

# Alma College Library News

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## From the Director

by Carol Zeile

The sights and sounds of a new academic year are all around us, on campus and in the library. Groups of new students flock in to learn how to use library resources and returning students visit to renew acquaintances and find out what is new in the library. The beginning of the year brings renewed vitality and reminds us why we are here.

After the activity and excitement of last summer's renovation, the summer of 2007 was a quiet respite and time to recharge. However, as the following articles show, the library staff was not idle. Study trips, new class preparation and book shifting filled the hours.

I had the opportunity to spend a couple of months during the summer visiting other college libraries and talking with librarians, staff and students at other institutions our size. The interaction was energizing to me and I return with many new ideas. I also return with a strong sense that we have made some changes in the past few years that place us in a position to offer our students and community the resources, space and expertise that they need to succeed.

Collaboration with all of the Alma College Community is central to the library's mission. We look forward to a year of more change and further integration of services within the library building. Best wishes to everyone for a successful academic year.

## Upcoming Events in the Library

**Bill Palmer**, English Department, will read from his new poetry collection, *A String of Blue Lights*, recently published from Pudding House Press.

**September 25, 2007, 7:00 p.m.**

### Homecoming Reception

**October 13, 2007, 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.**

**Rachael Perry**, Michigan Author

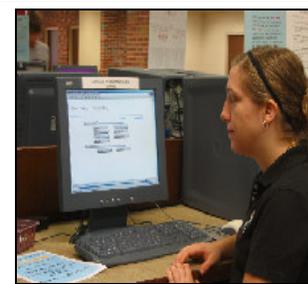
**November 7, 2007, TBA**

*see article on page 3*

Visit our web page for additional updates  
[www.alma.edu/academics/library](http://www.alma.edu/academics/library)



**THEN**



**NOW**

## ALMA COLLEGE LIBRARY MISSION

The mission of the Alma College Library is to provide services, resources and instruction to support the mission of the College. By creating an environment conducive to learning, exploration and group interaction, the Library strives to foster intellectual curiosity and academic excellence, to be responsive to changes in the delivery of information and to champion life-long learning.



## CRL Benefits both Students and Librarian

by Angie Kelleher, Access Services Librarian

One of the best parts of being a college librarian is working with students. Through my involvement with Alma College's Center for Responsible Leadership (CRL), I've been able to spend large chunks of time with some of the most ambitious and caring students at Alma. The first class of CRL Fellows began their journey with a trip to Ghost Ranch last summer, to participate in a leadership institute. I went along to serve as a Cluster Facilitator, and have since remained involved in CRL as a member of the advisory board and as a mentor to the CRL Fellows. Most recently, I accompanied the Leadership Fellows (44 in all) on their global leadership experience to Wroxton College in England. The twelve days we spent there were filled with lectures on conflict resolution, peace-building and global dialogue, as well as trips to London, Oxford, and Stratford-on-Avon. The students broke into groups by interest area, and studied UK politics, environment, business, tourism, social/development issues, and health care, with British experts. They spent one day visiting sites related to the lectures. At the end of the program, Fellows utilized the knowledge to design projects they will complete on campus and in the community by February.



My job was to support and facilitate the students' learning, as well as to supplement the Wroxton faculty. It is such a gift to watch these students as they wrestle with issues of ethics, values, responsibility and integrity that will help them grow into the leaders of tomorrow. I am struck, time and again, by their idealism and heart. Their energy and desire to change the world are truly energizing for me. I know that many of them will bring what they learned back to the wider Alma community as they organize projects to increase environmental awareness, or improve networking between students and alumni, for example.

How does this relate to my job as a librarian? I feel that spending time with students in this way allows them to see me as an accessible resource, rather than just someone who sits behind a desk and checks out books. I get to hear details about their projects, order materials that will assist them, and encourage them in their research. My goal is to help them to view the library as an integral part of their learning experience here at Alma, as an appealing place with friendly people. Based on these kinds of interactions, students know that I am interested in them, and in the campus community outside of the library walls. Several CRL students have commented that they were afraid of the library before, but now they feel more comfortable coming in. Some of them will then tell their friends: "Oh, go ask Angie, she'll help you." In short, I like to think that my involvement in the Center for Responsible Leadership mutually benefits me and the students. They get a personal research assistant and cheerleader; I get inspiration and a connection to new and exciting projects going on across campus.



## New Library Course Offered: Advanced Library Research

by Jennifer Starkey, Reference & Instruction Librarian



In Fall 2007, Jennifer Starkey, Steven Vest and Angie Kelleher will be collaborating to teach LIB380 – Advanced Library Research. This is a 1-credit course that will meet one day per week during the first 7 weeks of the term, on Wednesdays from 2:30-3:50. There are currently spaces available in the class for students who would like to sign up. The course is designed for upper-level students, juniors and seniors only, who are writing senior theses or who are planning to attend graduate school. Students will come away with increased knowledge of resources that are available in libraries and archives, and how to access those resources. The class will be kept to a maximum of 15 students to allow for a highly individualized experience. The small size will allow the library faculty to help each student become familiar with the top resources in their particular major or field of study.

## Online Photo Archives!

Visit the Alma College Online Photo Archives! The library has been working to put photographs from Alma College's history up on the web where you can browse or search them. We currently have over 7,000 digital images available, and all of them have descriptive information that is searchable. You can search for individuals by name, or look for student groups, athletic teams or views of the campus going back to the 1880s. Just point your browser to: <http://alma.cdmhost.com/>



**1896 Bicycling Excursion**  
These devil-may-care young men and their mentor, Professor Ewing (on the left), relax on an 1896 bicycling excursion. (description from Pines, Prayers and Perseverance: the evolution of Alma College.)



**1949-1950 Alma College Homecoming Court**  
(Top) Joan Higgins; Gwen Laclare; Sidney Cunningham; (middle) Marilyn Garrett; Ann Sugden; (bottom) Pat Forbes (queen)

## Michigan Author Rachael Perry coming to Alma College

by Angie Kelleher, Access Services Librarian

On November 7<sup>th</sup>, the library will continue our Michigan Author Speaker Series by hosting author Rachael Perry. Perry published her first collection of stories, *How to Fly*, in June 2004. Her stories are greatly influenced by her experiences in small Midwestern towns, where “everybody knows somebody who knows somebody, and the natural splendor of all four seasons and freshwater lakes shapes character”. Perry’s stories have appeared in *Story Quarterly*, *River City*, *Hayden’s Ferry Review*, *South Dakota Review*, and *Elysian Fields Quarterly*, and she has been nominated twice for the Pushcart prize. She received her Bachelor of Arts in journalism from Michigan State University, where she proudly contributed to *The State News* and helped the newspaper earn two consecutive Pacemaker awards--one while editor-in-chief. She also earned a Master of Fine Arts in creative writing from Bowling Green State University, where she taught undergraduate workshops, served as Technical Editor for the *Mid-American Review*, and was a recipient of the Devine Fellowship. She lives in South Lyon, Michigan, is currently at work on her first novel. Ms. Perry will visit several English classes to discuss the craft of writing, and will read from her work Wednesday evening in the library Anderson Reading Area (time to be announced.)



## Supporting Students through Library Textbook Award

by Melissa Hovey, Circulation Desk Manager

The Alma College Library Textbook Award is now moving into its third year. Since its inception in May of 2006, Alma College Library has awarded 10 different students, twelve hundred dollars in funds to be used for textbooks and supplies. The award was developed by the staff of Alma College Library both to recognize and reward the dedication of the student assistants who work at the library and to help these students with the rising costs of textbooks.



Amanda Zielinski (07') found the Textbook award to be a great help. "Purchasing books has frequently been a struggle for me as I have put myself through school. It is an expense that even when well planned for, can increase unexpectedly. The textbook award allowed for some of the pressure to be lifted from my shoulders and I will be forever grateful for that assistance."



Another recipient, Kim Lyon (09') found that "The award itself was not simply a form of payment to me. It was a certificate that stated I had done commendable work during the term, and that my suggestions for the library were helpful. The pride that comes with the award is in many ways much more gratifying than the reimbursement for the book shop."

Some of the funding of the Textbook award has come from book sales in one of two forms. We have an online partner, Better World Books that sells books via the web and we also operate a book sale in the library near the Circulation Desk. Another major source of funding for the Textbook award comes from donations from the friends of Alma College Library. Please consider donating to the Award fund. Hundreds of students assistants have been the backbone of the workforce at Alma College Library over the decades and it's our hope to recognize the part that our students play in Alma College Library's success. If you are interested in donating, please fill out the form included with the newsletter or call the library at 989-463-7229.

### Support the Alma College Library & Students PLEDGE/GIFT COMMITMENT

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$1000 other \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is check # \_\_\_\_\_

Please charge contribution to: \_\_\_VISA \_\_\_MASTERCARD \_\_\_DISCOVER \_\_\_AMERICAN EXPRESS

Account Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Alma College Library, 614 W Superior St., Alma, MI 48801

**Thank you!** If you have any questions, please call Carol Zeile @ 989-463-7342 or email: [zeile@alma.edu](mailto:zeile@alma.edu)