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## ILA/ACRL Newsletter, vol. 21, no. 1, January-February 2011

Association of College and Research Libraries. Iowa Chapter

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# ILA/ACRL Newsletter

vol. 21, no. 1, Jan/Feb 2011

This issue of the ILA/ACRL Newsletter features a semi-annual President's Piece submitted by sitting ILA/ACRL president, Ryan Gjerde, and news from academic libraries across the state.

## President's Piece

On behalf of the ILA/ACRL Executive Board, I thank you for your membership in ILA/ACRL, and welcome you to 2011. In Past-President Mary Iber's Summer 2010 Newsletter update, she shared some of the planning the Exec. Board has done over the past year in the areas of outreach, technology and membership. As we wrapped up 2010, we chose to focus on the issue of outreach, especially to our colleagues in Iowa's school libraries.

ILA/ACRL is interested in pursuing avenues of collaboration and partnership with school librarians, and to kick this off we held an impromptu discussion at the end of the ILA planning day in November 2010 with representatives of ILA/ACRL, IASL, and the Community College Roundtable. Moving forward, we plan to keep the discussion open between these groups to see if there are objectives we can work toward jointly. While we have a short list of members who have expressed interest in the topic, if you also would like to contribute to this conversation in some way, contact Vice President/President-Elect Rebecca Funke ([rsfunke@dmacc.edu](mailto:rsfunke@dmacc.edu)), who will be facilitating discussion as we get started.

We are also excited to report that our annual Spring Conference is near at hand! We will be gathering Friday, March 18, at Central College in Pella with 12 presentations from our colleagues around the state, as well as a keynote presentation from Kenning Arlitsch, Associate Director for IT Services at Marriott Library, University of Utah, and a 2009 Library Journal Mover and Shaker. Also, you are invited to join us for a dinner/social the night before (March 17) at the Royal Amsterdam Hotel. The conference will be an excellent opportunity to break from our daily routines to reflect on the conference theme of "The Essentials: Rethinking, Refining, Reviving." Thanks to Beth McMahan and the entire conference planning committee for the work they have done!

Finally, a reminder of a few of the other opportunities offered by ILA/ACRL. The deadline for our Spring Conference Scholarship (<http://www.iowaacrl.org/content/awards/iaacrl>) is fast approaching. If you have recently joined the Iowa academic library community, we encourage you to apply. Attending the Spring or Fall conference is a great way to network and get involved in the organization, take it from me - a 2001 Fall conference scholarship winner! Also, we will soon be formally soliciting applications for our biennial PR/Marketing grant, due this summer and awarded at our Fall conference meeting. We take seriously our mission of enhancing library service, user education and staff development in Iowa's academic and research libraries. If there

are other ways ILA/ACRL can be an asset to the library community, please send me your suggestions and comments: [gjerdery@luther.edu](mailto:gjerdery@luther.edu).

We'll see you in Pella!  
Ryan Gjerde

## **Community College Libraries News**

### **North Iowa Area Community College**

The North Iowa Area Community College moved their Polaris LIS system to a hosted server at Polaris in January. They also added Credo Reference to their database offerings and started using Meebo for reference assistance.

### **Northeast Iowa Community College in Calmar**

Thanks to the passage of a bond levy in December 2007, NICC has a new 10,000 square foot, two story library at the Calmar Campus.

The "Student Center" utilizes geothermal heating and cooling and houses the library, learning center, bookstore, cafeteria and student services. The Student Center was designed by Invision Architects of Waterloo. The library has huge expanses of windows with beautiful views of the rolling hills of Northeast Iowa to distract the students from their studies.

The first floor is designed for casual browsing of popular and new materials and the periodical collection. The second floor houses the print collections, has three small listening/viewing rooms, nine study rooms of varying sizes and 15 carrels. The entire space has wireless access. Calmar Campus did not spend all the money – so Deb Seiffert and her staff on the Peosta Campus are busy planning for their new library which will also serve as a public library for the Peosta Community.





## **Private Academic Libraries News**

### **Clarke University**

Clarke University just moved to ILLiad for interlibrary loan. They previously were using Ariel and are excited to be able to offer students a more robust system for managing ILL requests. The library also has been looking at ways to increase information literacy among faculty and students. Becky Alford, our Reference Librarian, along with some other Clarke U faculty attended an Information Literacy Workshop sponsored by the Council of Independent Colleges in New Orleans last year. From that conference, a task force was formed to begin looking at ways to incorporate info. literacy into our curriculum. They just finished a pilot project using a literature class where the Reference Librarian assisted faculty in developing some assignments that would meet information literacy goals and that were also measurable. The pilot project was very successful and they are looking at how they can begin a process of implementing this into other courses. They will begin working with other faculty over the summer to infuse information literacy into several other courses. They hope to build this component into all general education courses eventually.

### **Drake University**

Cowles Library, Drake University seeks candidates for an individual to head up its General Education initiatives:

Librarian for Digital Literacy and General Education (tenure-track, faculty, 12-month appointment; available 1 June 2011)

Details here: <http://bit.ly/genedlibn>

## **Loras College**

The Loras College Library continues its highly successful weekly event called [Thursdays@the](#) Library. They offer free coffee, hot chocolate, cider, tea, instant oatmeal, and treats donated by a community member every Thursday. While this doesn't come cheap, it is an event on campus that regularly brings in between 75 and 150 people to the event each week. In 2009-2010, they served 6,638 cups of coffee and 1,946 cups of the other hot beverages. During the first year, they served 880 cups of coffee and 161 cups of the other hot beverages. This is now their 6th year of having this event and it has become a campus tradition for many of the students and faculty who arrange their schedules in order to drop by the Library on Thursday. They continually receive comments on how wonderful this is and what a great opportunity for community-building it provides. They also take the occasion to advertise events on campus and information about the library.

In addition, last fall Loras College Library provided a program entitled: Plain English: What 17th Century English Common Law Means to Americans Today. One of the many collections in their Special Collections Room is handwritten parchment documents. These documents, donated by the Rev. J. Kenneth Downing, Professor of Latin and Greek from 1937 to 1982, represent 300 years of the British legal system. The documents include wills, indentures, court summons, and other papers that represent many of the ways the common man interacted with the courts. The oldest document, written in 1590, has a simple indenture and dark, ox gall ink that has barely faded over time. The newest document, written in 1890, is a form that could be filled with the necessary names and details. In between they have multipage documents with complicated indentures and multiple seals and stamps and simple documents such as the one calling people to a jury. They have been trying to find ways to encourage student use of their Special Collections materials and this is one of the ways they have showcased the materials.

## **Waldorf College**

Several staffing changes in the Luise V. Hanson Library have taken place in recent months. Amy Hill, who served as the access services librarian for the past several years, took on the role of interim library director in August, 2010, after Director Laura Oanes resigned to take the library director position at St. Mary's University (Winona, MN). Lisa Kreps, (MLS, University of Maryland, College Park; B.A., history, DePaul University) joined the Waldorf College staff as the new user services librarian in the fall. The library staff also welcomed the addition of a new evening library assistant, Theresa Reiter (B.S., Morningside College).

In January, LVH Library hosted a group of Garner 4-6th graders conducting research for their National History Day projects. A combination of library, history, and Writing Center faculty, along with student volunteers, spent time with these enthusiastic young researchers, providing guidance in the use of library resources. In other news, as an effort to provide an additional avenue for showcasing student creativity, library staff is currently working with art faculty and student artists to develop a space in the library to display pieces selected on a monthly basis. We anticipate this new space to ready in early spring.

## **Wartburg College**

The Vogel Library of Wartburg College is proud to announce the addition of three new librarians during the Fall of 2010. They are:

Megan Conley, Scientific Literacy Librarian Megan earned her master's degree in library and information science at the University of Iowa, where she was a teaching assistant in the School for Library and Information Science and worked in the Hardin Library for Health Sciences. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English literature from the University of St. Thomas.

Eric Leong, Information Literacy Librarian Eric completed a Bachelor of Arts degree at Coe College and earned a master's degree in library and information science with a certificate in archival studies from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. He previously worked in the Sullivan Family Library at Chaminade University of Honolulu.

Jill Westen, Information Literacy Librarian Jill completed her master's degree in library and information science at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where she interned in the Daniel M. Soref Learning Commons. She was involved in the Iowa Writer's Workshop while earning a Master of Fine Arts degree in creative writing from the University of Iowa. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English writing from Northwestern College, St. Paul, Minn.

## **Regents Universities Libraries News**

### **University of Northern Iowa**

UNI Rod Library is pleased to announce that Evan Boyd has been appointed as Bibliographer for Anthropology, Computer Science, Mathematics, Philosophy, Portuguese, Religion, Russian, and Spanish. A native of Minnesota, Evan has received a Bachelor of Arts from Augsburg College, a Master of Arts in Religion from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, and an MLIS from Dominican University. He is continuing his studies, working towards an MA in Gender and Women's Studies, through Minnesota State University, Mankato. Previously, he served as the Reference Librarian Graduate Assistant at Minnesota State University's Memorial Library. He currently serves on the Membership Advisory Committee of the American Theological Library Association.

## **Other News from Libraries**

### **Humor in Libraries is No Laughing Matter presentation and workshop**

The Dubuque Area Library Consortium (DALINC) is a multi-type organization and includes Clarke University, Loras College, the University of Dubuque, Wartburg Theological Seminary, Northeastern Iowa Community College, Emmaus Bible College, and Divine Word College. DALINC will present "Humor in Libraries Is No Laughing Matter," a presentation and workshop

by Dr. Chuck Curran, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of the School of Library and Information Science, University of South Carolina, on Friday, April 8, 2011, at Northeastern Iowa Community College – Town Clock Plaza.

Does humor belong in our hallowed halls? Can we survive without it? Join distinguished author and inventor Chuck Curran as he explores if, how, and when humor works in our profession. Some of the parts of the program will include:

- The Library Director did not find Chuck’s casual attire amusing slide show
- Funny things that happen, sometimes by mistake rather than by design
- Should I tell a joke at my next in-service day presentation?
- Do I think stuff is funny, or am I jocularly impaired?
- Could I write comedy for Leno or Letterman, or should I keep my day job?

Cost will be \$15.00 for the program and a snack. Registration will begin at 8:30, and the program will run from 9:00-11:30am.

Details will be posted on the [www.DALINC.org](http://www.DALINC.org) website, including a registration form.

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Could be delivered at the Spring meeting in Pella. Contact Karen Davidson at Northeast Iowa Community College in Calmar ([davidsonk@nicc.edu](mailto:davidsonk@nicc.edu)).