



COE COLLEGE BIBLIOPHILE

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A newsletter for the members of Coe College Library Association

A LIFE OF ADVENTURE J. MALCOLM GARCIA'S PAPERS, NOW AT COE, CHRONICLE A LIFE OF TRAVEL AND WRITING

J. Malcolm Garcia '79, a journalist and author who's traveled the world, reporting on wars, poverty and people, has donated a collection of his papers and recordings to the George T. Henry Archives at the Stewart Memorial Library.

"The Garcia papers are a perfect complement to our collection," says Jill Jack, Director of Library Services. "We have the William Shirer '25 papers from his days of reporting on the 20th century, including World War II, and now we have Malcolm Garcia's papers from his reporting on the war in Afghanistan and on other social issues in the late 20th and early 21st centuries. It's a natural extension and a wonderful gift, one that will benefit future Coe students, faculty and researchers."

Garcia was on the Coe campus this fall for a Nov. 1 discussion of his book about undocumented immigrants who serve in the U.S. military only to face deportation after their service is over. He also was a guest lecturer in Coe classes during his campus visit.

Garcia, 60, who grew up in Winnetka, Ill., and now lives in Palm Bay, Fla., readily admits to being a "restless" student and to an academic career that, when he was at Coe, interested him less than pursuing his own writing. He remembers Charles Cannon, a Coe English professor, being "very patient" as his adviser, "as I half ignored what I should be doing to pursue my extracurricular writing. I'm sure I aged him, and I'm sure he would be very surprised I've published some of those writings. He paid my library bill so I could graduate."

Professor Cannon, who died in 2015, would likely be impressed, too, by his former student's portfolio, which includes 19 boxes of notebooks, photographs, clippings and journals now in the Coe Archive, along with copies of his three books: "The

Khaarijee: A Chronicle of Friendship and War in Kabul"; "What Wars Leave Behind: The Faceless and Forgotten"; and "Without A Country: The Untold Story of America's Deported Veterans."

His newest book, "Riding through Katrina with the Red Baron's Ghost: A Memoir of Friendship, Family and a Life Writing Stories," comes out this fall. And in 2019, "Fruit of All My Grief: Lives in the Shadows of the American Dream" will be published by Seven Stories Press. Garcia has received the Studs Terkel Prize for writing about the working classes and the Sigma Delta Chi Award for excellence in journalism. His work has been anthologized in Best American Travel Writing, Best American Nonrequired Reading and Best American Essays.

This summer, Garcia will be back in Afghanistan. "I wouldn't know what to do if I stopped traveling, maybe I could be a guest professor," he said, with a hint of amusement, during a recent telephone interview. "I could relate to young people being bored and restless. I could tell them — and their parents — there's hope at the end of the tunnel. Some people just don't snap to until later. There's no reason 18-year-olds should know what they want to do in life. Some people do, and that astounds me. I'd tell parents to let their kids just run around for a while. Do it while they're young. And then when you find what you want — and it may take a while — do it with passion. When you reach the end of your life, you don't want to be wishing you'd done something. You don't want a huge bucket list."

Garcia followed his own advice. After graduating from Coe, he moved to New York City to try acting, though "I was soon disabused of that. ... For reasons I can't explain, I picked up a copy of Ernest Hemingway's 'The Sun Also Rises,' and then I read all of his books. At the same time, I engaged my inner Kerouac and wandered around the country, writing stories. I met a friend in San Francisco, who

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YOU CAN HELP

If you are considering a gift to the Stewart Memorial Library, please consider doing so before April 23. Gifts before that date will mean additional funds for the library because of a challenge grant from the Iowa College Foundation. Donations can be made online or by mailing a check to the Coe College Advancement Office, 1220 First Ave. NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402-5092. Please designate the gift is for the Stewart Memorial Library. Thank you for supporting the work and mission of the Stewart Memorial Library.

Jill Jack

SORTING THROUGH A LIFE

Harlene Hansen, Archives Assistant in the George T. Henry Archives, is the person bringing order to the **J. Malcolm Garcia '79** collection of papers, photographs and cassette tapes recently donated to the Stewart Memorial Library.

The 19 boxes, Hansen said, were fairly well organized by topic when they arrived. "The collection runs the gamut," she said. "There are stories from his childhood, lots of letters from his mother. Malcolm's uncle was the actor and director Jose Ferrer, and there are a lot of obituaries from when he died, including papers from Puerto Rico. We have notebooks from Ripon College in Wisconsin, where Malcolm went before transferring to Coe for his final two years of college."

The collection also contains articles about and letters from Jose Ferrer (1912-1992), the first Puerto Rican-born actor to win an Oscar, who was the brother of Garcia's mother, Leticia Ferrer-Cintson. Letters from his mother also are included, including ones where she sent her son coupons for such items as dog food and detergent. "Do we keep those?" Hansen wondered, giving voice to the perennial question of archivists. "So far, we've kept them." One box also contains labels from Perfecto Garcia Cigars, where Garcia's father, Charles Albert Garcia, was vice president. (Garcia's mother was born in Puerto Rico and his father in St. Louis to parents who had emigrated from Cuba.)

Still other boxes contain copies of the *By No Means* newsletters Garcia filled with stories about the homeless people he met when he was a social worker in San Francisco. The collection also includes around 50 cassette tapes of interviews that will need to be listened to and catalogued, Hansen said.

But the major sorting of a life is almost done, though Hansen said she has a few questions for Garcia when he next visits campus. "It's been very gratifying to work with such a wide-ranging collection, from a life lived all over the globe," she said. "Not everyone is this organized or has had a family that would store all these memories instead of tossing the boxes in the trash. We thank Mr. Garcia — and his parents — for this gift."



ABOVE: Harlene Hansen, Archives Assistant at the Stewart Memorial Library, stands in front of the 19 boxes containing the papers, tapes and pictures donated to the George T. Henry Archives by **J. Malcolm Garcia '79**. Hansen is the one organizing the collection for future research and reference.



ABOVE: Coe student Malcolm Gibson interviews author and journalist **J. Malcolm Garcia '79** on Oct. 31 about Garcia's new book on veterans facing deportation. Garcia recently donated his papers to the Stewart Memorial Library, where they have been added to the George T. Henry Archives.



LEFT: **J. Malcolm Garcia '79** is shown in the mid-1990s when he was a social worker at a homeless shelter in San Francisco. The picture is among those Garcia donated to the George T. Henry Archives at the Stewart Memorial Library.

was working in a homeless shelter. That led me into social work (in the Tenderloin District). A colleague and I didn't feel the media was covering homelessness like they should, so we started a desktop publication where we interviewed homeless people about their lives."

When the funding for that venture ended, Garcia, by then 39, started working as a reporting intern for the *Philadelphia Inquirer* and then became a reporter for the *Kansas City Star*, the newspaper where Hemingway worked briefly, and where he worked from November 1998 through March 2009.

"I thought I'd made a mistake," he said of his first years at the *Star*. "I was 40 years old and covering cops at night, writing briefs. I was getting ready to go back to social work. Then 9/11 happened. Knight-Ridder, which owned the *Star*, asked if anyone wanted to go to Afghanistan. I jumped on it. I didn't expect them to send me, but on a Friday, they told me I was going. I left on Saturday and covered a U.N. press conference that night and found an interpreter the next day. ... The place made a lot of sense to me. It reminded me of one big ghetto. It had been bombed to smithereens by the Russians, the Taliban and then us. I related to it as a social worker and was more comfortable there than in Kansas City."

The assignment also nurtured his love with traveling. He began freelancing — assignments that led him to Mexico, Latin America, Central America, Central Asia, the Middle East and Northern Ireland. And everywhere he went, he threw his notebooks and clippings into boxes, and dragged the boxes around, before eventually dropping them off when he visited his parents.

It was the sudden and unexpected death of his fiancée, Olga Contreras, in September 2016 that got him thinking about all those boxes at his parents' house. "One of the things that went through my mind is, what will happen to all my stuff?" he said. "It had taken me 58 years to fall in love, so lightning probably wasn't going to strike again. My papers, in my will, were going to my fiancée and her children, where I knew the things I valued would be taken care of. What's going to happen now that I don't have a family? On a whim, I called Coe to find out if they'd be interested. They were. It was flattering and has been very gratifying."

Garcia dropped off the first load of boxes last August and then another batch in the fall. "It feels great," he said. "Every time I find something, I send it off to Jill."

GRANT WOOD MURALS 'VACATION' AT WHITNEY IN NEW YORK CITY



The large, neon-green crates moved carefully — and slowly — through the Stewart Memorial Library in January, on their way to the Whitney Museum of Modern Art in New York City. The crates contained three of the large Grant Wood mural panels that hang in the library's Perrine Gallery. They'll be on display at the Whitney through June 10, part of the "Grant Wood: American Gothic and Other Fables" exhibit, which has garnered glowing national reviews. The exhibit also includes "American Gothic," Wood's most famous painting, on loan from the Art Institute of Chicago.

Moving valuable pieces of art requires careful crating and uncrating by specialists, plus rigorous transport that would surprise the Iowa farm boy whose art has become world famous.

As a send-off to the murals, Coe hosted a Dec. 19 reception in the Perrine Gallery, home to the seven "The Fruits of Iowa" panels by Wood as well as 12 of the 14 Wood works owned by Coe College. At the reception, Ranelle Knight-Lueth, Coe Assistant Professor of Art History and Director of Galleries and Collections, shared her experiences of working with the Whitney as well as the process of loaning artwork and how the Coe works were chosen. Also speaking at the reception was Katherine Kunau, the associate curator of collections and exhibitions at the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art, which loaned 27 pieces for the Whitney exhibition.

"Coe's Permanent Collection rarely receives such recognition, and we are excited to have our

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LEFT: *Farmer's Wife with Chickens*
75 ¾ x 53 ½ inches

Murals by Grant Wood (1932)
Oil on canvas cutouts glued to Homasote fiber board
Gift of the Eppley Foundation
Coe College Permanent Art Collection
Artwork © Figge Art Museum, successors to the estate of Nan Wood Graham
Photos by Mark Tade (2005)



TOP LEFT: *Farmer with Pigs and Corn*
75 3/4 x 52 3/4 inches



TOP RIGHT: *Boy Milking Cow*
71 1/4 x 63 1/4 inches

BOTTOM LEFT: Ranelle Knight-Lueth, Coe Assistant Professor of Art History and Director of Galleries and Collections, takes a detail photograph of one of the Grant Wood murals in the library's Perrine Gallery before the mural is shipped to the Whitney Museum of Modern Art in New York City. Three of the Wood murals are on loan to the Whitney through June for its "Grant Wood: American Gothic and Other Fables" exhibit.

BOTTOM RIGHT: People gather for the Dec. 19 send-off reception for three Grant Wood murals in the Perrine Gallery at Stewart Memorial Library. "The Fruits of Iowa" panels are at the Whitney Museum of Modern Art in New York City through June. It is the second time Coe has loaned the Wood murals to the Whitney.



Grant Wood mural panels be part of this exhibition," Knight-Lueth said. "It offers Coe and eastern Iowa in general the opportunity to share its artworks with a larger audience, and that's a very good thing. This loan has been two years in the making, and the exhibition looks great. The Whitney has done an amazing job, and it's been a pleasure working with them. I've learned a lot about the larger museum world, and that information can be passed on to Coe students who are interested in working in a museum someday."

The Whitney also borrowed some of "The Fruits of Iowa" murals from Coe in 1983. The three murals on loan this time are "Boy Milking Cow," "Farmer with Pigs and Corn" and "Farmer's Wife with Chickens." The three murals will return to Stewart Memorial Library for reinstallation this summer.

The murals were commissioned by Eugene C. Eppley for display in the Coffee Shop of his Montrose Hotel in Cedar Rapids. When the hotel changed ownership in 1956, the murals were loaned to Coe, where they were prominently displayed in the library. In 1976, the Eppley Foundation donated the murals to Coe.

Five smaller, yet significant, works by Wood supplement the six murals, including the charcoal on paper study of "Daughters of Revolution" (1932), some of his high school illustrations and an early landscape painting. The Grant Wood art can be viewed by the public at no charge during regular business hours at the library.





MAKERSTUDIO

A NEW SPACE TO LEARN AND CREATE

The new MakerStudio at the library has equipment that will make a learner's eyes light up — 3-D printers, a high-tech laser cutter, a silhouette vinyl cutter, a stop-action animation station and computers with editing programs. Even a high-tech sewing machine and steam iron.

The MakerStudio is just getting started — “we’re in our infancy,” said Laura Riskedahl, Head of Audiovisual. But the applications to education seem limitless.

Anthropology students can upload a program of a dinosaur bone and create a 3-D replica they can touch and study. Art students can create animation shorts. History and English students could create a theater in the round in 3-D for “Romeo and Juliet.” Math students could create — and have created — an abacus. Etchings can be created with the flick of a button. Lamps and machine parts can be made. If a piece of a printer breaks, make a new one.

“It seems high tech to us, but to students, it’s normal,” said Linda Hummel, Audiovisual Supervisor. “Right now, we’re catching up with them.”

The MakerStudio is in the library’s lower level Audiovisual Department, in a room formerly used as a TV studio. Before that, the room was used for storage of large audiovisual equipment, back when that equipment was large and bulky. The idea behind a MakerStudio is to provide a communal, creative space where

people can get together to collaborate, invent and create things. The space often offers high-tech equipment that an individual does not have in their home.

Riskedahl said a number of campus departments collaborated in creating the MakerStudio, helped along with a gift from Hugo Kann, the father of Andrea Kann, the Robert O. Daniel Associate Professor of Art, who donated money to buy the laser cutter.

“It makes a lot of sense for the MakerStudio to end up in the AV space in the library at the center of campus,” she said. “It’s an innovative space that has seen a lot of innovation and new technology over the years, and it’s accessible to all students and staff. And we have a lot of learning to do. Students already know about these things. Right now, a work-study student, **Nathan Dvorak ’19**, is leading this effort — part of the ‘students teaching students’ concept. We’ll immerse ourselves in the technology this summer, working with our education technologist.”

Dvorak, who’s from Clutier, Iowa, is majoring in physics and mathematics and became interested in technology at Union High School in La Porte City, where he started a robotics team with two of his friends. During those competitions, he learned about the Ultimaker Original 3-D printer and decided to build one so he could make custom parts for his team’s robot. The printer came to

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Above: Nathan Dvorak ’19 works with the 3-D printer he built in the MakerStudio at the Stewart Memorial Library. Dvorak, a work-study student who learned about the printers in high school, is helping other students — and staff — explore uses of the technology in the MakerStudio.



ABOVE: Randi Thon

RANDI THON JOINS LIBRARY STAFF

Randi Thon has joined the Stewart Memorial Library staff as a Reference Assistant and Interlibrary Loan Supervisor. In that position, she assists Elizabeth Hoover de Galvez, Head of Reference, with the library's reference collection and Coe faculty, staff and students with reference questions and resources. She also supervises the library's student workers who fill interlibrary loan requests, assisting with the more difficult requests.

Thon previously was director of the Watts Medical Library at Mercy Medical Center in Cedar Rapids, where she assisted medical staff and administrators with research and also helped people seeking consumer health information. In her time at Mercy, Thon initiated the inclusion of the Watts Library into the MetroLibrary Network's shared catalog system in order to open the special collection to the public. Before that, she was Head of Cataloging for Brazoria County Library System, an 11-branch regional library system south of Houston, Texas.

Thon left her position at Mercy in 2016 to focus her attention and time on growing her holistic healing practice, Redwing Healing Arts. Practicing out of Awaken Family Chiropractic in Hiawatha, Thon offers services in massage, energy medicine and spiritual counseling. Combining the two part-time careers — librarian and counselor — brings a balance to her life, she said, "between the creative and the analytical."

A Minnesota native, Thon holds a bachelor's degree from Luther College in Decorah, where she majored in Anthropology and Africana Studies, and a master's degree in Library Science from the University of Texas at Denton. She and her husband, Matt Geraghty, have two children, Aspen, 19, and Max, 11.



CLOCKWISE STARTING FROM TOP LEFT:
Laura Riskedahl, Linda Hummel and Lisa
Wiebenga Stroschine



college with him, and he used the MakerStudio's laser cutter to update it. "I went from having a print surface made of wood and plastic to one made of aluminum and glass, which is heated," he said.

Lisa Wiebenga Stroschine, Coe's Academic Technologist, applauds that kind of leadership by students. "We now have students much more advanced than we are," she said. "I sometimes drop a note to a student, asking how to do something. The student will send me back a link, showing how it's done. It's lovely."

Wiebenga Stroschine, who's spent 16 years teaching faculty at Coe and other Iowa private colleges how to incorporate technology into their teaching, sees great educational potential in the MakerStudio. "There are so many things we can't do in the time and space we have," she said. "Wouldn't it be wonderful if every student studying environmental sciences or economics could travel to another country and see how it works? We can't do that, but we can use technology to connect them to people and experts all over the world."

For now, she is looking forward to being a resource for the MakerStudio and helping Coe faculty "see its benefits. It's not just for art or computer science. I will be going to department meetings and giving them ideas. We have a lot of amazing possibilities. The hope is that the MakerStudio will be overused, to the point we need more hours, more equipment, a bigger space. It will be driven by student use."



ALUMNI AND FACULTY PUBLICATIONS ADDED TO THE GEORGE T. HENRY COLLEGE ARCHIVES, 2017-2018

Adamson, Tom. *Two Towns Over*. Fremont, NE: Tom Adamson, 2017. (Tom Adamson, class of 1972)

Aspengren, Kate. *Blue Yonder*. New York: Samuel French, 2010. (Professor of English, 2008 -)

- *Dear Mrs. Martin; &, Mother's Day: Two One-Act Plays*. New York: Samuel French, 1992.

- *House of Wonders*. New York: Samuel French, 1993.

Clark, Matthew G. *Leader Development Deconstructed*. Cham, Switzerland: Springer, 2017. (Matthew G. Clark, class of 1995)

Garcia, J. Malcolm. *The Khaarijee: A Chronicle of Friendship and War in Kabul*. Boston: Beacon Press, 2009. (J. Malcolm Garcia, class of 1979)

- *What Wars Leave Behind: The Faceless and the Forgotten*. Columbia Missouri: University of Missouri Press, 2014.

- *Without a Country: The Untold Story of America's Deported Veterans*. New York: Hot Books, 2017.

Owen, Jerry. *Piano Sonata No. 4*. (piano score) Cedar Rapids, IA: Indian Hill Road Music, 2017. (Jerry Owen, Professor of Music, 1969-2006)

- *Red Cedar Waltzes: For Flute and Guitar*. (full score) Cedar Rapids, IA: Indian Hill Chamber Music, 2017.

Salesses, Matthew. *The Hundred Year Flood: A Novel*. New York: Little A, 2015. (Matthew Salesses, Assistant Professor of English, 2017 -)

- *I'm Not Saying, I'm Just Saying: A Novel*. Lexington, KY: Coping Mechanisms, 2013.

Spinelli, Leslyn Amthor. *Taken by Surprise: A Novel*. Lexington, KY: Leslyn Amthor Spinelli, 2013. (Leslyn Amthor Spinelli, class of 1973)

- *Taken for a Fool: A Caroline Spencer Novel*. Minneapolis: Door Creek Press, 2016.

- *Taken for Granted: A Novel*. Lexington, KY: Leslyn Amthor Spinelli, 2013.

Wells, Erin S., and Scott Thomas. *October Fields*. Birmingham, England: Short, Scary Tales Publications, 2017. (Erin S. Wells, class of 1989)

Wilson, Nina. *Surrender Language: A Novel*. New York: Adelaide Books, 2017. (Nina Wilson, class of 2017)