The Library’s Special Collections

Joyce Meldrem, Director of the Academic Resource Center

While most of our collections are “special”, we have an outstanding Special Collections room that has more riches in it than money can ever describe.

The mission of the Special Collections Room is to select, arrange, describe, provide reference assistance for, preserve, and promote the use of rare and unique research materials. The books and other materials in the collection provide support to the curriculum, and fulfill the general mission of the Loras College Library to select, organize, and preserve the intellectual and cultural heritage of western civilization.

The value of the collections contained in the room is in the intellectual content in the printed volumes and manuscript sources. Early editions of Shakespeare and Chaucer stand out, as do first editions of more modern authors such as T.S. Eliot, Virginia Woolf, William Faulkner, and Willa Cather.

We have been developing possible assignments for use of these materials. For example, we have multiple copies of Murder in the Cathedral by T.S. Eliot. Why would we have all of these different copies, and how do they differ from one another? Or what was 19th Century Britain like when Jane Austen wrote Mansfield Park? What would males have thought of Jane Austen?

Another example, the Brontë sisters wrote books, yet Anne Brontë had Acton Bell as a pseudonym, Charlotte Brontë had Currer Bell as a pseudonym, and Emily Brontë had Ellis Bell as a pseudonym. Why would they use these pseudonyms?

We have 18 manuscripts – 17 of them are printed on parchment (animal skins) and 1 of them is printed on paper. These books date from the 12th century to the early 16th century. They are all religious in nature and in Latin.

We have the largest collection of incunabula in the state of Iowa. These books were printed before 1501. Most are religious in nature, and all are in Latin with the exceptions of one in Greek and one in English. The earliest printed volume we have is dated 1471.

We have the largest collection of the Latin poet Quintus Horatius Flaccus (Horace) in the United States. We have over 750 volumes in a variety of languages but mostly in Latin.

Father Schroeder collected works of Chaucer, Shakespeare, and St. Thomas More. In addition, he also collected Sir Walter Scott, Charles Dickens, Graham Greene, and T.S. Eliot. He also collected finely illustrated books by Eric Gill. Gill was born in England in 1882 and died in 1940. Eric Gill’s reputation rests on his work as a wood engraver, social activist, author, typographer, and
The Library’s Special Collections, cont’d

sculptor. One of his best known sculptures is the Stations of the Cross in Westminster Cathedral in London. He also designed 6 typefaces, among them Gill Sans along with Perpetua and Joanna, named after two of his daughters. Perpetua and Gill Sans are both currently standard fonts in Microsoft® Word.

Father Downing collected, among other things, some 500 wills, indentures, and other legal documents that date from 1598. These are on both parchment and paper and mostly in English. It would be an interesting lesson in history to transcribe these documents.

We also have a Dubuque Authors collection and a Faculty publications collection. We are always looking for donations to the Faculty publications collection. We also have a reception during National Library Week to honor faculty who have published.

Most of this material came, with permission, from publications written by Robert Klein, former library director and current special collections expert.

Dubuque Newspapers
– what a past!

Michael Gibson, Director of the Center for Dubuque Area History

Dubuque being the oldest city in Iowa, dating from 1837, it is only proper that the oldest newspaper ever published in Iowa came off the press in Dubuque. The Dubuque Visitor was published on May 11, 1836 almost a year before the city of Dubuque was chartered.

The original copy of Iowa’s first newspaper is in a vault at the State Historical Society of Iowa in Iowa City, but a microfilm copy is housed in the microforms collection in the Loras College Library.

In fact, nearly all of the newspapers ever published in Dubuque, including those published in the German language, are available on microfilm on the first floor of the ARC.

The original copy of Iowa’s first newspaper is in a vault at the State Historical Society of Iowa in Iowa City, but a microfilm copy is housed in the microforms collection in the Loras College Library. In fact, nearly all of the newspapers ever published in Dubuque, including those published in the German language, are available on microfilm on the first floor of the ARC.

This collection receives heavy use by Loras and Dubuque community members. Even the German language Dubuque newspapers, Luxemburger Gazette (1871-1918) and the Katholischer Western (1893-1918) are utilized especially by those doing genealogical research.

The Luxemburger Gazette contains an index to surnames which is published in Nicholas Gonner’s book, Luxemburgers in the New World, found in the Center for Dubuque History. There are also Catholic newspapers published in Dubuque, like The Catholic Daily Tribune (1899-1942) and of course, The Witness, (1921 – present) the newspaper Archdiocese of Dubuque. There are also some local area newspapers, Cascade Pioneer, Dyersville Commercial, and the Farley Advertiser. Naturally, the Telegraph-Herald (1901-present) and all of its predecessors like the Dubuque Daily Telegraph, Dubuque Daily Times, Dubuque Herald, Dubuque Republican, Dubuque Times Journal, Dubuque Express and Herald, and the Dubuque Daily Globe Journal are part of the vast holdings.

There are three microfilm reader/printers available for use on the first floor. The microfilms do not circulate and cannot be borrowed from the library.

There is a listing of all of the newspaper titles available and anyone needing further assistance can contact Mike Gibson, Archivist at 588-7163 or michael.gibson@loras.edu.
“Spark”: a Book that Got Me Moving (book review)

Marianne Oberdoerster
Lynch Office of Disability Services, Associate

I tend to be sedentary; not just because my job keeps me tied to the office, but by choice. I’d rather be reading or researching on the computer than going for a swim, a run, or even a walk. That is precisely why Spark: The Revolutionary New Science of Exercise and the Brain by John Ratey and Eric Hagerman was such a revelation. There is nothing new in touting the benefits of exercise, but to lay out the positive effects of exercise on learning, brain growth, attention, stress, anxiety, depression, behavior, and aging so clearly and so convincingly that even I have started to make moving part of my daily routine, is quite a feat. Though Dr. Ratey is a big name in the ADHD world and a chapter is devoted specifically to the disability, this book is relevant to a much wider audience.

The book begins by introducing PE4Life, a program started in Naperville, a suburb of Chicago. (Ask around; it seems that many of our students from Illinois have participated in similar programs.) This personal fitness PE program challenges students with every day workouts at a 70-80% heart rate level. Not only are the students more fit, the district posts positive gains on standardized test scores, reading, and math achievement. The connection to school performance is not limited to wealthy suburbs. A school in Titusville, PA, with approximately 75% of kindergartners on free and reduced lunch, implemented PE4Life in 2000 and saw test scores rise from below state average to 17% above in reading and 18% above in math. Woodland Elementary in Kansas City, MO, with nearly 100% of students on free and reduced meals, saw incidents involving violence decrease 67% in the first year of the program. Other national studies are cited that lend credence to the idea that there is a connection between exercise and learning.

Ratey and Hagerman do an excellent job laying out the relevant science in a convincing, conversational, understandable way. It is likely that the connection exists because of modern humans’ biological relationship to the hunter-gather lifestyle of ancestors who may have walked 5-10 miles per day in search of food. “The relationship between food, physical activity, and learning is hardwired into the brain’s circuitry.” This is true for our response to stress as well. "Neurons get broken down and built up just like muscles — stressing them makes them more resilient." Some stress increases our capacity to learn; too much stress can inhibit the ability. Exercise can either act as a mild stressor that increases the plasticity of neural connections, or it can help relieve the physical effects of too much stress and prohibit the body from shutting down learning.

I was most interested in education and stress, but each chapter addresses a separate aspect of psychology and ties exercise to neurobiology. The final chapter—and you may skip right to the end if you are so inclined—gives a recommended regimen. The point “that exercise is the single most powerful tool you have to optimize your brain function” is made strongly and clearly. I’m inspired. After I get my walk in, I’m getting copies for everyone on my Christmas list.

Tidbits and Morsels from the Archives

Michael Gibson, College Archivist

Loras College, founded in 1839, is the second oldest existing Catholic college west of the Mississippi River—St. Louis University, founded in 1832 is the oldest.

The population of Dubuque was 832 when the college was founded. Now, nearly 170 years later, the population of Dubuque is approximately 57,400.

The first President of the college was not the Most. Rev. Mathias Loras, but rather Rev. Joseph Cretin who served from 1839-1850. In fact, Bishop Loras was the college’s third president, serving from 1855-1858. The second president, who served from 1850-1855 was Rev. Andre Trevis.

The oldest existing building on campus is actually Hennessy Hall which was built in 1905, but was not acquired by the college until 1916. The Sisters of the Good Shepherd occupied this building as a home for “wayward” girls until Archbishop James J. Keane purchased it because of its proximity to Loras (now Keane) Hall.

The first Duhawk football game to be played in the Rock Bowl was in 1940 when Loras beat Upper Iowa 27-6. In 2007, the last time Loras played Upper Iowa, the Duhawks lost 38-11, but it was not in the Rock Bowl.

The first computer usage on the campus began in 1968.

College Students and Their Study Habits

Joyce Meldrem, Director of the Academic Resource Center

Do you find that college students are familiar with search engines? According to the study Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources, 62% are very or extremely familiar with search engines. Only 55% of college students are very or extremely familiar with the physical library that is available to them. Where do the other 45% of students spend their study time and find their research? Some of the results of this national survey are shown below and on the next page.

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**Frequency of Library Use—by College Students across all Regions**

How frequently do you go to each of the following libraries?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>College/University Library</th>
<th>Public Library</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Several times/year</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least once/year</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not even once/year</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

College Students and Their Study Habits (cont’d)

This spring, during National Library Week (April 12-18, 2009), the Library will be doing a survey of the Loras College students to compare some of our students’ traits to this national survey.

A New Database! New York Times Historical

Kristen Smith, Information Services Librarian

Does an afternoon in front of a microfilm reader/printer sounds like fun to you? Many may remember such an activity when looking for articles from historical issues of the New York Times. Most of today’s electronic newspaper files go back in time about 20-25 years. Going further back than that has required persistence and microfilm. A few newspapers are making the leap to an archival digital-graphic format. The library has also made this leap, and can now offer a search engine that retrieves New York Times articles from the newspapers inception in 1851 to the 2005. Production of the database involved scanning, digitizing, zoning, and editing over 3.4 million pages from microfilm into digital files. In the Loras College Library, the new database New York Times Historical can supplant the arduous searching of 3500 rolls of microfilm.

New Faces at the Library

Deone Merkel, Acquisitions Coordinator

You may have seen some unfamiliar faces at the library recently. We are pleased to announce that the library is now operating with a full staff for the first time in almost fourteen months. We look forward to providing even better service with the addition of our new colleagues.

Librarians

Along with the new hires we have restructured some job descriptions. Previously the library had a “Public Services Librarian”, a “Cataloging Librarian”, an “Information Services Librarian”, and a “Library Director”. Joyce Meldrem remains the Library Director, and Kristen Smith is still our Information Services Librarian. Our two new librarians are now under the titles of “Information Literacy and Outreach Librarian,” and “Technical Services Librarian.” As we learn and grow along with our new librarians, these positions will adapt to the needs of the college.

Stephanie Kruckeberg, Information Literacy and Outreach Librarian; ARC 235; 588-7917; stephanie.kruckeberg@loras.edu

As every MOI instructor knows, the library is an important stop on the Information Highway, and Stephanie is in charge of directing traffic. As the information literacy librarian, she will assist students
New Faces at the Library  
(cont’d)

through the often complicated process of library research and resource usage. Stephanie received her M.A. in Library and Information Science from the University of Iowa, and also has a M.A. in English from the University of Northern Iowa. She has extensive experience in communications, and taught college level writing as a graduate teaching assistant and as an adjunct.

On a personal level, she hails from Cedar Falls and is very glad to have found a professional home in Iowa. She calls Dubuque a “fascinating city” that “inspires the imagination.” Some of her interests are animals, antiquing, eBay, and music. Her taste in music is quite eclectic, including Celtic, classical, folk, polka, Stephen Foster, bossa nova, and the young English Tenor, Ian Bostridge. Stephanie expects to find much to explore in the greater Dubuque area.

Each librarian at Loras is assigned subject areas of the collection. Stephanie is the liaison to Divisions of Communication and Fine Arts, Languages and Literature: and Education. She looks forward to visiting with faculty from those divisions to discuss the development of their subject areas.

Heidi Pettitt; Technical Services Librarian; ARC 234; 588-7873; heidi.pettitt@loras.edu

Our newest hire, Heidi Pettitt, joined us on October 27th, 2008. She comes to us from Cornell University, and received her MLS from Syracuse University. Heidi will be in charge of our computerized cataloging system, as well as the physical cataloging. Within the technical services portion of her job, she is charged with maintaining the integrated library system which includes our online catalog and much more. Heidi, along with all of the other librarians, is also available for reference questions and other assistance that faculty and students may require. Heidi is a weaver who owns four looms, shares her home with two cats, and is a science fiction aficionado. As an undergraduate in Equine Sciences, Heidi spent some time working with injured horses on a rehabilitation farm in Kentucky racing country. These unique hobbies and interests make conversation with her fresh and varied.

She is very interested in becoming part of the greater Loras Community, having already joined the Literary Society on campus, and participating in a Weaving Guild in Dubuque. She appreciates the architecture of this “beautiful, historic city” and is excited to explore the area and really get to know Iowa’s people and places.

The divisions that Heidi is liaison are Math, Computing, and Engineering Science; Social and Cultural Studies; and Behavioral Sciences. Faculty in those divisions is welcome to contact her with any suggestions or concerns about collection development.

Support Staff

Deone Merkel; Acquisitions Coordinator; ARC 145; 588-7125; deone.merkel@loras.edu

Deone Merkel is the newest support staff to join Loras College Library. Her position as Acquisitions Coordinator serves as both bookkeeper and purchasing agent. Once the faculty and librarians have made selections to be added to the library’s collection, it is Deone’s job to find those books and acquire them. As the Library Director’s assistant, she also works closely with other departments on campus to help the library run smoothly.

A few of her many interests include reading, writing, painting, and other creative endeavors. A recovering “perpetual student,” her areas of study have included English, business, theatre, education, and the law. In addition to undergraduate degrees, Deone holds a J.D. from William Mitchell, and recently participated as a co-coach for the Loras College Moot Court Team. She hopes to become even more involved with similar projects in the near future.

Headwaters Happenings…  
Paula Teig, Director- Headwaters Academic Success Center

A number of changes have occurred within the confines of the Headwaters Academic Success Center this semester. If you have not had an opportunity to visit, please note a few of the enhancements...

- The RESUME CORNER, which is located in the SW corner of the Center. A number of resources are available for resume and cover letter development.
Your one-on-one session will be tailored to your needs. Resume Corner hours are as follows: Monday 1 – 2:30 p.m.; Tuesday 2 – 4:00 p.m.; Wednesday 1 – 2:30 p.m.; Thursday 1 – 3:00 p.m.; and Friday 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS

- The **MATH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**, a.k.a. Math Lab, is open 33 hours per week. Staffed by Math faculty and student tutors, MAP is open over the lunch hour and in the evening. Check the bulletin board, located inside the Center doorway, for specific times.

- Headwaters collaborated with the MOI program in locating office space for the PA’s. Located in room 136, the space is available for first-year students to meet with their PA throughout the year.

- Supplemental Instruction (SI) is alive and well. Currently, we are taking suggestions for courses to support using this valuable resource. Further information, please contact Paula Teig.

- Are you looking for a place to study that is out of the way? Headwaters has created a study space that may address what you want, please check out the Center for resources and available study space times.