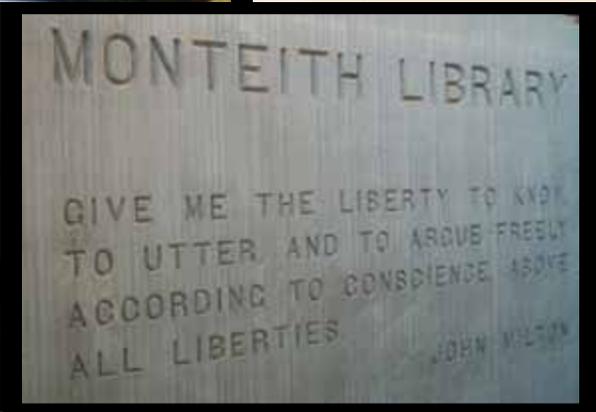


Alma College Library News



WINTER



2012

Upcoming Events in the Library

Michigan Author, John Rybicki, Tuesdy, April 3rd, 7pm,
Anderson Reading Area, **see page two*

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From the Director

by Carol Zeile

Angie Kelleher, Access Services Librarian, is on sabbatical leave and we are very pleased to have Elizabeth Heitsch fill in as Reference and Instruction Librarian (see article page 2). Angie hopes to gain knowledge that will help her plan new programming for the library.

In the fall we began providing to the Community a significant collection of ebooks (see article below). We are introducing the ebook collection to all students in our library instruction sessions and giving them tips on how to make the best use of this new resource. At this stage, it is difficult to judge the reaction of the campus Community. We will continue to monitor the use of the ebooks. This is the wave of the future and we need to be certain that our students learn to make the best advantage of it.

During the Fall Term I had the privilege of teaching the bulk of the First Year Seminar library instruction sessions. It was a wonderful opportunity for me to meet many of our incoming students and learn firsthand what is being taught in the FYS courses. I thoroughly enjoyed these sessions and look forward to the opportunity to teach more in the future.



Electronic Books Growing

by Elizabeth Heitsch, Reference and Instruction Librarian

Electronic books are a growing part of the academic library landscape, and Alma College Library is part of the movement. Providing access to electronic books allows us to drastically increase our collection size without losing space for student study. Also, unlike print books, eBooks are accessible to students 24/7, even during hours when the library itself is closed. Ebrary, which the Alma College Library added this past fall, is a continuously growing collection of over 70,000 eBooks. Ebrary books are integrated into the library catalog, so they are searchable both via the catalog and separately, using the Ebrary interface.

In addition to being able to access Ebrary content online, students can print out chapters from the books. They can also download an individual chapter as a PDF for extended use or download the full text of a book to their computer, eReader, or Apple device (coming soon for Android) for a limited “check-out” period.

For those students who wish to use the items online, creation of a “Digital Bookshelf” allows them to save favorite titles. Additionally, the Bookshelf feature gives students the capability to highlight the text and add a variety of multicolored digital “sticky notes,” something they would not be able to do with a print library copy of the same text.

I love a print book. Cracking open a book, be it an ancient text or a brand new paperback, is an olfactory and tactile experience that cannot be replicated by technology. Nevertheless, even demi-Luddites like me have to admit that Ebrary is pretty awesome. Its features, ease of use, and convenience win over the strongest print-lovers and make it a valuable addition to our collection.



Poet John Rybicki Debuts New Collection at Library

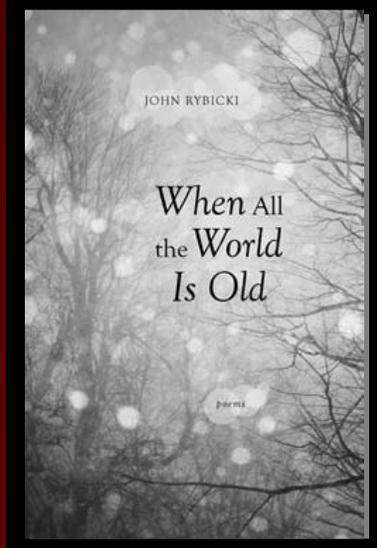
by Angie Kelleher, Access Services Librarian

On April 3, Alma College Library is pleased to host poet and adjunct professor, John Rybicki. John will read from his soon-to-be-released book of poems, *When All the World is Old*. This collection pays homage to the love John shared with his late wife, poet Julie Moulds, and her sixteen-year battle with cancer.

Interspersed with entries from Julie's journal, Rybicki's poems bear witness to "not only the chemotherapy, the many remissions, and the bone marrow transplants, but also the adoption of the couple's son, the lifted prayers, borrowed time, and lovers' last touches." (Lookout Books, press release)

John Rybicki lives in Detroit. He is the author of two previous poetry collections, *We Bed Down into Water* and *Traveling at High Speeds*. His poems have appeared in *Poetry*, *Ploughshares*, *American Poetry Review*, *Ecotone*, and *Bomb*, among many others, and have been reprinted in *Best American Poetry*. He teaches poetry writing with Wings of Hope Hospice to children who have been through a trauma or loss.

Rybicki will read from his works in the Anderson Reading Area at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 3, 2012. Admission is free and open to the public. A book signing and reception will follow. Mr. Rybicki's appearance is co-sponsored by the Alma College English Department and the Co-Curricular Affairs Committee.



Welcome Elizabeth Heitsch!

by Carol Zeile, Library Director

The library staff members were fortunate to be able to hire a temporary Reference and Instruction Librarian to help cover for librarian leaves. Elizabeth Heitsch '08 joined us on January 3 and will be with us for all of 2012.

Those of you who have been around the library during the last few years will remember Elizabeth from her days working at the Circulation Desk. After Alma, she attended Wayne State University and received a Masters of Library and Information Science degree in December, 2009. She worked for over a year as Librarian at Ivy Tech Community College in South Bend, Indiana, where she had experience in reference, instruction, interlibrary loan and library technology issues.

Elizabeth grew up in St. Louis, Michigan and attended high school there. We are very fortunate to have the help of a librarian with academic library experience and someone who knows Alma and the area so well. As Reference and Instruction Librarian, Elizabeth will primarily staff the reference desk and prepare and present library instruction sessions.

She also has responsibilities for editing the library web page and will take on a variety of special projects.

If you are in the area, please stop in and welcome Elizabeth back home.





Saying Goodbye to Six Alma College Seniors

by Melissa Hovey, Circulation Desk Manager

It is time once again to prepare ourselves to say goodbye to this year's crop of graduating seniors. We have a group of six students venturing out into the world this year. It seems as if we have just gotten a chance to know them and now we have to let them leave the nest.

Ruth Douglas is a Foreign Service major from Williamston. Ruth worked for the Circulation Department for her whole four years at Alma College Library. Ruth is looking into finding a position teaching English abroad for a year or two before settling on a graduate program.



Marissa Cross also worked for the library her entire four years at Alma College. Marissa is from Redford and has split her time between the Circulation Department and the Serials and Processing Department. Marissa will be able to use the skills she learned at Alma College Library in her teaching career.



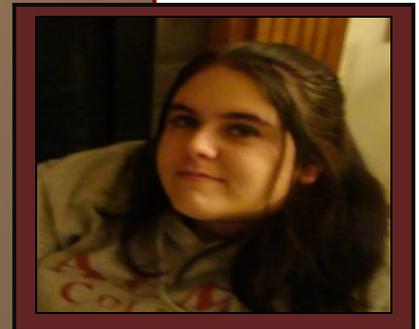
Lin Lin Chen is a business major from Whitmore Lake. We are excited that Lin Lin is spending part of her senior year studying abroad in Peru. Lin Lin will be remembered for her enthusiasm and positive attitude in the Circulation Department.



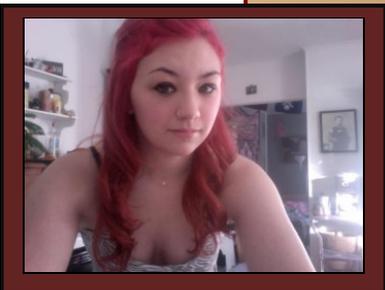
Jessica Saunders is one of our local Alma students. Jessica is planning on a teaching career focusing on young children. Jessica worked in the Circulation Department. We have been lucky to utilize Jessica's abundant creativity. She is going to be a great teacher.



Cassie Groters, from Wyoming, Michigan, joined us as a transfer student. She worked in our Circulations Department. Cassie majored in Communication and has not yet settled on a graduate program. We are still trying to convince her to keep Library Science as a possible choice.



Jessie Reamer from Kingsley worked in our Circulation Department. She is planning on working and paying her student loans before she pursues a graduate program in Social work.

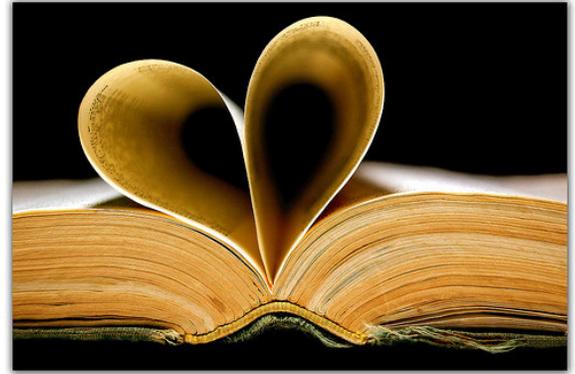




Alma College Library is My Valentine

by Melissa Hovey, Circulation Desk Manager

I love books. In particular I love the books that make up the heart of Alma College Library and in turn are a part of the heart of Alma College. It was love from the first moment I walked into the library over ten years ago and caught the wonderful moldy and musty smell of the books in the air.



I love the huge oversized Art books and the tiny fancy scroll covered volumes of poetry that fit in the palm of your hand. I love the slick brand new volumes and the torn and tattered classics that have been marched miles back and forth across to class and dorm and back to their home on the library shelves. I love the rows and rows of obedient, upstanding encyclopedias as well as the skinny slippery volumes that never want to stay in their place on the shelves. I may not have laid my hands on every one of the more than 280 thousand volumes of books and periodicals but I contend that the percentage is pretty high.

I have grown close to these books over the years as I have checked them out to students, mended and reinforced broken spines and fraying corners, wiped sticky fingerprints from brightly colored children's books, and shifted and rearranged their bulky weight on the shelves more times that I care to remember. I have not been alone in caring for these books. I am amazed when I contemplate the number of hands that have cared for the Alma College Library books over its 125 + year existence. Typically, the library employees around 20 to 25 student employees during the school year. The resulting number of Alma College Library employee alums results in a pretty significant number. I appreciate the work that these student assistants have contributed to Alma College Library throughout the years.

One way that the staff and librarians at Alma College Library like to show how much we appreciate our student assistants and the work that they do is has been by developing and supporting the Alma College Library Student Assistant Textbook Award. This award is given to students assistants who have excelled in their positions. Students are given a monetary award that they can use at the college bookstore to help pay for their books. We are halfway toward the Alma College Textbook award become fully endowed. Please make Alma College Library your Valentine this year too and consider making a contribution to the Alma College Textbook Award Fund.



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.



Library Textbook Award for Students

by Carol Zeile

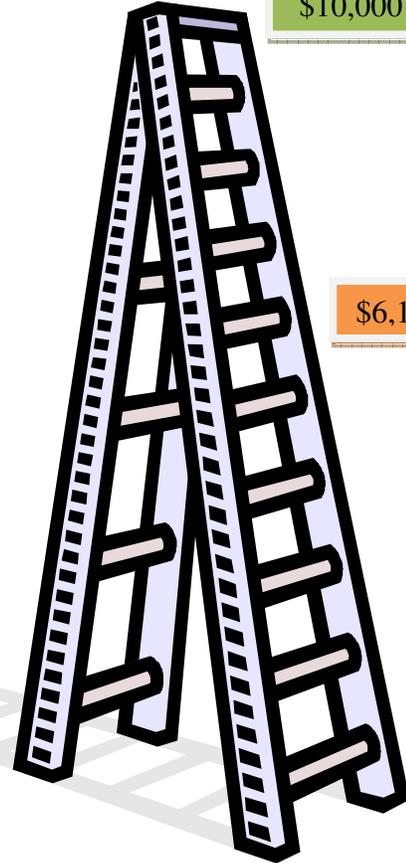
The library staff members initiated the Library Textbook Award in May, 2005. Since that time, 26 awards have been given. Students receive a voucher for \$150 each which can be used to help purchase textbooks and supplies. Each student completes an application in order to be considered for the Award and 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 \$6,148.78.

GOAL
Raise \$10,000
for Endowment

\$10,000

\$6,148.78



Support the Alma College Library & Students PLEDGE/GIFT COMMITMENT

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