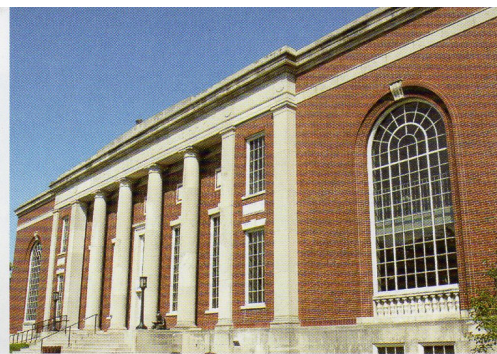




# COE COLLEGE BIBLIOPHILE

SPRING 2016



*A newsletter for the members of the Coe College Library Association*

## BECOMING LIBRARIANS: COE GRADS FIND THEIR CALLING IN LIBRARY WORK

**I**n the non-stop tsunami of global information, commentator Linton Weeks says, librarians provide us with “floaties” and teach us to swim. Those librarians, of course, had to learn to swim themselves. And Stewart Memorial Library has helped many young adults, who came to Coe College already loving to read, find their life’s work in helping others surf the modern world’s tidal wave of information.

**Alonso Avila '08, Maisie Iven '16, Brittany Nichols '12 and Sara Pitcher '07** are just four of those student workers at Stewart Library who are pursuing careers in library and information science. They recall their years at the library as ones of great personal growth, of learning to talk to people and help them, of developing skills that would lead them to jobs and to further learning. They also remember with fondness the mentoring, good humor and patience of Head of Circulation Sandy Blanchard, who scheduled their part-time work.



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**ALONSO AVILA** is now working in special collections at the University of Iowa’s Main Library. He has just started a three-year residency there, where he works with researchers through virtual and in-person reference inquiries. He also works in the Iowa Women’s Archives, where he’s aiming to document the experiences of Muslim women in Iowa. “We have archives on African-American women and Jewish women and others, but not on Muslim women. Those stories are of

particular interest right now, especially with the political climate.”

After Avila graduated from Coe with a degree in English and Spanish, he worked as an administrative assistant at a high school in Chicago, where he grew up, and then served two years in the Peace Corps in Jordan. He returned to the United States, thinking he’d like to work in a library but finding most of the available jobs required a master’s degree. So it was off to the top-ranked Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he earned a master’s degree in library and information science, which led to the job at Iowa.

“I became interested in libraries when I started working at the Stewart Library during my sophomore year at Coe,” Avila says. “I remember joking around with a co-worker and telling Sandy [Blanchard] we would eventually come back to the library and take it over. What I liked most about working at Stewart was connecting with the students and professors, becoming familiar with the library and being able to direct patrons — the feeling, in general, of being helpful.”

As for his chosen career, he most likes the versatility of being an archivist. “I’ve wanted to work for some time with a special collection or archives,” he says. “I’d like to eventually document the culture of hip-hop. I’m also interested in hip-hop culture internationally, especially in the Middle East, where a lot of the media

we see is war and terrorism, lots of negative images. We don’t get to see beyond that to what people do to overcome those circumstances.”

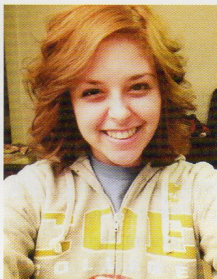


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**MAISIE IVEN** graduates from Coe this spring with a degree in religion and is also heading to the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign to pursue a master’s degree in library and information science, with an emphasis on public and youth programming. She also completed a prestigious internship during the fall semester at the Newberry Library in Chicago, one of the nation’s largest research libraries.

“I’ve known since I was 10 that I wanted to be a librarian,” says Iven, who grew up in Fort Collins, Colo. “My dad died when I was young, and my mom worked full-time. Our solution to not paying for a babysitter was for me to go to the library after school. The librarians kind of jokingly said you’re here so much we’re going to put you to work. So I’d clean children’s board books, dress up as the library’s dog mascot and run around greeting little kids in the park. I feel like I grew up in the library, and so many amazing opportunities, as a kid, came from that.”

During high school, Iven says, she was interested in the book side of libraries. “At Coe, I had to learn to talk to people. I was lucky enough to get a job at the Stewart Library my first semester and worked on the circulation desk, where there was a lot of people time, a lot of helping, which I found I really liked. I also liked organizing things, answering questions about where things were.” Iven also worked at the library this past summer during its major renovation, boxing and hauling books upstairs and downstairs. “I built up a lot of muscle!”

Iven’s hope for the future is a library job where she’s “able to work with kids. I would love a job where I get to help people. The Coe library is a public academic research library. The Newberry was a specialized academic research library. And while I loved the Newberry experience, I decided I want more people time in my career, not fancy white gloves to pick up a book.”



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**BRITTANY NICHOLS** is the Director of Children’s Services at the Mount Pleasant Public Library in southeast Iowa. During high school, she worked at the Henderson County Public Library in Biggsville, Ill. In college, she worked at Stewart Memorial Library during the school year and at the Biggsville library in the summer.

“I’ve worked in libraries forever,” she says. “When I graduated from Coe with my degree



▼ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in history, I decided I needed to do something different and went to work for a non-profit. My first job was helping kids with learning disabilities, and while that was fine, I felt a hole, like something was missing. I began applying for library jobs and landed my job at the Mount Pleasant library in April of 2013."

In her job, she's in charge of the children's department, planning programming and summer reading programs, and buying new materials. She also started a service where she takes library books to area schools, hauling the books in her car. "It's a fun way to interact with kids, maybe some who wouldn't normally get to the library," she says. "Maybe they live out of town or maybe they can't get to the library. I'll later see some of them dragging their parents into the library."

Nichols is pursuing her master's degree in library and information science through online courses with Louisiana State University, where she's specializing in archival studies. "I wanted to broaden my skills," she says. "Librarians will be the information specialists of the future, encompassing all the technology we now have. We'll have to evolve and change and offer new services. I have to thank Coe and the library for helping me jump out of 'my bubble.' I'm an only child and grew up as a little adult. I went to college to find out who I was and to let my free spirit go. I practically lived in the library at Coe. And I'm not so quiet anymore."



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**SARA PITCHER** grew up in Coralville, Iowa, where her after-school job was shelving books at the public library. While at Coe, she worked all four years and three summers in the Stewart Library, with one summer at a pizza parlor, which she quickly decided wasn't for her.

After graduating with a degree in studio art, she was looking for a job, any job, related to her major. "It wasn't going anywhere. I thought about how I kept

going back to libraries. And then Stewart Library offered me a job as Assistant Archivist for 30 hours a week. I was happy there and began, and finished, my master's degree in library and information science online through the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. It took me three years."

She watched the job listings for libraries and was hired to work on the Coralville Public Library's website and to also help on the circulation desk and with reference inquiries. "My time at Coe helped me get this job," she says. "When I was at the library, the archive didn't have a website, and they asked me to develop one. I taught myself, and the website, while it worked, wasn't very good. But I was able to help rebuild it the next year and make it better. The library experience also helped teach me to go out and talk to people and help them. The work really takes people skills. To be a good librarian, I had to step out of my comfort zone and be of help to people."

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Director of Library Services Jill Jack says seeing young adults choose libraries as a career is a "bonus" to having student workers at the Stewart Memorial Library. "It's been a rewarding career for me and my co-workers," she says. "Seeing Coe graduates choose it for their life's work is affirming. The library and information science field has evolved more in the past 25 years than in the past hundred. It's reassuring to see the next generation of smart, dedicated information specialists ready to help us make sense of our rapidly changing world, to document those changes and, when called upon, to provide historical perspective for those changes." ■

## 'AMAZING RACE' TEACHES SIXTH-GRADERS ABOUT LIBRARY

Some amazing sixth-graders, iPads and clues in hand, raced through Stewart Memorial Library on April 12. The teams were part of a Kids on Course Partnership Day at Coe, the first time Coe College has partnered with the non-profit program that puts kids on course to a college degree.

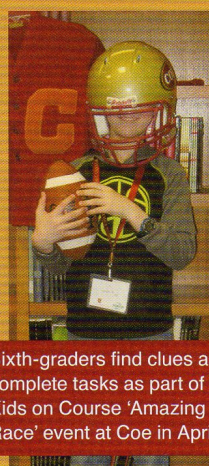
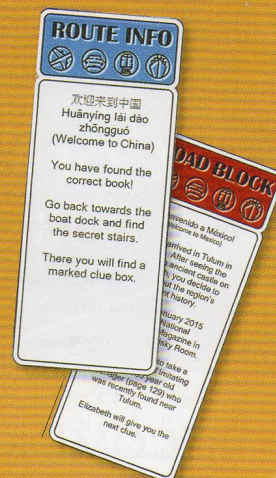
The 64 Kids on Course youngsters visiting Coe had a choice of classes to pursue during their day. Those who chose to visit the library found an "Amazing Race"—basically a scavenger hunt on steroids—awaiting them. They followed clues and, using a library-provided iPad, visited three "countries" on different floors where they snapped photos and videos to create a Snapchat story to share while completing tasks, such as:

- Taking their picture in a Coe football helmet in front of a Coe helmet from the 1890s that's in the George T. Henry College Archives.
- Recording themselves pronouncing and writing "library" in Chinese with Head of Technical Services Hongbo Xie.
- Finding a specific page in a periodical and, using props and costumes, reenact the photo.
- Finding a painting of rural Iowa farmland, taking a picture and writing a caption that includes the name of the artist (hint: Grant Wood).
- Taking a photo in a life-sized cutout of a Wood painting, where they're milking a cow.

The race took the students to different parts of the library, says Head of Reference and race planner Elizabeth Hoover de Galvez. "We aimed the activities," she says, "to help the students feel comfortable in the library and to teach them, in a fun way, about what they can find in a library—a place of resources like books, computers, databases, movies and music; a place with quiet rooms where they can study and spaces where they can meet with a group; and a place where they'll find people who can stimulate their curiosity and help them find answers to their questions."

Kids on Course, a program of the Cedar Rapids Community School District and the Zach Johnson Foundation, is a

non-profit created by the championship golfer to help kids in his hometown get on course, and stay on course, for a college degree. The first children selected for the program started four years ago and came from the Grant, Harrison and Van Buren elementary schools and the Roosevelt and Wilson middle schools — schools that are in lower-income parts of the city. The students and their families are counseled and supported through the students' years in school. Those who stay in the program—who stay on course—have a shot at earning a college scholarship.



Sixth-graders find clues and complete tasks as part of the Kids on Course 'Amazing Race' event at Coe in April.



## PRESENTATION WALL DEBUTS

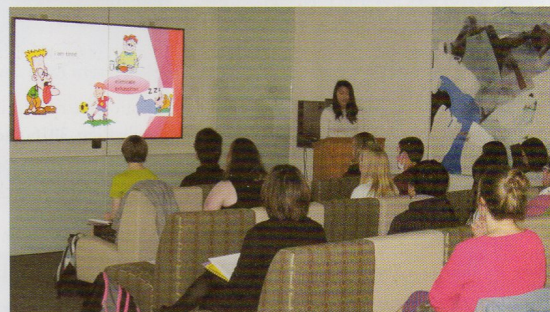
The lights were dimmed in the comfortable, open-air classroom on the lower level of Stewart Memorial Library when Karen Sindelar's public speaking students began their persuasive speeches on March 29. One student talked about the therapeutic value of shiatsu massage. Another talked about the necessity of a good night's sleep. Another young woman gave a moving speech encouraging support for people with mental illness, sharing her journey through anxiety and depression. All of the speeches were illustrated with slides the students seamlessly projected onto an 85-inch, interactive screen to their right.

The students were the first to use the "presentation wall" that has a starring role in the library's \$1.2 million renovation of last summer. The speeches were a suitable christening of the new open-air classroom presentation wall, which is only beginning to demonstrate its value. The new classroom technology also includes the AirMedia SYSTEM, an interactive display system that has the capability of allowing multiple multimedia projects to be displayed at the same time. It holds the promise of easy collaboration for students and instructors as they view, share and revise their work. Users can write on the glass wall that covers the displayed images. In between classes, the wall can be used to share photos of student art and study-abroad experiences.

To use the system, students or staff check out a computer keyboard, a mouse and a couple of remotes from the library's circulation desk. It's a snap for the digital generation to operate and even pretty simple for older adults who may struggle with their TV remotes at home. The students using the system for the first time in March transferred their slides onto flash drives, slipped the drives into the system's USB port and clicked their way through their graphics without problem. Gone are the days of clunky overhead projectors or laptops that won't sync with a network.

The library's open-air classroom, with its portable, cushioned chairs, also is of great benefit to students, says Sindelar, Coe assistant professor of rhetoric and director of the Speaking Center, which is now part of the library's new Learning Commons. "We've created this great space, and we need to use it," Sindelar says. "I make it a point to have students speak in different places, venues and rooms, so they learn to deal with distractions when they're speaking."

The presentation wall is only one of the engaging and creative pieces of technology added to the Stewart Memorial Library in the past year, says Director of Library Services Jill Jack. "We also upgraded our wireless internet service for patrons and staff," she says. "We've added new computers for student and staff use, including ones with double monitors. Students can check out library laptops and iPads to use anywhere in the building. Interactive display systems are available in seminar rooms. The technology supports teaching and learning in the 21st century. We want to stay current and prepare our students, in every way we can, for whatever they choose to pursue after graduation."

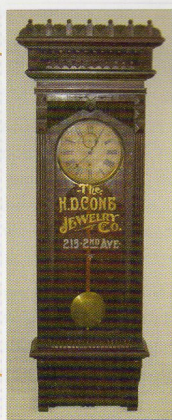


PHOTOS, FROM TOP TO BOTTOM

Racing against the clock, teams complete the Kahoot Quiz on what they learned from their clues during the Amazing Race "Library Edition."

Chris Paasch, Senior Associate Director of Admission for Operations & International Recruitment, hosts a presentation for prospective Coe students while using the Library's new presentation wall.

A Coe student in Karen Sindelar's public speaking class gives a speech using the Library's new presentation wall. The March 29 class was the first use of the new technology.



### TIMELESS

This four-foot-tall, pendulum clock (ca. 1900) was recently hung in the lower level of Stewart Memorial Library. The clock, a recent gift to Coe College from Vivian Seidle of Arlington, Texas, belonged to the father of artist Marvin Cone, a 1914 Coe graduate and longtime Coe art professor who died in 1965. Cone's father, Harry D. Cone, a jeweler and silversmith, displayed the clock for years at his jewelry store at 213 Second Ave. SE in Cedar Rapids.



## ALUMNI AND FACULTY PUBLICATIONS ADDED TO THE GEORGE T. HENRY ARCHIVES, 2015-2016

- Adamson, Tom. *One More Taste of Silver: Dedicated to the Drummer*. Fremont, NE: 2015. (Tom Adamson, class of 1972)
- Aspengren, Kate. *Ashley Templeton is Ruining My Life*. Foreverland Press, 2015. (Kate Aspengren, Professor of English, 2012 - )
- Bennett, Michael S. and Richard L. Floyd. *Romans: A Listen Up! Bible Study. Part 1: Romans 1-8 and Part 2: Romans 9-16*. Cleveland, OH: United Church of Christ, 2015. (Richard L. Floyd, class of 1971)
- Butzen, Catherine. *Fell the Angels*. Eureka, Calif.: Stark House Press, 2015. (Catherine Butzen, class of 2010)  
--- *The God Collector*. Cincinnati, OH: Samhain Publishing, 2015.
- Carr, Allison. "Failure Can Be an Important Part of Writing Development." in *Naming what we Know: Threshold Concepts of Writing Studies*. Adler-Kassner, Linda, and Elizabeth A. Wardle. Logan: Utah State University Press, 2015. (Allison Carr, class of 2005, Professor of English and Professor of Rhetoric, 2014 - )
- DeMers, Sharon, illustrated by Ivy Hinrichs. *PJ, the Blue-Eyed Kitty*. Ankeny, IA: Blue Eyes Publishing, 2015. (Ivy Harwood Hinrichs, class of 2005)
- Font-Guzmán, Jacqueline N. *Experiencing Puerto Rican Citizenship and Cultural Nationalism*. New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015. (Jacqueline Font-Guzman, class of 1984)
- Fuertes Arboix, Mònica. *La Sátira Política En La Primera Mitad Del Siglo XIX: Fray Gerundio (1837-1842) De Modesto Lafuente*. San Vicente del Raspeig: Publicaciones de la Universidad de Alicante, 2014. (Monica Fuertes Arboix, Professor of Spanish, 2007 - )
- Golden, Audrey. "Localizing human rights: Bapsi Sidhwa's *Cracking India* and the lacuna in international justice." in *The Routledge Companion to Literature and Human Rights*. McClennen, Sophia A., and Alexandra Schultheis Moore. New York, NY: Routledge, 2016. (Audrey Golden, Professor of English, 2015 - )
- Gorman, Edward. *Elimination*. Sutton: Severn House, 2015. (Edward Gorman, class of 1968)
- Gruber, Craig W., Matthew G. Clark, Sven Hroar Klempe, Jaan Valsiner, editors. *Constraints of Agency: Explorations of Theory in Everyday Life*. Cham: Springer, 2015. (Matthew Clark, class of 1995)
- Hoover, Tom. *How we made the Gyrfoam: The Story of Two Midwestern Farm Boys Who Changed Washday Mondays Forever*. Newton, Iowa: Newton Daily News, 2015. (Thomas Hoover, class of 1968)
- Hyndman, Aimee. *Hour of Mischievous*. Reston, VA: Curiosity Quills Press, 2016. (Aimee Hyndman, class of 2017)
- Kimber, Michael. *Music for Viola 3*. (sound recording) Acte Prealable, 2014. (Michael Kimber, Professor of Viola, 2005 - )  
--- *Music for Viola 4*. (sound recording) Acte Prealable, 2014.
- Lemos, John. *Freedom, Responsibility, and Determinism: A Philosophical Dialogue*. Indianapolis, Ind.: Hackett Pub. Co., 2013. (John Lemos, Professor of Philosophy, 1993 - )
- Levy, Marv. *It's Time for a Rhyme*. New York, NY: Page Publishing, 2014. (Marv Levy, class of 1950)
- Munger, Huldah Eliza. *Huldah's Journal: "We Started Early in the Morning..." Her Journey from Palmyra, Wisconsin to Nebraska 1878*. Transcribed by Karen Adams. 2005. (Karen Adams, class of 1963)
- Nulick, James. *Valencia*. Charleston, WV: Nine-Banded Books, 2015. (James Nulick, class of 1992)
- Owen, Jerry. *The Angel's Little Brother: For Flute, Clarinet and Harp*. (full score) Cedar Rapids, Ia.: Indian Hill Road Music, 2014. (Jerry Owen, Professor of Music, 1969 - 2006)  
--- *Horns Fore!: For French Horn Quartet*. (full score) Cedar Rapids, Ia.: Indian Hill Road Music, 2015.  
--- *Samba a Trois: For Violin, Cello, and Piano*. (piano/ensemble score) Cedar Rapids, Ia.: Indian Hill Road Music, 2014.  
--- *Sonatina for Piano*. (piano score) Cedar Rapids, Ia.: Indian Hill Road Music, 2015.
- Sodeman, Melissa. *Sentimental Memorials: Women and the Novel in Literary History*. Stanford, California: Stanford University Press, 2015. (Melissa Sodeman, Professor of English, 2007 - )
- Steele, Shelby. *Shame: How America's Past Sins have Polarized our Country*. New York: Basic Books, 2015. (Shelby Steele, class of 1968)
- Wang, Cai. *Jiu Shi Bu Xiang an Bu Jiu Ban De Huo Zhe: Fen Dou Zai Meiguo*. Shenyang: Chun feng wen yi chu ban she, 2015. (Cai Wang, class of 2012)
- Xiao, Peter T. in *Collision and Confluence: An Exhibition of Chinese-American Art Faculty*. Wayne, NJ: Center for Chinese Art at William Patterson University, 2014. (Peter T. Xiao, class of 1984)



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