Winter Term 2018 is beginning with bitter cold, just as it did in 2014. This is a photo of two of our first-year student assistants bundled against the elements. Both now are four years older and beginning more adventures in life!

This will be my last newsletter as director, since I will be retiring effective July 1, 2018. During my forty years in the profession I have seen many changes. My first job in a library, before I received my MLS, was erasing and making changes on catalog cards. While in library school I learned to prepare catalog cards on a typewriter. Journal literature was located in printed sources, such as the Reader’s Guide to Periodical Literature. The methods that we use to assist students in their research are much different today! The past 20 years have been ones of constant change and staying informed about new technologies and adapting within the constraints of a budget has been a challenging and rewarding experience.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve for 20 years at my alma mater as Head of Technical Services and then Library Director. During my tenure at the Alma College Library I have worked with a wonderful and experienced staff. Many of the staff members came to Alma College shortly after I was hired and remain today. Together we have assisted students to succeed academically; taught numerous course-based instruction sessions and for-credit courses; renovated the building twice; created new study spaces for students; built and maintained print and online collections; digitized archival photographs and reorganized the library’s Special Collections; hosted many authors in our reading area; migrated to a new Integrated Library System (twice!); initiated a Library Textbook Award for our student assistants that is now an endowed award; and moved countless volumes of books and journals multiple times! These highlights are the tip of the iceberg of all of the work involved in vibrant library services. Together we have achieved much! I will sincerely miss my time at Alma College, especially the people with whom I worked closely and had the opportunity to get to know.

Carol Zeile
Snow Carnival— a past tradition
by Viki Everhart, Acquisitions and Special Collection Specialist

Starting in the winter of 1959, the Snow Carnival became a tradition on the Alma College campus. Originally organized by the Tyler Board, the 1st Annual Snow Carnival was held on February 7, 1959. It included a variety of events from a Snow Carnival Court to snow sculptures, snowball fights, toboggan races and sleigh rides. Ice skating demonstrations and faculty vs. students “broom and ball” hockey were popular on the ice rink behind Gelston. Each year had a different theme. Snow sculptures were judged on how well they fit the theme, originality, and general appearance. Paint and hand tools were allowed, but supports were not. The day concluded with a Snow Ball dance (originally a masquerade ball, but later the dress code was changed to ski apparel).

The Snow Carnival was so popular in the early 1960’s that students were heard saying that it was even better than Homecoming. In the Jan 21, 1966 Almanian it stated “In exploring tradition at Alma, the Snow Carnival has acquired a spot on the student activities calendar that assures it of being a major weekend during the school year.” So what happened to end this fun tradition 15 years after it began? Warm temperatures and lack of snow caused events to be cancelled for several of the years. By the mid-1970’s students lacked interest in participating and the Snow Carnival was “geared down”. By 1976 this fun winter tradition had ended.

1959 Broom and Ball hockey
1959 Ice skating demonstration
1965 Snow Carnival Court
1967 toboggan races
1959 Tau Kappa Epsilon takes 1st place in the snow sculpture contest
Graduating Library Student Assistants of 2018
by Melissa Hovey, Circulation Desk Manager

I have once again taken the task of writing a brief article describing our latest batch of graduating Alma College Library Seniors for Spring 2018. I am finding this job more and more difficult after writing many similar articles, and perhaps due to lack of imagination and writing skills. Luckily I am able to find inspiration in the subject matter at hand. Our students are really wonderful. It never fails to amaze me how much they are able to mature and develop over their time at Alma College. They often times start off with us as shy and nervous first year students and are now leaving campus with knowledge and experience, poised to put their Alma educations to good use. We wish them every success as go on to their next adventure.

Ishijah Johnson is a Music major from Flint Michigan. Ishijah worked in our Circulation Department. She is interested in getting an advanced degree in Musicology and is currently applying to graduate schools.

Ethan Apsey is a Business major from Hemlock Michigan. Ethan worked in our Circulation Department. Ethan was able to balance working at the library and a successful career with the Basketball team.

Audrey Karr is a Sociology major from East Lansing Michigan. Audrey worked in our Circulation Department. Audrey plans on finding a position in the Human Services field after she graduates.

Madison Frazier is a Business major from Dearborn Michigan. Madison worked in our Serials Processing Department. Madison will be pursuing a position in her field after graduation.

It has been a pleasure to watch these young students grow and develop, becoming more confident and outgoing. We hope that we have helped in some way as they advanced their education and experience and now are ready to move on to the next adventure in their lives.
Sophfronia Scott Visits Alma College
by Angie Kelleher, Access Services Librarian

On November 6, 2017, the library was pleased to host a conversation with acclaimed author, Sophfronia Scott. Ms. Scott was a writer and editor at *Time* and *People* magazines before publishing her first novel *All I Need to Get By*. Her short stories and essays have appeared in *O, The Oprah Magazine*, *NewYorkTimes.com*, *Killens Review of Arts & Letters*, and many other magazines. She holds a BA in English from Harvard and an MFA in creative writing from Vermont College of Fine Arts. She lives in Sandy Hook, Connecticut, with her husband and son.

Scott’s visit was hosted and arranged by the Alma College English Department. Her talk, “Church, Jazz, Fashion, & Baseball: Transporting an 18th-Century French Classic to 1940s Harlem,” explained the research she conducted while writing her latest book, *Unforgivable Love*. This novel is a vivid reimagining of the French classic *Dangerous Liaisons*, set in the dazzling, dramatic world of Harlem in the 1940s. After talking about her work, and reading several passages, Ms. Scott answered questions posed by student host, Najelle Gilmore, then took additional questions from the audience. Ms. Scott also visited classes while she was on campus, including those taught by Bob Vivian.
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.

Stay Connected

Facebook is a great way to keep in touch and keep up with what is going on at Alma College Library. Upcoming events, new resources and new additions are being posted all the time. Log on and leave us a message and let us know what you are thinking. We would love to hear from you.

Library Textbook Award & Endowment

Through the generosity of library staff members, our alumni and friends of the library, we were able to achieve the Library Textbook Endowment goal in March of 2015. We will continue to support our student assistants by contributing to this endowed fund so that it can grow and allow us to help even more students. Thank you to all of you who have contributed and continue to do so.

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