poems*. New York, NY: Redburn Press, 2010. (Dan Guenther, class of 1966)

Holland, Scott T. *Dear Jack: Tracking the Journey from Only Child to Big Brother*. Bloomington, IN: Wordclay, 2010. (Scott T. Holland, class of 2001)

Mendelssohn-Bartholody, Felix. *Elijah*. (sound recording) Westmark Custom Records, 1981. (Richard P. Hoffman, conductor, Associate Professor of Music, 1977-2010; Doris Gitzy, soprano, class of 1990)

Owen, Jerry. *Dances of the Mind*. (full score) Cedar Rapids, IA: Indian Hill Music, 2010. (Jerry Owen, Professor of Music, 1969-2006)

--- *Duo Concertant: A Two-Movement Concertino for Flute, Guitar and Small Orchestra*. (full score) Cedar Rapids, IA: Indian Hill Music, 2010.

--- *Sing to the Lord a New Song: for S.A.T.B. Chorus with Chamber Orchestra*. (full score) Cedar Rapids, IA: Indian Hill Music, 2010.

--- *Dialog 4: Trombone Alone*. (solo score) Cedar Rapids, IA: Indian Hill Music, 2010.

--- *Pas de Deux: For Soli Alto and Tenor Saxophones with Concert Band*. (full score) Cedar Rapids, IA: Indian Hill Music, 2010.

--- *Imaginary Landscapes*. (sound recording) Pennsauken, NJ: DiscMakers, 2010. (Jerry Owen, Professor of Music, 1969-2006; Erica Hendryx Coutsouridis, class of 1999)

Paul Smoker Trio. *QB*. (sound recording) Cedar Rapids, IA: Alvas Records, 1984. (Paul Smoker, Professor of Music, 1976-1990)

Peck, Richard A. *Ancient Travels: A Discourse Between a Master and His Student on Acupuncture and Chinese Martial Arts*. Plano: P&R Medical Services, 2009. (Richard A. Peck, class of 1968)

Pirnot, Karen Hutchins, Illustrator. *Just Hanging Out: A Collection of Poems for Kids* by Khaya Dawn Klanot, Sarasota, FL: Peppertree Press, 2008. (Karen Hutchins Pirnot, class of 1982)

Pirnot, Karen Hutchins and Garret Lee Frey. *As I Am: A True Story of Adaptation to Physical Disability*. Sarasota, FL: Peppertree Press, 2008.

Pirnot, Karen Hutchins. *The Blue Penguin*. Sarasota, FL: Peppertree Press, 2008.

--- *A Colorful Day*. Sarasota, FL: Peppertree Press, 2008.

--- *Just a Common Lady*. Sarasota, FL: Peppertree Press, 2007.

--- *Keeper of the Lullabies: A Book for Grandmothers*. Sarasota, FL: Peppertree Press, 2008.

--- *Learning to be Me*. Sarasota, FL: Peppertree Press, 2007.

--- *Night Traveler*. Sarasota, FL: Peppertree Press, 2008.

--- *Sam's Perfect Plan*. Sarasota, FL: Peppertree Press, 2008.

--- *Traveling with Grandma*. Sarasota, FL: Peppertree Press, 2008.

Seeman, Chris and Richard Osing. *A Gentle Man and a Scholar: A Collection of Dick Osing's Sermons and Writings*. Cedar Rapids, IA: 200?. (Chris Seeman, Professor of Religion 2004-2009)

Sturdevant, Laurie, ed. *I Trust to be Believed* by Andersen, Elmer. Minneapolis, MN: Nodin Press, 2004. (Laurie Sturdevant, class of 1974)

--- *A Man's Reach*. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press, 2000.

--- *Changemaker*. Afton, MN: Afton Historical Society Press, 2003.

--- *Elmer's Tour: A Former Governor's Loving Look at the Minnesota State Capitol*. Minneapolis, MN: Nodin Press, 2005.

--- *Overcoming: The Autobiography of W. Harry Davis*. Afton, MN: Afton Historical Society Press, 2002.