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The Newsletter of the Swarthmore College Libraries

http://www.swarthmore.edu/library/newsletter/news.html

Spring 1999 Vol. | no. |

### New popular reading collection is here

You can now find a collection of popular reading in hardback editions on the main level of McCabe Library. This 400 title rotating collection of current fiction and non-fiction best sellers will also include mysteries, science fiction, westerns and romances.

You can search Tripod by author, title or subject to find books in the Popular Reading Collection. (Location code: S McCabe Rec) Books will circulate for 28 days to Tri-College staff, faculty and students. Every month 20 new best selling titles will be added to the core collection and 20 low-use books will be removed.

Among the first titles received are John Grisham's The Testament: Tom Brokaw's The Greatest Generation, Tom Wolfe's A Man in Full and Judy Sheindlin's Beauty Fades, Dumb is Forever.

### **Associates' Events** for Fall 1999

September TBA October

Daniel Hoffman, poet, professor and Poe scholar. A talk & exhibit on Edgar Allen Poe to commemorate the 150th anniversary of his death.

#### November

Exhibit of The Mystical Arts of Tibet featuring the Tibetan Book of the Dead.

#### December

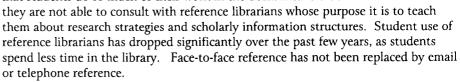
Professor Timothy Burke, co-author of Saturday Morning Fever will talk about television cartoons for children. Exhibit.

## A VIEW FROM THE LIBRARIAN Reintegrating libraries into the lives of Swarthmore students

by Peggy Seiden, Swarthmore College Librarian

s I come to the end of my first academic year at Swarthmore, I find myself reflecting on my impressions of the Library and its role in the academic life of Lour community. My views are informed by what I know a Library can and should be as we enter the next century. My knowledge of Swarthmore comes in part from seven student focus groups where we talked about their research strategies and their perceptions and use of the library. My greatest concern for the near and greater future of the Library on the Swarthmore College campus is the poor relationship between the students of Swarthmore and the Library itself.

How does this impact our students and the quality of education they receive? Students do a minimal amount of work in the library in order to avoid spending much time here. Increasingly, this has become easier to do with the types of resources that the library provides through the network. However, these resources are only the tip of the iceberg of what students should be using in their research. By limiting their strategies to what they can find online, they are at risk of limiting their understanding of any topic. Furthermore, the fact that students do so much of their work in the dorm means that



The consequences for our students of this minimal use of the library facility was evident in the focus groups and in the preliminary data I have from a second study of theses students' information seeking strategies. Many of our students are graduating without a knowledge of the major bibliographic tools in their disciplines and with rather rudimentary information-seeking skills. To put it bluntly, many of our students do not know how to use a library. The library no longer serves the role of the intellectual center of the campus, and that is a shame.

There are many ways we can address this issue. In future columns, I hope to write

...renovations have fostered major increase in use of both facilities and resources.

about ways to enhance student-library interaction through collaboration with faculty and implementing more responsive and dynamic instructional programs. But perhaps the greatest opportunity we have to change these use patterns is through the proposed renovation.

Students on the whole have very negative feelings about the McCabe facility. While they appreciate the collections, they feel that the library is oppressive and not



## IN FOCUS

## Library offers more new databases

The contents of old periodicals back to 1770 can now be searched electronically, thanks to the Library's subscription to *Periodicals Contents Index (PCI)* on the web. *PCI* indexes journals in the humanities and social sciences from the first issue until 1990, with a few titles indexed until 1993. The complete table of contents is included for journals written in major Western languages. This is a great way to locate primary articles in those very old journals in the collection.

History researchers have two new databases to turn to, accessed at the same entry point on the web. *America: History and Life* indexes journals that focus on the history of the United States and Canada from prehistory to the present. *Historical Abstracts* provides historical coverage of the world from 1450 to the present, excluding the United States and Canada. Both databases index articles published during the past 40 years or so in over 2,000 journals. Most entries in both these databases have annotations or abstracts.

Now that *Engineering Index (Compendex)* is available on the web, access to it is no longer limited to one computer in Cornell. This provides coverage of journal articles back to 1990.

International Index to Music Periodicals (IIMP) indexes more than 370 international music periodicals and feature music articles and obituaries in The New York Times and The Washington Post.

Dictionary of Art Online is the searchable, full-text version of the 34 volume Grove encyclopedia. It features beautiful illustrations and links to related sites, such as museums or exhibits. The print version is available in the reference area of the library.

To access the above indexes and see the complete listing of ALL electronic indexes, choose "Indexes and Databases" on the library homepage (http://www.swarthmore.edu/Library/index.html). To connect to the *Dictionary of Art Online*, choose "Full text resources."

## Who you gonna call? RefScholar!

The Reference Desk now has an e-mail account that can take your questions 24 hours a day. If you find yourself "stuck" in a research problem when you're back in the dorm and can wait until the next day for an answer, send an e-mail to: refscholar@swarthmore.edu for advice on what to do next.

There's a live link to refscholar in the lower right corner of the Library Web page: http://www.swarthmore.edu/Library; scroll down a bit to find it. Reference librarians answer refscholar questions every day when classes are in session.

RefScholar's purpose is to provide a way to ask for advice in a fairly timely manner when you can't come in and speak to a reference librarian in person. It's also a place to ask other kinds of questions, request an appointment, or make suggestions about library web pages. If you'd rather voice your question, phone the Reference desk at 328-8493; give the phone number where you can be reached.

## Which side of the desk?

More and more, patrons are invited to come to the other side of the Reference Desk in McCabe so they can actually see what steps and strategies the reference librarian takes to access the information to answer their question. This involvement in information searching may prove useful to the patron later.

All questions are encouraged; the primary purpose of the reference librarian is to assist a library user in any way. There's no such thing as a "dumb" question. Students can also make appointments for a private consultation for any research needs

### Reintegrating libraries...

continued from page 1

conducive to study. They have nicknamed the library, "McCage." They repeatedly cited the following characteristics as contributing to an overall negative impression:

- the poor quality of lighting and, in particular, the lack of natural light,
- the poor air quality, mold and humidity problems (particularly on the first and fourth levels).
- lack of temperature control and air stagnation,
- the lack of sufficient computing resources,
- the lack of enough group study spaces,
- the worn and visually unappealing carpet,
- the poor quality of the video viewing rooms,
- · uncomfortable seating,
- and a generally uninviting atmosphere.

In library after library, renovations have fostered major increase in use of both facilities and resources. Renovations serve as a catalyst to reintegrate libraries into the scholarly lives of students. I've witnessed this myself in the renovation that was completed under my directorship at Skidmore College.

By creating an atmosphere which is inviting and conducive to research and study, we hope to help provide the students of Swarthmore with an experience rich in both enthusiasm and investigative skills.

### **New Science Librarian**

Meg Spencer has officially been appointed Science Librarian at Cornell Library, after serving in an acting capacity for two years. Meg has worked in the Science Library since 1982 and earned her M.S.IS. from Drexel University.



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Terry Heinrichs, Amy Morrison, Ushi Tandon Technical Advisor: Heather Whipple Thank you to all who contributed to our first issue, especially: Wendy Chmielewski, Kate Cleland, Ed Fuller, Minda Hart, Alison Masterpasqua, Pat O'Donnell, Donny Smith, Meg Spencer & Barb Weir Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA 19081

# Students surveyed; printer usage high

A survey of library services and facilities at McCabe, Cornell, and Underhill drew a great response from 308 students in April. Questions were asked about satisfaction with such things as customer service, copiers, machines, temperature, lighting, furniture, hours, and the reserve system. The data will be analyzed this summer and results will be published in the fall.

As an incentive to participate, survey respondents were eligible for a drawing for three prizes. The winners were: David Reese, gift certificate to John Harvard restaurant; Ijeoma Azonobi, gift certificate to Border's; and Stephanie Wojtkowski, free copy card worth \$10.

The McCabe public printer, located by the circulation desk, is getting lots of use. Students are happy to have access to this, despite the occasional problems. With the help of the Computing Center, the circulation staff are trying to keep it running smoothly.

## Hugh Weber'00 wins Newton library prize

The A. Edward Newton Student Library Prizes are awarded annually to the contestants whose collections of books and other media are deemed most praiseworthy by the Committee of Award.

A. Edward Newton, who endowed these prizes in 1929, was, by vocation, an electrical engineer, but by avocation, a noted bibliophile, collector of rare books, owner of a library of 10,000 volumes and author of many articles and books including The Amenities of Book Collecting. In the tradition of Benjamin Franklin, Newton proposed the idea of helping create book-lovers by the clever investment of a small amount of money in an annual student library prize. For the past 70 years students have submitted entries describing the "how and why" of their collections. Three monetary prizes are awarded to the winners and all contestants receive a book on the subject of books or book-collecting.

The Committee of Award for 1999 is pleased to announce the following winners: 1st Prize: Hugh Weber'00, *JFK Collection*; 2nd Prize: Sasha Isenberg '02, *There at The New Yorker Books by, from and about The Great Magazine*; and 3rd Prize: Karen Hiles'99, *Mozart*. There will be an exhibit of the collections of the winners in McCabe Library in January 2000.

# New circulation policy uses points to replace some cash fines

s this the end of library fines? Well, yes and no. Fines on Swarthmore stacks books have disappeared completely in the new loan rules, to be replaced by a system of penalty points. Fines will still be charged on other types of materials. The Library's goal is to implement a system that motivates people to be good library citizens. Since the Library must provide for the whole college community, it needs to be protective of the collection and have the books available when needed. The new policies are: Faculty/staff (effective now):

- No more fines for Swarthmore stacks books, videos, or periodicals.
- A penalty point system for reserve videos and periodicals. Each item accumulates 1 point per day until billed and then account is blocked.
- Recalled items are \$2 per day plus 1 penalty point.
- Interlibrary loan books are \$1 per day.
- Patron's account is blocked at 50 points or \$50 or if an overdue book has reached the billing state (normally a 6-week period).

#### Students (effective Fall 1999):

- No fines for Swarthmore stacks books, but a \$15 billing fee plus replacement cost is charged after 21 days.
- Reserve books are \$1 per hour plus 1 penalty point per hour.
- Videos, periodicals, interlibrary loan items are \$1 per day.
- Recalled books are \$2 per day.
- Those who abuse the reserve system by accumulating 20 points will be blocked from overnight reserves and possibly reported to the Dean's office. More details on these policies are available at the circulation desk.

## ILL makes

## changes

Student interlibrary loan requests will be limited to ten per day, beginning in the Fall semester. This means that the items most needed should be requested first, since they will be processed in order of the date submitted.

The ILL offices will be moving this summer. The office door will be directly across from the elevator and the pay phone on the main level of McCabe. The old ILL space will be used for other offices.

And here's a reminder to anyone borrowing a book from another library through ILL: requests for renewals should be made before the due date, since these requests have to be approved by the lending library. Requests can be submitted to the ILL office by e-mail (mhart1), phone, (x8491) or in person (see Minda Hart).

## Forget Blockbuster, we have top 100

With the addition of the following titles to the video collection, the Library now has available for your viewing pleasure the complete list of the 100 best films as judged by the American Film Institute.

The Apartment Bonnie and Clyde Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid Doctor Zhivago ET: The Extra-Terrestrial Forrest Gump The French Connection Guess Who's Coming to Dinner Jaws M\*A\*S\*HPulp Fiction Raiders of the Lost Ark Rockv Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs The Sound of Music Unforgiven

For the complete list of the AFI's 100 best films, visit the AFI website at <a href="http://AFI.100movies.com/home.asp">http://AFI.100movies.com/home.asp</a>.

## Tripod adds new search feature

Trying to locate an essay or short story by a specific author? Looking for a poem you know appeared in an anthology? Searching for everything published in book form on a particular topic.

Now the answer to these queries can be found in Tripod. Full table of contents information for about 30,000 English language books published since 1995 has been entered into Tripod.

This means that you can search Tripod by author and find both complete works by that author as well as his/her chapters, essays or poems in a collected work or anthology. To see how this works, search under the author Toni Morrison. You will find her individual book titles plus her recent essay in *The Beacon Book of Essays by Contemporary Women*, edited by Wendy Martin.

You can also search by chapter titles, by short story titles and even by the titles of individual poems. For example, search for the short story "Flying Carpets" by Steven Milhauser to locate it in his book of short stories entitled The Knife Thrower and Other Stories.

A keyword search for a topic now retrieves hits based on chapter titles as well as book titles. Try a keyword search using "Trudeau". And you will find "Trudeau, Mulroney, Chrétien and the Rise and Fall of Personalized Leadership" a chapter in The U.S. Presidency in Crisis: A Comparative Perspective by Colin Campbell.

If you are using the Web version of Tripod, the TOC information displays right under the location and call number. In the telnet version of Tripod, the "K" option will tell you if the TOC data is present; just hit K to see it.

In addition to this expanded Table of Contents information added to Tripod, we have also added more extensive "Summary" notes that describe the content of the book in greater depth.

#### LIBRARY HOURS

### McCabe Library

M-Th.: 8:15-1:00 s.m. F: 8:15 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. Sat.:9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Sun.: Noon - 1:00 a.m.

(610) 328-8477 (Circulation) (610) 328-8493 (Reference) (610) 328-8491 (ILL) (610) 328-8489 (Librarian)

#### Cornell Library

M-F: 8:15 a.m. – midnight Sat.:8:30 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. Sun.: Noon – midnight

(610) 328-8262

#### Underhill Library

M-Th.:8:30 a.m.- 5:15 p.m. 7:00 pm. - 10:00 p.m. F:8:30 a.m - 5:15 p.m. Sat.: 10:00 a.m. - 5:15 p.m. Sun.: 1:00 p.m.- 5:15 p.m. 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

(610) 328-8232

During breaks and summer: M-F: 8:30 – 4:30 closed weekends

## FRIENDS HISTORICAL LIBRARY African-American

## African-American newspapers on CD

Friends Historical Library has recently acquired an exciting new primary source research tool called *The African-American Newspapers: A Cultural History of People* on CDRom. So far the Library has received Parts 1, 2 & 3, (The 19th Century). This full-text and fully word-indexed material contains the major serial publications of the African-American community in the United States, beginning with the early 1800s.

Previously, this material was difficult to find, difficult to access, and difficult to navigate. Students at the College, particularly of the History Department, have already used this new tool extensively. FHL plans to acquire the entire set of discs and looks forward to receiving the next issue. Summer Dreaming...

#### Cornell on the beach!

In an effort to make the libraries more attractive to both faculty and students, proposals for the creation of a beach behind Cornell Library are under consideration. The Library would aim for 24 hour staffing of the new facility, consistent with student propensities for round-the-clock studying. Features of the new facility would include: beach umbrellas available at the Cornell circulation desk, internet connections at high-tide level and free-flowing sunscreen on tap for the ozone conscious.

#### **PEACE COLLECTION**

## Fr. John Dear gives collection of papers

The Peace Collection was pleased to sponsor a public presentation by John Dear, Executive Director of The Fellowship of Reconciliation, an interfaith peace organization, at the Peace Collection Advisory Council Annual Meeting. Dear, a Jesuit priest, had recently donated his collection of papers, including correspondence with the late Mother Teresa, to the Peace Collection. Dear's talk was entitled "The Urgent Work of Peace: Practicing Nonviolence in a Violent World." The Meeting was held on February 11 at the Swarthmore Friends' Meeting House.

Wilma Mosholder was also honored at the Annual Meeting for her 25 years of volunteer work in the Peace Collection. She is presently nearing the completion of her project to process the records of The Fellowship of Reconciliation and the papers of John Nevin Sayre.

### Library Labyrinth

## So you know the reference section of a library well?

Now you can win fabulous prizes and fame for your expertise.

- 1. How could you find the highest miles per gallon ever recorded by a road-legal vehicle?
- 2. You're writing a history paper and suddenly it is essential that you know how much toothpaste would have cost in 1910. Where would you look?
- 3. You have been given an English assignment to find what other authors thought of Virginia Woolf. Is there an easy way to see what E.M. Forster, Rebecca West, W.H. Auden, Katherine Anne Porter, and Joyce Carol Oaks wrote about Woolf?

The lucky winner will be treated to dinner for two at John Harvard's Brew House. All entrants must be Swarthmore students. The winning entry will be drawn at random from submissions with three correct answers. Submissions should be sent to the College Librarian. Creative and novel solutions are welcome, but final judgment will be at the discretion of the Librarian. Answers and winners to be announced in the next issue.



## **Associates of the Swarthmore College Libraries**

Volume 1, Number 1

Spring 1999

## Associates present exhibits, film, lecture, poetry reading

During the second semester the Associates of the Swarthmore College Libraries sponsored a number of engaging events open to the public.

Jerry Melichar'00, 1st Place Winner of the A. Edward Newton Student Library Prize exhibited his Roald Dahl Library of books, posters, videos, and memorabilia and led

a lively discussion on the art and diffi-Library Prize culties of book-collecting. The Associ-- ates were especially pleased to sponsor

for the first time an exhibit and program based on student work and plan to continue such programming.

Another first for the Associates in 1999 was the sponsoring of a film screening. An audience of film-buffs enjoyed the award-winning independent feature-length film entitled The Scottish Tale: A Comedy from the Polhemus Clan

(Horseshoe Hill Productions). The Film Screening film was written and directed by - Mack Polhemus, a graduate of USC's Graduate Screenwriting Program and starred his brother

Joe, a Master's Graduate of the American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco. After the screening the Polhemus brothers lead a Q & A session about the realities and absurdities of making and marketing films for Hollywood. An exhibit of their comic strip The Wize Brothers that ran in Buzz Magazine was on display in McCabe Library.

In March the College Library was honored to exhibit a photography and text series entitled Vanishing Orient: Papa's Harem is Shifting to Mama's Civil Society. The photographs, shot by Ruth Ward in Morocco in 1995, illustrated short texts written by Fatema Mernissi, Cornell Visiting Professor in Sociology. Fatema Mernissi, Moroc-

can feminist writer from the Scheherazad's Secret Université Mohamed V, - Rabat, spoke on the unbridge-

able differences between East and West fantasies of the feminine beauty ideal. Her thesis is that Western men, in spite of their human rights and scientific achievement, fantasize about passive women as attractive, while Moslems, with mediocre records in science and human rights, fantasize about brainy, uncontrollably subversive female partners such as Scheherazad.

The final event of the semester was a dual Irish program presented in memory of Michael J. Durkan, College Librarian 1976-1996, and in celebration of National

Irish Poetry & Photography

Poetry Month. Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill read from a selection of her poems and Robin Hiteshew, photographer, poet and proprietor of the Laughing

Hermit Press in Philadelphia, exhibited his photographs on Irish Writers and Landscapes in the Lobby of McCabe Library.

## Irish poetry reading honors former Lihrarian Michael Durkan

Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill, writing primarily in the Irish language, read from a selection of her poems translated into English at the Second Annual Irish Poetry Reading in Memory of Michael J. Durkan, College Librarian, 1976-1996. Nuala has published more than seven volumes of poetry with translations by virtually every poet of note in Ireland. Her poems have repeatedly won the Sean O'Riordain Award for Poetry in Irish and the Irish Arts Council Prize for Poetry. In the words of Michael Durkan, "Nuala's poetry speaks of the power of the imagination, of fantasy, of the ancient world, of the secrets of the unconscious."

Nuala grew up in the Irish-speaking areas of West Kerry and Tipperary and earned her degree from University College, Cork. Poet, playwright, and mother of four, Nuala has been praised as "the most widely known and acclaimed Gaelic poet of the century" (Irish Literary Supplement).

Irish, in spite of the growth in the number of people who can speak it, has come to be one of the languages at risk in Europe. It is owing to writers such as Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill that it is becoming somewhat fashionable in recent years. Yet the sense of impending loss is there; how long can the language survive as the mother tongue? What is left is hope, hope such as expressed by Nuala in her poem.

### Ceist na Teangean/The Language Question.

I place my hope on the water in this little boat of the language, the way a body might put an infant

in a basket of intertwined iris leaves. its underside proofed with bitumen and pitch,

then set the whole thing down amidst the sedge and bulrushes by the edge of a river

only to have it borne hither and thither, not knowing where it might end up; in the lap, perhaps, of some Pharaoh's daughter.

English translation by Paul Muldoon. Published in Pharaoh's Daughter (Winston-Salem, NC, Wake Forest University Press, 1993) Reprinted with permission



### Associate Membership

As is the case with other intellectually curious, culturally involved people, you are busy. I would like to catch your attention for a few moments to ask you to renew or initiate your membership in the Associates of the Swarthmore College Libraries.

We hope you will enjoy reading our first issue of @library.edu: The Newsletter of the Swarthmore College Libraries with the accompanying news from the Associates. It is our intention to publish and mail the newsletter once each semester. We welcome your comments and suggestions on this new venture.

During 1998/99, the Associates sponsored a very fine and diversified series of events and exhibits. The first semester's programs centered on the book arts and poetry, beginning with an exhibit entitled *The Art f the Book:Visualizing Poetry* which featured the work of nationally-known artists exploring the book as a primary medium of expression and taking their inspiration from poetry. The semester continued with exhibits and talks by two noted book artists: Shirley Jones, Welsh artist, poet, writer and printer of *livres d'artiste* under the imprint of *The Red Hen Press* and Enid Mark, well-known book artist, of the *ELM Press* in Wallingford; and with a poetry reading by MacArthur award-winning poet, Eleanor Wilner. The culminating book event was the combined program of an exhibit of artwork created by students in Celia Reisman's "Works in Paper" class and an exhibit and poetry reading by the students in Peter Schmidt's "Advanced Poetry Workshop".

The events and exhibits you sponsored were a great success in both presentation and in the cultural contribution they offered to the College community. With the recent purchase by the College of a letterpress and the continuing interest by the Departments of English and Art in the teaching of poetry-writing and print-making, the Library has reinforced its commitment to bring a practitioner or leading artist in the book arts – printer, binder, calligrapher, illustrator, etc. - to campus annually to exhibit and discuss her/his work. All this means that your support is very important for the ongoing work of Swarthmore College in educating and enriching its students.

Associates are also deeply involved in the mission of the College Libraries in supporting the teaching and research at Swarthmore. Your membership makes possible the purchase of books that lie outside the confines of the regular Library allocation. Significant purchases in 1998/99 were:

- Rules of Thumb. (Claremont, CA: Scripps College Press, 1986) Limited edition. Examples of printing by nine students in the class: Typography: Art of the Book, taught by Kitty Maryatt.
- W. B. Yeats. Poem of Place. (Market Drayton, UK: Tern Press, 1991) Limited edition.
- Seamus Heaney. *The Stick.* (Dublin, Ireland: Gallery Press, 1998) Limited edition broadside, numbered and inscribed by Seamus Heaney. Privately published by Peter Fallon at the Gallery Press on 18 August 1998 to mark the presentation of the Parnell Stick by Seamus Heaney to Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill.

If you have not yet sent in your membership for 1999, I encourage you to do so. Your support has enabled us to participate in the life of the College community in a unique and important way. We hope to see you in the coming year at one of our programs. On behalf of the Board of the Associates of the Swarthmore College Libraries, I wish you the best for the remainder of 1999.

Amy Morrison, Associate College Librarian

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