



COE COLLEGE BIBLIOPHILE

A newsletter for members of the Coe College Library Association

FALL 2011

LIBRARY OPENS DOORS TO HOST REGISTRATION

Stewart Memorial Library served as the symbolic front door to campus at the beginning of the new school year, hosting registration for freshman and transfer students for the first time. For the library staff, it was all hands on deck as staff members welcomed students and assisted the Registrar's Office in registering nearly 400 new students for their first-semester courses.

"Necessity was really the mother of invention," says College Registrar Evelyn Moore, as a shortage of laptops available for use in Gage Union forced her office to seek an alternate location for this all-important rite of passage for new students. "The library wasn't busy at the time we needed it – for several hours on a Friday evening – and Jill Jack was very supportive in helping us in any way she could."

For her part, says Jack, "We were really thrilled to be able to get students into the library right off the bat – for students to get to see us and staff to meet them."

Moore says her greatest concern was "not losing students – letting them get out of the library without actually completing the computer registration process," so close coordination among all those involved was key.

New students, who met with their First-Year Seminar advisors prior to registration, were checked in at the library by Secretary to the Registrar, Richard Appleby '10 and directed to the library's second-floor Perrine Gallery. There they could talk with



departmental representatives about their course choices and, if their chosen classes were filled, meet with First-Year Seminar advisors to make alternate choices.

Upperclass students known as College Adjustment Peers (CAPs) then ushered the students to the computer area on the library's first floor, where they completed the computer registration process with the help of CAPs or library staff members. After registering, each student received a Coe wristband and was asked to complete a

first-year survey. Before the students left the library, library staff presented each of them with a zip drive



that was inscribed with "Stewart Memorial Library" and could be personalized with the student's name.

Moore says the new location was a terrific success for several reasons. "It's a much more aesthetically pleasing environment than the lower level of Gage Union, and there was more room to spread out. It's a good introduction to the library for the students, and there were so many people there to help. Registration is sometimes stressful for new students, and there were plenty of people to hold hands. As a Registrar's Office we felt tremendously supported."

Concludes Jack, "To us it seems like a natural fit, and I really appreciate that they thought of the library. Everybody pitched in and it went very smoothly." ■

JACK TO LEAD LIBRARY STAFF

Jill Jack, who served as Interim Library Director during the 2010-2011 academic year, was named Stewart Memorial Library Director in August at the conclusion of a national search. Jack joined the library staff in the fall of 2007 as head of reference. She will continue to oversee the library's George T. Henry College Archives.

"I'm very grateful to continue working in a great library with incredible colleagues. It's just wonderful," Jack said after assuming the position. "The faculty and administration have given me incredible support. I see my role as continuing to build on something that was very good and solid in a more proactive way – getting outside the walls of the library to be visible to students and faculty."

Jack said one of her goals will be to utilize staff members in new ways that emphasize their areas of expertise. "We all have our interests and knowledge bases, and I would like to be able to offer those to faculty and students in different ways, such as developing a web community or doing mini in-services on library databases and services." ■

NEW HEAD OF REFERENCE EXCITED TO BE A TEACHING LIBRARIAN

Stewart Memorial Library's new head of reference, Katelyn Wazny, is grateful to all the people who have reached out to make her feel welcome at Coe. Now she wants to extend that hospitality to faculty and students, encouraging them to delve into the vast resources available at the library.

A native of Ankeny, Iowa, Wazny graduated from Iowa State University, where she first became interested in library services through a campus work-study position. She went on to earn her Master of Library and Information Science degree at the University of Iowa and gained experience working at both the UI and Cornell College Libraries before taking a position at the Grimes Public Library near Des Moines.

She enjoyed her work there, she says, but jumped at the chance to return to an academic setting. "I liked working with people, but I missed working with students and the types of people you get to be around in an academic library."

Along with getting to know the faculty, Wazny says her first priority is "making sure that I have a chance to connect with students and they understand that we are here to be an additional support system for them as they develop skills and learn how to access information. These are such important skills," she adds, "whether you plan to pursue academics or another field." She is currently teaching First-Year Seminar class sections on use of the library and research techniques.

Wazny fills the position previously occupied by Jill Jack, who assumed the role of library director this fall, and before that by longtime reference chief Betty Rogers.

"Her role is a continuation of the outreach that Betty started and I tried to expand on," says Jack. "We're going to be doing more outreach to faculty as time goes on – doing short presentations in classrooms as well as 45-minute classes in the library, with library staff teaching classes in their areas of specialization."

Wazny is also training a handful of upperclass students to staff the reference desk during evening and weekend hours, extending the services available during the day. "I meet with them every Friday to teach them about new databases and give them examples of questions that we've dealt with in the past week." Several students interested in librarianship are currently employed in work-study or internship positions at the library and the George T. Henry College Archives. ■

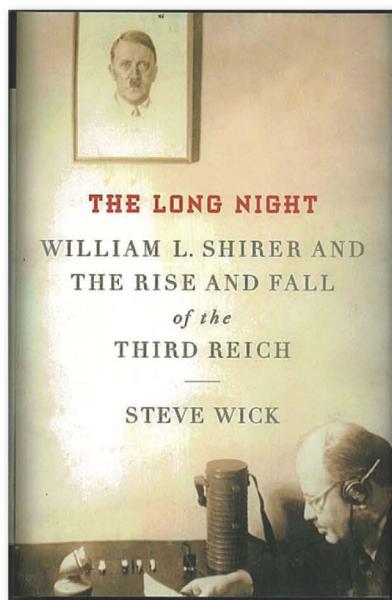


▲ Head of Reference, Katelyn Wazny

NEW SHIRER BOOK – RESEARCHED AT COE – TELLS OF ‘DARING ESCAPES AND MIDNIGHT DEADLINES’

“THE LONG NIGHT: William L. Shirer and ‘The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich’” (Palgrave Macmillan) was published this past summer by Steve Wick, a Newsday senior editor who became a familiar face at Stewart Memorial Library in recent years as he conducted research for his book using the

William L. Shirer papers housed in the George T. Henry College Archives. His book warmly acknowledges his debt to Coe and its staff. Wick, who is based in Long Island, New York, was also a featured speaker at the Shirer Symposium held at Coe last October to mark the 50th anniversary of the publication of “The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich.”



Wick’s book has been reviewed by The New York Times, The New Republic, The Wall Street Journal and numerous other outlets. Times reviewer Dwight Garner wrote that, while the book is not – and was not intended to be – an authoritative biography of Shirer, “I’d be lying...if I said I didn’t swallow ‘The Long Night’ in three contented gulps. Mr. Wick sticks close to the plain facts of Shirer’s story, taken from his copious letters and journals. His book is packed with daring escapes and midnight deadlines and hard-boiled editors and all-night drinking sessions and crooks and Nazis and spies.”

Says former Library Director Rich Doyle, who became close friends with Wick through the research process, “Steve data-mined that Archive to great effect and that really came through. He nailed it.” ■

RESTORED DUTCH LANDSCAPE HIGHLIGHTS COE’S COLLECTION

One of the oldest paintings in Coe’s collection, a circa 1710 work called “Festivities in a Town Square,” was restored over the last summer, to the delight of Coe art faculty and students who have been studying the work. Attributed to Flemish artists Pieter Bout and Matthijs Schoevaerdts, the painting was donated to the college in 1992 by Bernard L. ’37 and Betsy Smith. It was in poor condition with paint peeling off in some areas, says Coe Instructor in Art and Gallery Director Jen Rogers. She contacted Chicago conservator Barry Bauman, who agreed to clean and repair the painting for the cost of materials only. “He had done work for us in the past and it was very

generous of him to do that,” says Rogers. The painting, which hangs in the library’s Richter Room, “is a really good example of that style of landscape painting,” says Rogers. “It does a good job of showing the kind

of festivity that was part of daily life at that time. We were really excited that we could see so much detail after the restoration.” ■



A TASTE OF CHINA

The Harvest Festival – also known as the Mid-Autumn Festival or the Moon Festival – is among the most important yearly celebrations in China – a time when people travel to be with family if at all possible. For Chinese students at Coe, far from home and family, Stewart Memorial Library Head of Technical Services Hongbo Xie has been hosting a Harvest Fest celebration each fall in the library lunchroom. “It makes them less homesick,” says Xie, a native of Chengdu, China, “because we are kind of a family here.”

In China, the Harvest Festival marks the time when the moon is at its largest and brightest, Xie explains. “At this festival, you must have moon cakes – the symbol of the festival and of family – and you can have anything from the farmland like fruits and vegetables.” Sixteen Chinese students attended this year’s Harvest Festival on September 12, feasting on moon cakes made of sweet rice flour with a black bean filling.

Xie invites the students to the library at least three times a year to celebrate traditional holidays such as the Chinese New Year. “The Chinese students use the library a lot,” she says, “so the library staff encouraged me to welcome them in this way.” ■



FAREWELL TO OUR GRADS

Another talented group of library work-study students set sail this past summer. Many of them had spent four years working at the library, building lifelong friendships with staff and students while assisting with a wide range of library responsibilities. ■



▲ Our 2011 library work-study graduates included (left to right, top row) Mark Wiezorek, who will attend graduate school (art) in Wisconsin; Robert (Bobby) Hayes, now working in Des Moines at Bankers Trust; Heather White, teaching fourth grade at South Hardin Elementary School in Eldora, Iowa; (middle row) Jason Sandegran, attending Drake University Law School; Taylor Eagan, working at Barnes & Noble in Omaha; Rebecca Benedict, living in California; (bottom row) James Pitcher, working in accounting for the State of Iowa in Iowa City; Jared Shaw, working at Walgreens in Coralville; Meredith Toay, corporate trainer at Blackstone Consulting Inc., in Minnetonka, Minnesota. Not pictured: Hoa Ha, An Pham

PLAQUE RECOGNIZES DOYLE AS LIBRARY'S 'ARCHITECT OF EXCELLENCE'

When Rich Doyle retired as director of Stewart Memorial Library in May 2010, President Phifer read a resolution from the Board of Trustees expressing the college's gratitude to Doyle for his remarkable 38 years of service to the library, adding that the resolution would be preserved on a permanent plaque in the library. That plaque was recently installed in the entryway of the library.

Describing Doyle as "the primary architect of the current state of excellence of the Library and its services," the resolution notes the key role he played in developing the current library facility, serving as a mentor and friend to generations of staff and students, guiding the college through the transition from printed to electronic resources, and providing stewardship of the college's extensive art collection housed in the library.

Doyle says that the plaque tells the story of the momentous advances in library services and technology that took place during the time he was library director. "It reflects the major changes in the way academic libraries deliver services over the years, and I'm very proud that – because the resources were in place – we could move in that direction and deliver those services." ■



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