

COE COLLEGE BIBLIOPHILE

A newsletter for members of the Coe College Library Association

SPRING 2010

AFTER THREE DECADES OF LIBRARY LEADERSHIP, DOYLE LEAVES A WELCOMING, STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITY

It's been a remarkable time," muses retiring Stewart Memorial Library Director Rich Doyle with a look of contentment. After a nearly 38-year career at the library—the last 31 as its director—even that nod to the momentous events that have reshaped the library during his tenure might seem a bit of an understatement.

"Rich's retirement will definitely be the end of an era," says long-time Reference Assistant Harlene Hansen '91, expressing gratitude for a leader who gave great latitude to his staff while demanding the best for the library.

The wider campus community is equally appreciative. "Stewart Memorial Library is at the heart of the campus, and Rich Doyle has long been at the heart of the library,"

states Coe President James Phifer. "The library's effectiveness in underpinning all of our academic programs is a tribute to Rich's dedication, vision and unswerving loyalty to the college. Rich genuinely cares about the members of the Coe community, and it is in their service that he has given his entire professional life. Generations of Coe faculty, staff and students owe him an enormous debt of gratitude."

Other than exterior walls from the original library building completed in 1931, there is little resemblance—physically, functionally, financially—between the current facility and the one Doyle entered as a tenure-track reference librarian on August 2, 1972. Freshly credentialed with a University of Iowa Master of Library Science degree, he was promoted to Head of Circulation—filling a sudden vacancy—during the first half-hour of his employment, he recalls with a chuckle. It was a mere hint of all the changes to come.

Taking advantage of a UI scholarship available for junior faculty members seeking advanced degrees, Doyle returned to school part-time to earn his master's degree in European history. He also jumped into the Coe academic realm, serving on faculty committees and chairing the Exploratory Term Committee. In 1978, Doyle was awarded tenure and applied for the then-vacant directorship of the library. After a national search, the college named him library director in the fall of 1979.

At the time, he says, the library had too many titles on its shelves—some long untouched. Working with Coe's math department, the library staff conducted a study of when and how many times books were checked out. "Based on that, we weeded some titles and

emphasized others," he says. "We discovered that a couple of areas were heavily used, but with dated content, so we used our limited resources to build those areas."

During the 1980s, the library staff undertook the enormous effort to convert the collection from the Dewey Decimal System to the Library of Congress catalog system. "We also knew that the state of cataloging was moving to a digital system, so we signed on to OCLC—[the electronic system that today connects libraries worldwide]—and bought the digital cataloging product." Coe's library was among the first in the state to do so.

Remaking an old library to meet the future

Under the leadership of Coe President John Brown, discussions about building a new



▲ Doyle joined President John Brown (left) and Dean of the College James Phifer (right) in breaking ground for the long-awaited library renovation and expansion project in 1987.

The campus community and friends of the library are cordially invited to a reception in honor of

Professor Rich Doyle,
Director of Library Services
and Director of Technology,
who will retire in June 2010.

Please join us

Monday, May 10
3:00–4:30 p.m.

in Perrine Gallery of Stewart
Memorial Library
for this special event.



▲ Doyle (bottom row, far right), President John Brown (middle row, far right), and library staff members wore construction-themed t-shirts during the library renovation project in 1987.

library were abandoned in the mid-1980s in favor of expanding and upgrading the facility at the heart of campus. “It was one of the biggest events of my career,” Doyle says, recalling the joyful day when Gayle Whipple ’33 called to tell him that the Hall Foundation had awarded \$3.5 million to the library renovation project. “We had the backing of the college and the foundation, and the library staff was allowed to lead the project,” he notes with satisfaction. The renovation encompassed three major goals: to expand and modernize library space, to provide elegant spaces for receptions, and to display the college’s exceptional art collection.

Doyle considered alternate proposals from several architects before choosing the one deemed best able to accomplish those objectives. “I knew that if we were going to make Stewart Memorial Library have new life in its present location, we would have to remove the old multi-tiered stacks,” he recalls. “So we began the construction with deconstruction.” The 1987-88 renovation and expansion created a more open layout for student use and added galleries and reception spaces on the first and second floors.

“At the same time we were redoing the library, the college knew it needed to commit more money for library materials,” Doyle says. Over the ensuing years, library endowments were expanded from three to 15, and the Coe College Library Association was created to provide ongoing support.

The new library was enthusiastically embraced by the campus community, Doyle says. “From day one in the new facility, the students took ownership of the building, and they continue to do so. The Admissions Office kicks off every major admissions event in this building,” he states with pride. The library’s graceful gallery spaces have also been a magnet for artwork, with more than 50 paintings donated to the college since the renovation.

Since that time, format changes have been paramount, Doyle says. “Content is content, but how will it be delivered? We had to be predictive and put in systems that would accomplish new formats.” Anticipating the increasing use of digital resources and data transmission, the facility was loaded with electrical capacity and portals. Originally equipped with nine student computers in each of two wings, the library today has some 70 computers for student use.

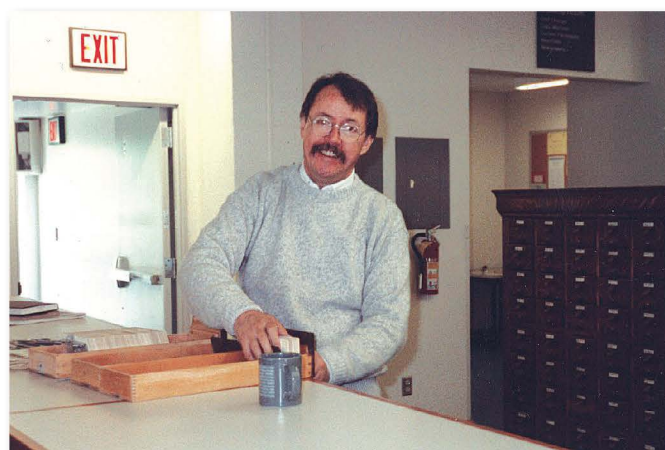
“What stands out to me about Rich over the years is his love of the library and his wish for it to be a comfortable and welcoming place for students,” says Cataloger and Manager of Serials Jeff Schulte ’89. “He’s

been a great building manager starting with the renovation and addition in 1988 and has continued through the years by adding extra study rooms on the second floor, leather chairs and couches for students, and even little things like desktop electrical outlets on the study tables so students can plug in their laptops.”

The library’s former smoking lounge on the lower level gave way to the now essential computer services department, and a Little Theatre for viewing was added to the audiovisual department. Internet resources have greatly expanded the library’s reference capabilities, and the collection of materials available electronically has grown to nearly 65,000 titles.

Al Fisher, Stead Family Professor of Sociology, credits Doyle with molding a congenial environment staffed by diligent, supportive professionals. “Rich can be very, very proud of his shepherding of the gutting of the old library building and doubling it in size. Before that it was just a place you had to go. Now it’s an attractive and inviting place. Rich and his staff exhibit not only professional competence, but a willingness to do everything they can to meet faculty needs. In cases where I’ve developed a new academic interest, they’ve been incredibly generous and helpful in acquiring materials.”

“We have a patron-driven acquisition program,” Doyle stresses. “For us that means faculty-driven. Faculty are in this building a lot, and they’re a good role model for students. Another thing that’s happening more and more is peer-to-peer learning. You might see four or five students clustered around one computer working on a project, so we put in a large monitor with a computer



▲ Doyle made himself—and everyone else—at home in the new library (1989).

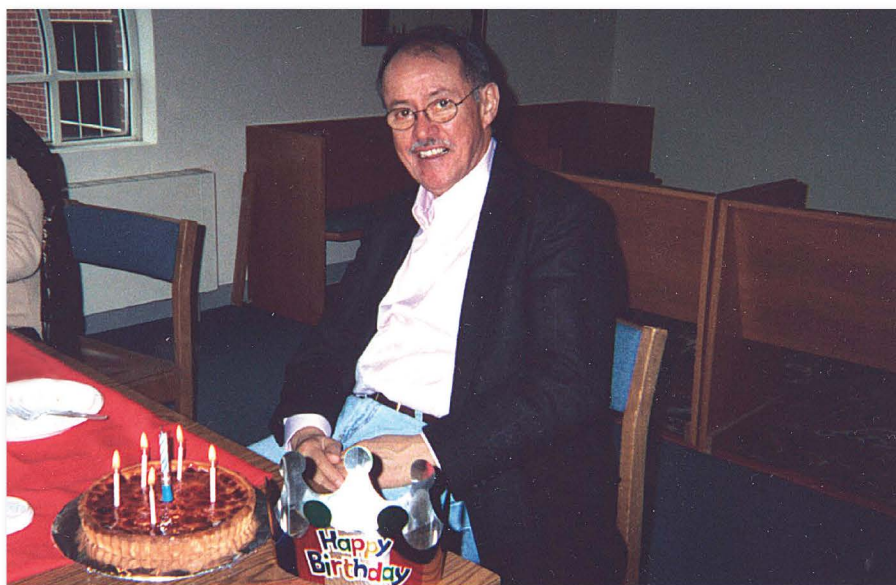
in one study room.” Another popular addition is the Engle Room, a small, interactive classroom that is heavily used by seminar classes.

Able and affable leadership

As revolutionary technologies have driven libraries in new directions, Doyle has never stopped learning about library trends and formats—or pushing Stewart Memorial to stay at the forefront, according to staff. “I have always been impressed with his knowledge base,” says Coe’s Head of Circulation Sandy Blanchard, who has spent her entire 22-year professional career working for Doyle. “He’s been able to stay current with innovations in the library, to pick up information quickly and give it to us in a concise manner.”

Doyle has also blended an intense determination to keep the library current and well-maintained with a casual and cordial manner that has endeared him to generations of students, as well as faculty and staff. “There is no doubt in my mind that the rewards are all people,” Doyle reflects. “I have enjoyed incredibly the student contact over the years, and I will miss the banter with them. There is a remarkable difference between the 18-year-old and the 22-year-old, and I have enjoyed observing that all these years. This is a private liberal arts college, and when you have a group of people who come here because they want to learn, you’re almost guaranteed a good environment.”

He is also deeply appreciative of his long-time staff. “We have really fine people committed to the same goals, and there is a graciousness and caring. I tell my junior staff, ‘Ask yourself after a great weekend on a Monday morning, what do you say to yourself? If you want to come to work and see what will happen that day, you’ve got a great job.’” Doyle says a professional library reviewer asked him this year how Coe’s library could accomplish so much with its relatively small staff. “I told her that everyone stays a long time in their jobs at the Coe library. But that only works if you have people who are self-starters and take ownership. I’ve got a group of great people who are deeply committed. We share tasks here and no one says, ‘That’s



▲ A 2006 birthday party for Doyle was among hundreds of events celebrated in the library’s ever-collegial staff room over the years.

▼ Today’s veteran library staff includes (left to right, front row) Sara Pitcher '07, Jill Jack; (middle row) Sandy Blanchard, Harlene Hansen, Rich Doyle, Cheri Pettibone, Laura Riskedahl; (back row) Rich Adkins, Linda Hummel, Jeff Schulte and Hongbo Xie.



not in my job description.”

Library Acquisitions Assistant Cheri Pettibone, Doyle’s long-time assistant, says he has made the library a truly rewarding place to work. “Rich has made the entire library staff feel they are significant to the library, and what they contribute is important. He doesn’t pigeon-hole anyone, so we have the freedom to work together as needed and to use our own creative talents to best serve the library. It’s a joy to come to work.”

This summer, the man who made sure that the library is known for its frequent celebrations as well as its state-of-the-art facilities will leave his beloved domain to embark on another of his passions—

bicycling. His goal is to bike every mile of paved bike trails in the state of Minnesota, beginning with the 100-mile Wasabi Trail in the Iron Range. Inspired by the Ken Burns public television series on the national parks, he says, he will also make a concerted effort to visit all 54 parks with his wife Mary, an elementary school librarian who is also retiring at the end of the school year.

Doyle will leave without regrets after a career dedicated to stewardship of a single, vital institution. “When you combine a marvelous building in the best location on campus with the resources to fill it up, it’s no wonder I stayed,” he says with gratitude. ■

HOMECOMING EVENTS TO MARK 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SHIRER'S MOST FAMOUS WORK



◀ The original notes and manuscript for *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich* are among the most prized items in the college's William Shirer Archives.

area of history, whether or not you agree with Shirer's conclusions," says Stewart Memorial Library Head of Reference Jill Jack. Coe's library is the repository for the voluminous Shirer Archives, which include the original notes and manuscript for *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich*.

Coinciding precisely with this year's Homecoming weekend, October 14-17, the 50th anniversary of the publication of Shirer's seminal work will be the focus of lectures, panel discussions and receptions at the annual gathering of the Coe community. The educational events are a fitting addition to the weekend, since this year's Homecoming, for the first time, will incorporate academic components that were formerly part of Coe's June Alumni Reunion Weekend.

"Under the theme of 'William Shirer: 20th-Century Journey,' we hope to look at a variety of issues," Jack explains, "such as broadcasting during World War II, Gandhi, McCarthyism, and journalism today. We will set the stage and move through different eras of Shirer's work and reflect on how those issues relate to today's world. Today's journalists are dealing with some of the same issues Shirer dealt with, such as working in a war zone, censorship, and the role of journalism during war. We want to present Shirer in terms of his role in history, but also show how current he is and how highly regarded he is by journalists today."

With several events open to the public, speakers and panelists will include Coe faculty members, alumni, and other

historians and journalists, some of whom have used the Shirer Archives for their research. Shirer family members may be on hand to share their perspectives as well.

Recognizing the most famous work by Coe's most famous graduate serves the college on several levels, Jack emphasizes. "It will highlight an incredible collection and get the word out to scholars and researchers. It will get students involved in history in a number of ways, not only in terms of what they're doing in the classroom but in working with original documents, which can really develop their research skills and knowledge.

Alumni will also play an important role, she says. "Coe has a long tradition of distinguished writers, and our alumni are becoming journalists and historians and scholars in different fields. That's good for our students to see. Shirer is the perfect example of all the different possibilities. He was a journalist, a novelist, a scholar, a playwright and a diarist."

As plans progress for marking the 50th anniversary of *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich*, the library staff continues its work on creating a detailed finding aid describing the contents of the Shirer Archives. Archives Assistant Sara Pitcher '07 has completed a comprehensive listing of his manuscripts and diary entries, making it easier for staff to respond to requests for information from researchers. "We continue to get inquiries all the time," Jack says, noting that scholars from all over the world have requested information or spent time on campus using the Shirer Archives. "They are incredibly grateful for the assistance we give them, and it gets Coe's name out there in a very positive way."

When *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich: A History of Nazi Germany* was published on October 17, 1960, 15 years after World War II ended, neither William Shirer '25 nor his publisher expected the exhaustively researched work to become a commercial success. The initial print run was a meager 12,500 copies.

The book became immensely popular in both the United States and Europe, eventually selling more than a million hardback copies and another million in paperback. It won the National Book Award in 1961 and reached an additional 12 million readers through its serialization in *Reader's Digest*. "It is still seen as one of the major books you have to read in that

DID YOU SAY 'CRISP CROISSANT'?

That's the name of the warm beige (with a hint of peach) paint color that covers the walls in the library's newly refurbished Technical Services area. Threadbare carpets were replaced and desks reconfigured to open up the large room, allowing for maximum exposure to the ample natural light that flows from the room's majestic windows.

Manager Jeff Schulte and student worker Ciera Minor '13 in the reinvigorated Tech Services area ▶



AV EVOLVES WITH TOPICS AND TECHNOLOGY



Running a state-of-the-art college audiovisual department presents a dual challenge, as new technologies and new areas of academic emphasis drive changes in both format and content. Coe Head of Audiovisual Laura Riskedahl meets that challenge by combining her expertise in film and digital resources with the interests of the college community to guide acquisitions for the department.

“When I came to Coe [in 2008], I noticed that there were certain directors or genres missing from the collection,” she recalls, noting that works by women, African-American and gay directors were underrepresented. “A lot of new faculty specialize in areas such as gender studies or African-American studies, and they always have wish lists for AV materials. These topics have also been very popular with students.”

Riskedahl has been building the collection in key areas as budget allows,

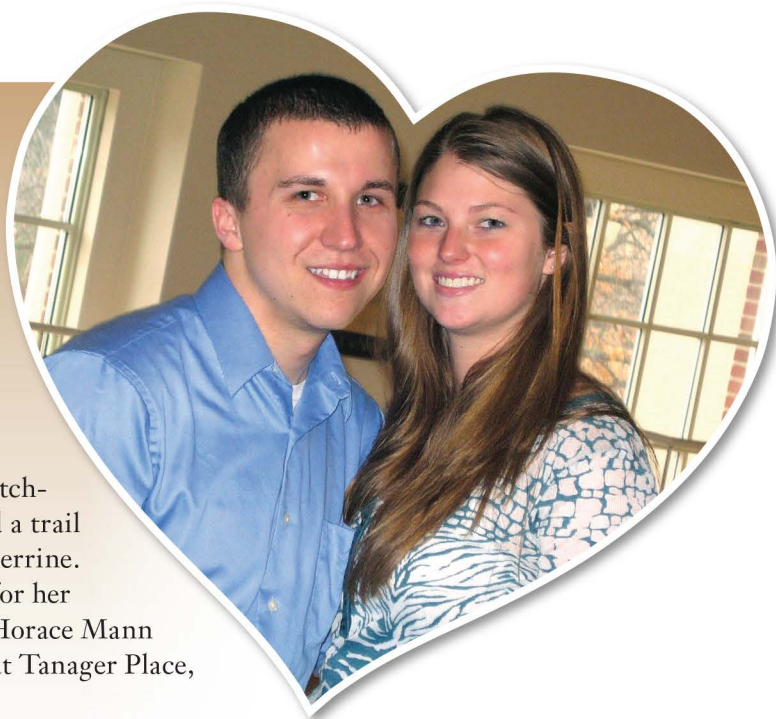
recently purchasing works by directors Julie Taymor, Sofia Coppola and Spike Lee, as well as documentaries focusing on African-American and sexuality issues.

Another priority has been replacing VHS materials with high-quality DVDs. About 58 percent of the titles in Coe’s AV collection are still in VHS format, she notes, but many students no longer own VCRs. “We’re trying to strategically replace certain titles or genres with DVDs.” Because some older titles are not available in DVD, the college will continue to have a VHS collection and will have VCRs available for the foreseeable future.

The department has also been replacing older TVs in the AV viewing area with high-resolution flat-screen models. “The students love it,” Riskedahl says, “and we have different sizes available, including some larger TVs where groups of students can watch movies that are on two-hour reserve.”

ROMANTIC RETURN

For 2009 Coe graduates Tom Bredfield and Kelly Weston, the Perrine Gallery provided the ideal setting for Tom’s March 9 wedding proposal. The two met as students while Tom worked in the computer services area on the library’s lower level and Kelly labored in the second floor Technical Services department. She always loved the Perrine Gallery, so Tom schemed with Kelly’s former library boss, Jeff Schulte, to take her out for a “catch-up” lunch during Coe’s spring break while Tom prepared a trail of flower petals that led Kelly to a candlelit table in the Perrine. When she arrived, he stepped out of the shadows to ask for her hand, and she accepted. Tom, a second grade teacher at Horace Mann Elementary School in Iowa City, and Kelly, a counselor at Tanager Place, are planning a June 2011 wedding.



ALUMNI AND FACULTY PUBLICATIONS ADDED TO THE GEORGE T. HENRY ARCHIVES, 2009-2010

Adamson, Tom. *Man on the Wire*. S.I., 2009. (Tom Adamson, class of 1972)

DeSpain, Robert Glen. *The Impact of Blacklisting on American Radio History: The Experiences of William L Shirer*. S.I., 2007. (Robert DeSpain, class of 2004)

Gorman, Edward, and Martin Harry Greenberg. *A Prisoner of Memory: And 24 of the Year's Finest Crime and Mystery Stories*. New York: Pegasus Books, 2008. (Edward Gorman, class of 1968)

Gorman, Edward. *Blood Moon*. Vancleave, MS: Ramble House, 2009; 1985.

---. *Death Ground*. New York, NY: Leisure Books, 2009; 1988.

---. *Ticket to Ride*. New York: Pegasus Books, 2009.

Gracey, Douglas R. *Intern in the Promised Land: Cook County Hospital*. Bloomington: iUniverse, 2009. (Douglas R. Gracey, class of 1958)

Guenther, Dan. *Glossy Black Cockatoos*. New York: Redburn Press, 2009. (Dan Guenther, class of 1966)

Hicks, Steven Wells. *The Fall of Adam*. S.I., 2009. (Steven Wells Hicks, class of 1972)

Hirshorn, Jessica. *Rocket: A Simulation on Intercultural Teamwork*. Boston: Intercultural Press, 2010. (Jessica Hirshorn, class of 1991)

Kennedy, Charles Francis, Steve Kennedy, and Dan Guenther. *The Fish Jumps Out of the Moon: Haiku of Charles F. Kennedy*. Xlibris, 2009. (Steve Kennedy, class of 1978)

Kenney, Robert J., Robert J. Kenney, and Jean E. Kenney. *Somewhere in France*. 30th anniversary ed. Baltimore, MD: Gateway Press, 2009. (Robert J. Kenney, Coe College Air Cadet Program, 1943-44)

Koman, Rita G. *Manassas Mosaic: Creating a Community*. Virginia Beach, VA: Donning Co. Publishers, 2009. (Rita Gibson Doman, class of 1958)

McLeod, Clark. *This Way Up: An Insider's Guide to the Climb of Your Life*. Cedar Rapids, Iowa: McLeodUSA, 2000. (Clark McLeod, class of 1968)

Nemecek, F. Dean. *Reflections of a Soldier and Servant*. Enumclaw, WA: Pleasant Word, 2008. (F. Dean Nemecek, class of 1949)

Osborne, Russell E., and Paul Kriese. *Global Community: Global Security*. Vol. 198. Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2008. (Paul Kriese, class of 1967)

Owen, Jerry, and Béla Bartók. *Music for String Orchestra: Homage to Bela Bartok*. Cedar Rapids, Ia.: Indian Hill Road Music, 2009; 2006. (Jerry Owen, Professor of Music, 1969-2006)

Owen, Jerry, and William Blake. *Four Songs on Poems by William Blake: For Soprano and Piano*. Cedar Rapids, Ia.: Indian Hill Road Music, 2009; 1986.

Owen, Jerry, and Paul Engle. *Out of America: On the Poem by Paul Engle; for Soprano and Piano*. Cedar Rapids, Ia.: Indian Hill Road Music, 2009; 1994.

Owen, Jerry, and Paul Smoker. *Smoker!: Dialog VI for Trumpet Alone*. Cedar Rapids, Ia.: Indian Hill Road Music, 2009; 1981.

Owen, Jerry, and Ann Struthers. *Five Songs on Poems by Ann Struthers: For Mezzo Soprano and Piano*. Cedar Rapids, Ia.: Indian Hill Road Music, 2009; 2007.

Owen, Jerry, and Walt Whitman. *Mystic Trumpeter for SATB Chorus, SATB Soloists and String Orchestra with Offstage Trumpet: On the Poem by Walt Whitman*. Full score ed. Cedar Rapids, Ia.: Indian Hill Road Music, 2009.

Ransel, David L. *A Russian Merchant's Tale: The Life and Adventures of Ivan Alekseevich Tolchënov*, Based on His Diary. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2009. (David Ransel, class of 1961)

Roth, Karen. *My Portion Forever*. Eugene, Oregon: Eagle Rock Christian Publishers, 2009. (Karen Roth, class of 1978)

Schmidt, Duane A. *The Legends of Old Lunker*. Baltimore, Md.: Publish America, 2007. (Duane Schmidt, class of 1952)

---. *The Ways of the Flesh*. Baltimore, Md.: Publish America, 2007.

Stein, Jeff, Elinor Day and Sher Jasperse. *One Week in June: The Iowa Floods of 2008*. Cedar Rapids, Iowa: WDG Communications, 2009. (Elinor Day, class of 1949, Sher Jasperse, Director of Public Relations 1991-2000)

Stone, Larry A. *Gladys Black: The Legacy of Iowa's Bird Lady*. Elkader, IA: turkey River Environmental Expressions, 2010. (Larry A. Stone, class of 1968)

Woody, Velma B. Branscum, and Steven Teske. *Homefront Arkansas: Arkansans Face Wartime*. 1st ed. Little Rock, Ark.: Butler Center Books, 2009. (Steven Teske, class of 1984)