

# COE COLLEGE BIBLIOPHILE

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

FALL 2012

## KIDS ON CAMPUS: SUMMER PROGRAMS SPARK INTEREST IN BOOKS AND LEARNING

While the big kids are (mostly) gone during the summer months, dozens of younger kids flock to the Coe campus to keep their brains active, learn about all kinds of interesting subjects and get a taste of college life. Stewart Memorial Library has lots to offer these young visitors, and the staff is eager to show them that the library is a lively and fascinating place.

"It's just great to have kids here using the library, getting excited about research and reading," says Library Director Jill Jack.

In June and early July, a host of two-week College for Kids courses organized by Grant Wood Area Education Agency brought talented and gifted middle school students to the Coe campus to explore advanced or specialized curricula, hobbies and other topics of interest to them. This year the library was the setting for courses on Sherlock Holmes, Mythology and Writing for Fun and Profit. College for Kids classes have been held at Coe for many years.

During the last two weeks of July, two week-long Reading Camps brought another 50-plus kids to campus. Now in its sixth year, the camp was created by Leslee Sandberg, wife of Pochobradsky Professor Emeritus of Business Mike Sandberg, and Assistant Alumni Director Kate Rose, after Sandberg learned about a similar program in another state. Reading Camp participants include Johnson Elementary School summer program students, young students who are part of Children of Promise (for children with at least one parent who is incarcerated) and "a mix of other kids who can benefit from personal attention and a reading skill boost over the summer," Sandberg explains.

The young readers, each of whom has a dedicated mentor, start their day with a group activity in the library's AV Theater, then spread out around the library to spend time reading or being read to by their mentors. Afterwards they cycle through "reading centers" located in conference rooms throughout the library and Gage Union, where they participate in fun, reading-related games and activities. Along with getting their much-prized picture IDs and Coe t-shirts, they also enjoy a daily swim in the Coe pool and a cafeteria meal. Students closely track the minutes they spend reading every day.

This year's theme book for the camp was *The Chiru of High Tibet* by award-winning Mount Vernon children's author Jacqueline Briggs Martin. Based on the book's topic, Reading Camp participants engaged in activities that involved learning and writing about endangered animals. A highlight of the week was a reading by

the author – an occasion that prompted Library Reference & Interlibrary Loan Assistant Harlene Hansen to bring out Coe's collection of books by Martin so she could sign them.

Sandberg says the library plays a major role in hosting the Reading Camp. "We had so much presence in the library," she says. "Not only do the kids scatter around the library to read, but we do a scavenger hunt that has them find and answer questions about the statue outside, artwork inside the library, the gigantic globe downstairs. They have been all over the library, and the staff are so accepting and welcoming to us."

The impact of Reading Camp on the kids who participate is invaluable, she adds. "So many of them say, 'Oh, I want to go to college here.' It's wonderful just to get that little thought into their heads that learning and college are fun." ■



▲ LEFT: Participants in the summer Reading Camp held on Coe's campus enjoy spending time reading with their mentors at comfy locations around the library.

RIGHT: Summer Reading Camp participants start each day with a group activity in the library's AV Theater.



## LIBRARY AIMS FOR ‘STUDENT INFORMATION LITERACY’

What makes a student “information literate” and how does Stewart Memorial Library help students achieve this?

That’s the question the library’s teaching staff pondered this summer as they discussed the kind of literacy skills students need to excel academically. These skills include the ability to identify and analyze proper sources, develop a thesis, think critically and articulate their thesis. In particular, the staff focused on the five information literacy goals identified by the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL). (See adjacent box.)

“We stepped back and reassessed the teaching portion of our responsibilities to determine how we could meet ACRL goals and standards,” explains Library Director Jill Jack. “By reevaluating our curriculum and teaching practices, we can gain an understanding of how we’re meeting literacy standards and begin to develop new curriculum and teaching strategies.

The library proceeded to create its own rubric describing the behaviors that indicate three levels of student accomplishment – basic understanding,

competence and mastery – for each literacy goal. Measures of proficiency include specific outcomes such as the ability to create a research question, refine a search and analyze research results, Jack says.

The library staff incorporated as many of its teaching objectives as possible into the curriculum for the 50-minute session that it teaches all First-Year Seminar students and many other classes. Some faculty members bring their classes to the library for a more extensive seminar on research techniques, website evaluation and copyright issues, Jack says. The library staff is also asked by many faculty to teach 15-minute sessions within their classes on topics ranging from copyright issues to visual literacy.

“We try to integrate what we teach with what the professor is teaching and reinforce that,” Jill says, “so that the faculty has more time to teach their subject and students produce better work through expanded skills.”

Jack adds that studies indicate that students who use the library have an increased likelihood of staying in college. “We are looking at how what we offer can support the college

as a whole,” she says. “Library use also correlates with GPA and retention. How a person feels about the place they are studying is huge, and every time they walk in the door it’s a plus.”

### The Information Literate Student

As defined by the Association of College and Research Libraries, a student who is “information literate” is able to:

- Determine the nature and extent of the information needed
- Access needed information effectively and efficiently
- Evaluate information and its sources critically and incorporate selected information into his or her knowledge base and value system
- Individually or as a member of a group use information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- Understand many of the economic, legal and social issues surrounding the use of information and access and use information ethically and legally.

## SHIRER DAUGHTER ADDS TO COE COLLECTION

Coe’s most prized research collection, the already voluminous William L. Shirer ’25 Archives, recently grew even larger with the addition of two boxes of materials donated by his younger daughter, Linda Shirer Rae. Shirer’s older daughter, Inga Shirer Dean, died in 2011.

The newly donated items include newspaper clippings from his early career, notes from a play Shirer was writing about Hitler, correspondence, passports, diaries and a 1925 handwritten note from an editor at the *Chicago Tribune* in Paris containing Shirer’s first job offer. Of special interest to the Coe family is Shirer’s class notebook from his journalism course with legendary Coe journalism professor Ethel Outland ’09.

Library Director Jill Jack says interest in the Shirer Archives – intensified by events marking the 50th anniversary of the publication of his landmark work, *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich*, in 2010 – is unabated. “We continue to get inquiries from researchers and scholars who are publishing books and articles on Shirer.”



◀ Shirer’s 1938 passport is filled with notes and stamps that provide a vivid snapshot of the globe-trotting journalist’s itinerant life.

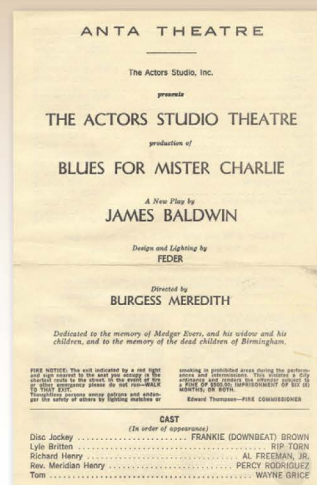
◀ A note written by a *Chicago Tribune* editor in Paris on August 19, 1925, invited a young William Shirer to stop by to discuss a position with the publication.



## LIBRARY DATABASE SPOTLIGHTS BLACK DRAMATISTS

The library recently subscribed to a new database that includes scripts and details about more than 1,400 plays by 233 black playwrights. Called “Black Drama: African, African-American and the Diaspora, 1850 to the Present,” the collection contains complete plays – including 600 that have never been published before – as well as information about when and how they were staged, playbills, photographs and ephemera related to the works. Among the authors in the collection are notable literary figures including W.E.B. Du Bois and Zora Neale Hurston.

Library Director Jill Jack says a Coe theater professor asked her to consider subscribing to the database. “When I looked at it, I could see how useful it could be for other classes,” she recalls. “We have professors who teach human rights and cultural studies, and this gives them another form to discuss those issues. It’s a wonderful resource for a variety of disciplines – sociology, gender studies, English, religion, political science, history. It’s really a gold mine for looking at all aspects of society through a different lens.”



◀ This playbill from a production of James Baldwin's *Blues for Mister Charlie*, "Dedicated to the memory of Medgar Evers, and his widow and children, and to the memory of the dead children of Birmingham," is among the treasures in the new Black Drama database at Stewart Memorial Library.

## LIGHTS! CAMERA! ACTION!



The library's Audiovisual Department is playing a starring role in the introduction of a new interdisciplinary film studies major at Coe. The major blends content and expertise from the disciplines of art, English/creative writing and theatre arts in exploring all aspects of film and digital production. It is designed to offer students both theoretical and hands-on experience in the art of visual storytelling, and Coe's AV department is supporting both aspects of the program, according to Head of Audiovisual Laura Riskedahl.

In particular, the AV Department is involved with the areas of facilities, equipment and film purchasing, she explains. The department oversees the use of the AV Theater, the AV Preview Room and Kesler Lecture

Hall, all of which are used by students in the program. While primarily reserved for special programs and screenings in the past, the AV Theater is now used on a regular basis by film study classes.

Last year the AV department updated its video editing room, which now has three Mac video and audio editing stations and state-of-the-art video editing programs such as iMovie and Final Cut Pro. “We’re growing our equipment rapidly, adding video cameras, audio recorders and microphones,” she says. “While most recording equipment is digital, we still have classes using analog tape cameras as well.”



▲ Stewart Memorial Library Head of AV  
Laura Riskedahl

The AV Department is also building a more robust film collection to support the new major. It now has DVD copies of all films on the American Film Institute's list of the top 100 American films, as well as many high-quality international films and older films – including shorts and silent movies – that are of historical interest.

In addition, Riskedahl says, the AV Department plays an important role in teaching students “visual literacy” – knowing how to use film resources effectively and ethically. “Searching for media and visual items is a different strategy than searching for text-based items,” she points out. “And there are ethical issues related to copyright and proper crediting of materials. With the prevalence of media on the Internet, people don’t always know how to translate text-based practices to visual media.” ■



## PERRINE PRESENTS...

The library's second-floor Perrine Gallery has always provided a handsome space for receptions and other special occasions. With a new program series called *Perrine Presents*, the library staff is hoping to make it a regular oasis for the campus community. The monthly late afternoon *Perrine Presents* programs will provide an opportunity for faculty, students and staff to showcase their interests – academic or otherwise – through talks, readings or performances.

“If a student wants to read something they’ve written or try out a presentation, if a staff member has a passion they want to talk about, if a faculty member wants to present something either in their field or outside of it, this will be a place to do that,” says *Perrine Presents* committee member Cheri Pettibone, library acquisitions assistant. “It’s meant to be something fun that will open up the library to the whole college campus.” ■



▲ Cyclists who formerly fastened their bikes to the library ramp railing have a stylish new place to park their wheels.



A newsletter for members of the Coe College Library Association  
**BIBLIOPHILE**  
**COE COLLEGE**

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit No. 26  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

