

Alma College Library News

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Contents:

From the Director	1
Library Mission Statement	1
Preserving History	2
Saying Good-Bye to Our 2013 Seniors	3
Textbook Award for Students	4
Support the Library & Students Pledge/Gift Commitment	4

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

Calendar year 2012 was a time of sabbatical leaves for librarians. Angie Kelleher and I both were fortunate to be accepted for these leaves, Angie the first six months of the year and me the last six months. Both of us worked on projects to further our professional development, to provide new ideas for the library and made the best of the opportunity to rest and renew. Angie received the great honor of being able to present her work in Estonia at an International Federated Library Associations (IFLA) meeting.

It is a pleasure to be back in the library after a term away for a sabbatical leave. Since so much has changed in the life of academic libraries and information literacy since our building was built in 1963, my topic of study was, and still is, developments in the way college library facilities are being renovated to keep up with today's demands.

I was able to visit a variety of libraries and to read extensively on the topic. We are hopeful that renovation/an addition will be in the future of the Alma College Library and much of what I learned will be useful.

During this time of librarian absences, we were very happy to have Elizabeth Heitsch join us as Reference/Instruction Librarian. Elizabeth is a 2008 graduate of Alma College and also earned an MLS degree from Wayne State University. She worked in the library for four years as a student and was quickly able to help us in so many ways during what otherwise would have been a very tough year. We are eternally grateful to her.

One of the greatest accomplishments of 2012 was our implementation of **LibGuides**, "the most widely used system for creating research guides and sharing knowledge".



These online guides provide our students and faculty with jumping-off points for their research in all academic disciplines taught at Alma. This is a very powerful tool that assists the librarians in teaching information literacy. We would never have been able to implement such a time-intensive product without Elizabeth's help. She almost singlehandedly installed and developed all of the guides and designed the site for us.

Librarians continue to be active teachers, in the library and in the classroom. During AY 2011-12, we offered LIB180 (*Introduction to Library Research*) in the fall and winter and LIB380 (*Advanced Library Research*) in the winter. In addition Steven Vest and Marcus Richter taught a First Year Seminar and Steven offered Creative Writing through the English Department. It makes for a busy school year, and provides much needed service to our students.

In the midst of all of this activity, other services were provided smoothly and efficiently. This fact is a great tribute to all who work in the library. We have the greatest staff with whom I have ever had the pleasure to work.



Preserving History

by Viki Everhart, Acquisitions Specialist

Several years ago a new project began in the library of scanning photos that had been stored in archives for many years and not easily accessible. There are now over 8,000 images available for the public to view through the Alma College Library home page. Be sure to visit: www.alma.edu/academics/library and click on Alma College Archives or go directly to <http://cdm16316.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/>. You can browse through all the images or search for specific names, events, year, etc. You may be surprised by what you can learn about the college. You may even find yourself or a friend!

Throughout this process I have learned so much about the history of Alma College. One of the areas I found most interesting were some of the events held on campus each year. One of these events was Campus Day, which in the early 1900's was designated as a time to spruce up campus in the spring. It appears that a highlight of the day was the annual Freshman-Sophomore Tug of War across the Pine River. By the 1950's Campus Day evolved into a celebration of spring with events such as a picnic, Maypole, canoe races, baseball game, tug of war, go-cart races, coronation of the Queen of Scots and concluding with a concert and dance.





Saying Good-bye to our 2013 Seniors

by Melissa Hovey, Circulation Desk Manager

The library is proud to have five Student Assistants who are scheduled to graduate in the spring. It is hard to believe that four years has already gone by. It feels like this group of seniors just joined us a short while ago. Together, this group of seniors has logged in over five thousand hours of work at the Alma College Library. Quite an impressive number. The Alma College Library depends on, and is grateful for the student assistants in its day to day operations.

Ben Caesar, of Ithaca, will be graduating with a degree in New Media Studies. Ben plans to combine his education and creativity and start a business using the many different technologies he gained experience with at Alma College. Ben worked in our Circulation Department.

Chelsea Moyer, of Suttons Bay, will be graduating with a teaching degree and plans on getting married shortly after graduating and finding a job in the teaching field. Chelsea worked in the library's book processing department.

Michael McDonald, of Alma, will be graduating with a degree in Religion and Philosophy. Michael is contemplating continuing his education with a graduate studies program yet to be determined. Michael worked in our Circulation Department.

Tally Drummond, of Williamston, is graduating with a degree in Business. Tally has worked at her local public library and all four years here at Alma College. She plans on getting her Master's degree in Library Science and hopes to one day work as a director at a public library. Tally worked in our Circulation Department.

Jon Haley, of Harrison, will be graduating with a degree in Spanish and plans on going on to grad school with long term plans of becoming involved in government and politics. Jon worked in our Circulation Department.

We wish each of our graduates the very best of luck and happiness in their future.

Library Textbook Award for Students

by Carol Zeile

The library staff members initiated the Library Textbook Award in May, 2005. Since that time, thirty-four 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 to 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, our alumni and friends of the library, the current balance in the endowment fund is \$6,823.12. Thank you to all of you who have and continue to contribute.

GOAL
raise \$10,000
for Endowment

\$10,000

\$6,823.12



Support the Alma College Library & Students

PLEDGE/GIFT COMMITMENT

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

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Account Number _____ Expiration Date _____

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