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Upcoming Events in the Library

Michigan Author, Lawrence La Fountain-Stokes Monday, March 28th Anderson Reading Area, 7:00pm *see page two

Alma College Library provides 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.

From the Director

by Carol Zeile

As I look back on Fall Term 2010 and forward to Winter Term 2011, one element of library services comes quickly to mind. All of the librarians are getting more and more involved in teaching, and especially so in courses offered from the library. We are offering two LIB courses. LIB180, *Introduction to Library Research*, is geared towards new Alma College students and focuses primarily on guiding them as they become efficient and effective library users. LIB380, *Advanced Library Research*, targets juniors and seniors and focuses on advanced searching techniques. It is especially designed for those writing an honors paper and with plans for graduate school. In this way we are able to reach students as they begin their studies here and as they prepare to graduate and go on to further study or employment.

Librarians continue to also be active in teaching First Year Seminars and academic courses in other disciplines. During Fall Term 2010, Marcus Richter taught an FYS entitled *Culture and Civilization in Germany*. Students learned to use library resources in order to research topics in German culture. Marcus plans to offer this course again next year. Steven Vest will also offer a First Year Seminar, this one on the topic of film.

Since 2011 is the 125th anniversary of Alma College, library staff and students will be very involved in creating documents and displays to assist in the commemoration. A course in the History Department includes students who will be researching in the College Archives and creating documents that chronicle the history of the College. In addition, a senior English major will be doing an independent study and learning how to use the archives. She will also create a printed document relating the history of a certain aspect of the College's history.



Lawrence La Fountain-Stokes, Visiting Alma College

by Angie Kelleher, Access Services Librarian

On March 28, the library will continue our Michigan Author Speaker Series by hosting Lawrence La Fountain-Stokes. Dr. La Fountain-Stokes is an Associate Professor of American Culture and Romance Languages & Literatures at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. His areas of research include Latin American, Caribbean and US Latino/Latina Literature and Culture; Theater and Performance Studies; and Queer, Lesbian and Gay Studies.

La Fountain-Stokes's academic writing has focused mainly on queer Puerto Rican culture. His book *Queer Ricans: Cultures and Sexualities in the Diaspora* (University of Minnesota Press, 2009) discusses LGBT Puerto Rican migration.

In addition to his extensive scholarly research, Larry has authored several works of fiction, as well as poetry and plays. He has written and performed in a one-man show Abolicion del pato/Abolition of the Duck. His short stories have appeared in several anthologies, including Bésame Mucho: New Gay Latino Fiction (1999) and Los otros cuerpos: Antologia de tematica gay, lesbica y quer desde Puerto Rico y su diaspora (2007). His first book of short stories is called Uñas pintadas de azul/Blue Fingernails (Bilingual Press/Editorial Bilingue, 2009). La Fountain-Stokes's plays include ¡Escándalo! (2003) and Uñas pintadas de azul (2006, an extension of a short story included in his book).

Dr. La Fountain-Stokes will visit Dr. Slaughter's *Contemporary Mexican Drama* class, as well as possibly Dr. Gilbert's *Performing Advocacy* class, and will read from his work Monday evening in the library Anderson Reading Area at 7:00 pm. The event is free and open to the public.

Therapy Dogs in the Library by Carol Zeile, Library Director

The week before fall term finals, several owners and their dogs made a visit to the library. All of the canines are certified therapy dogs and were there to give the students a study break and help relieve the stress of studying for finals.



As the photographs illustrate, students loved the visit from the dogs. Hopefully we can have them back again this term.







Summer 2010 Inventory

by Melissa Hovey, Circulation Desk Manager

One unexpected benefit of working on the inventory was the chance to come across some of the little known gems in our book collection. An interesting item that was passed around this summer is a collection of essays by Frank Knox. The title of the book is *The Price of a Managed Economy*. Knox was a student at Alma College who rode with the Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders and eventually went on to political success and a position as Secretary of the Navy. He is the Knox for whom our prominent Reid-Knox building is partly named. This collection of essays is a series of editorials that was published by the Chicago Daily News in 1934. Here, some 75 years later, these topics are still being debated in our national media today.

We were also reminded of a number of items produced by the Michigan Historical Records Survey that Alma College Library has in its holdings. The Michigan Historical Records Survey was a Michigan subdivision of the Works Progress Administration that began under the Franklin Roosevelt administration. The WPA created jobs for the huge number of unemployed during the Depression.

The preface of one of the titles produced by the Historical Records Survey states that "While the principal activity of the Historical Records Survey has been inventorying of public records of states, counties, and municipalities, considerable progress has been made also on the American Imprints Inventory, the survey of church records, and the making accessible to scholars of manuscript material of non-archival nature."

Some of Alma College Library's holdings produced by the Michigan Historical Records Survey are A Guide to Manuscripts Depositories in the United States: *Michigan, The Inventory of the church archives of Michigan Presbyterian church in U.S. A., presbytery of Flint, Inventory of the County Archives of Michigan, Inventory of the State Archives of Michigan, State Police, and many others.* Please stop by the library and see what other treasures of information we might have waiting for you.

Homecoming Reception

by Carol Zeile, Library Director

Again this past October, the library staff members were pleased to host a reception following the Homecoming football game. It is always good to catch-up with our recent grads and meet people who have been away from campus for many years.

This past Homecoming was special for us because we had the opportunity to meet Matthew Mims, class of 1985. Matt worked in the library while he was a student at Alma College and was on campus for his 25th reunion. He presented us with a very generous donation for the Library Textbook Award and offered to match any donation made over a two-week period. Matt's generosity led to a jump in the Endowment account and allowed us to get over half-way to our goal. Thanks so much, Matt!

The Alma College Library Says Good-bye to Six Seniors this Spring

by Melissa Hovey, Circulation Desk Manager

As we start planning for Spring here at Alma College Library we see that we have six seniors that will be graduating from Alma College in the near future. We hate to see them go as we have grown to know them so well after their having worked so closely with us over the years but we are very excited for the new opportunities that they will be pursuing.

Rachel Loria is an English Major from Sterling Heights, Michigan. She will be graduating with a degree in English and is looking at several graduate schools with plans to become a librarian. Rachel worked in the Circulation Department.

Julia Ruff still has one more term before she graduates with a major in Business and a minor in German. For graduation, she is planning on taking a European vacation before returning home to Saint Clair Shores, Michigan to look for Internships and job opportunities where she might be able to utilize both of her major and her minor. She worked in our Circulation Department.

Elizabeth Cross is an Education Major from Redford, Michigan. She still has to complete her student teaching and then she will be looking for a teaching position. Elizabeth worked in our Inter Library Loan Department.

Katie Simpson is a Biology major from Washington, Michigan. She is applying to several graduate schools with plans on becoming a pathologist. Katie worked in our Circulation Department.

Jamie McArthur is graduating with Religious Studies Major. She is from Winn, Michigan. She plans on putting her education career goals on a brief hiatus after graduation. Jamie is scheduled to donate a kidney to her 11 year old brother who has been on dialysis for several years. In preparation of the donation, Jamie has been working with a non- profit organization that specializes in children's kidney diseases. After seeing firsthand the important work that they do, she is considering pursuing opportunities with their organization after she is back on her feet again.

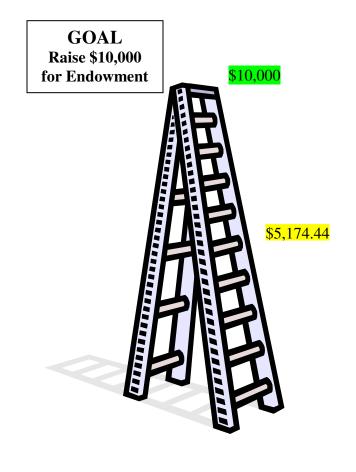
And finally, Lauren Marvin will be graduating with a degree in Sociology. She is from Mount Pleasant. Lauren is considering some graduate programs with plans on becoming a social worker.



Library Textbook Award for Students by Carol Zeile

The library staff members initiated the Library Textbook Award in May, 2005. Since that time, 26 awards have been given. Students receive a voucher for \$150 each which can be used to help purchase textbooks and supplies. Each student completes an application in order to be considered for the Award and the library staff members meet to decide the recipients. It is a competitive process and is also a time when our student assistants can reflect on what they have learned from their work experience. In this way, we are able say thank you in a tangible way for the assistance we receive.

In January, 2007, we also started an endowment fund to ensure that the Textbook Award continues. Our goal is to reach \$10,000 in this endowed fund. Once we achieve that level we will be able to use the interest it earns to provide Awards each year. Through the generosity of library staff members and friends, the current balance in the endowment fund is \$5,174.44. For more details, see the Homecoming Reception article on page three.



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