Our Statement of Purpose

To encourage understanding and appreciation of the work and services of the Hiram College Library.

To provide a medium through which friends of the library may become acquainted, share their enthusiasm for books, and participate in programs sponsored by the Friends.

To attract support for the operation of the library in the form of gifts and bequests of money, books, manuscripts, electronic resources, and other library materials.

President's Message

By Gorman Duffett

Brains greater and more creative than mine at Boston College have suggested that the academic library of this era can be described with three Ps – place, partner and portal.

Indeed at Hiram College, the library is a place – a place situated to indicate its importance on campus – a place where students can find relative quiet – a place where students can carry out the adventure of learning – a place where students can find relaxation in books, CDs or DVDs – a place where minds can meet – a place where faculty can undertake research or create a meaningful curriculum – a place where truth is open to all.

From place to partner, the library staff takes its rightful role in the educational enterprise as a partner in that endeavor. From selection of materials to organization of materials to provision of access to materials, the library staff acts as a partner to the faculty and students. Librarians and library staff understand the academic program; they contribute to the curriculum and to the life of the student on campus. The librarians seek to engage the faculty in an ongoing conversation on the needs of the faculty. Similarly the librarians attempt to listen and respond to the students. Outside the campus, librarians cooperate with other librarians in the organization of and access to the knowledge industry.

Finally, the library of today is a portal or conduit to the many worlds of learning. Whether it be OCLC or OhioNet or whatever net, the electronic world of learning and research is brought home to the campus through the library. Distance learning, conferencing, resource sharing, organization of data bases and Web sites – all of these and more can be facilitated by the library.

Come to the library – physically or electronically – and sample the three Ps. I am sure you will be rewarded for the effort.

Programs Past and Future

Our attempts to increase the Friends’ visibility on the Hiram College campus and beyond continue this coming “spring,” when the Friends will be co-sponsoring another event, this time with The Lindsay-Crane Center for Writing and Literature and the Weekend College and Office of Graduate Studies. On Saturday, February 7, 2009, at 7 p.m. in Hayden Auditorium, we will be presenting a radio-play by Mark Davidziak, television critic for the Cleveland Plain Dealer. The play is being written specifically for the Big Read festival – which is funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts which the Lindsay-Crane Center received – and grapples with the mystery of why Dashiell Hammett wrote only five novels, none in the final 27 years of his life. Come join us for this debut event!

Our first foray into co-sponsoring an event occurred this past October when John Kachuba, author of several books on ghost-hunting, regaled the Hiram College community with an entertaining presentation on ghost-hunting in Ohio. The event was co-sponsored by the Friends and the Hiram College student organization, Kennedy Center Programming Board. The audience was treated to stories and photographs of unexplained phenomena, and everyone had the chance to decide what conclusion to draw. It was especially nice to see so many students in the audience; we hope that the success of this event will lead to many more of our programs being co-sponsored by student groups and therefore many more students becoming aware of the Friends.
A New Look

This issue of *The Flyleaf* has a new look and feel (although as I’m writing this, I’m not totally sure what that look and feel is!). You may see some additional changes in the next several issues as we tweak the template for the look, as well as the production process.

We are making these changes partly to simplify the entire process, but our main goal is to lower the production costs. And that means an even larger percentage (last year it was 86%) of your gifts will go directly to library resources like books, CDs and videos.

If you wish to comment on the new design, just contact David Everett, the Library Director, by e-mail at everettdd@hiram.edu. Thank you for your continued support of the Friends and the Hiram College Library.

New Looks

*By David Everett*

As you read this issue of *The Flyleaf*, you will no doubt notice something new. So, too, does the library – at least to some extent. And just like the changes in this newsletter, the goal is to improve the product while lowering the costs.

Take, for example, the library’s online catalog. About a year ago, we initiated a service that added, for selected titles, images of the dust covers and reviews from several sources. By the time you read this, we will have switched providers for this service. So, it will look a little different, particularly in terms of an additional screen that lists the options available for extra information on the selected titles.

Why the change? First, the new service provides reviews from more sources. Second, it provides additional pieces of information such as summaries or biographical sketches of the author. Finally, it does save a little money.

If you’ve been in the library in the past year or so, you may have noticed that we are in the process of shifting collections to different parts of the library. No, we are not getting rid of books, just relocating some of them to take better advantage of how we use spaces within the building.

Space is important to library users in this day and age. More and more often students come to work on group assignments, as well as study alone and do research for papers or presentations. And they may come to produce PowerPoint presentations, presentations that may include research from books and journals, but also sound and video clips. The library provides a number of desktop computers, and the building is also set up for wireless laptops. Wireless, of course, requires not only seating, but also electrical outlets.

At the same time, as Hiram’s enrollment grows the most obvious impact on the library is the need to provide space for group work, chairs near electrical outlets for individual lap top users, and additional seating for individuals. At the same time, we are talking with the Writing Center about the possibility of one of their tutors being available in the library one night a week.

So, looks continue to change. But, the goal remains the same; support the intellectual environment on campus by providing the necessary resources and services.

Up-Coming Book Sale

**Dates:**
March 23 - 27
May 4 - 8

For more information on our book sales, please visit us online at http://library.hiram.edu/fol.html and then just click on book sale.

Events

**Schedule of Library Events**

- **Wednesday, January 21, 2009, at 4:15 p.m.**
  - in the Pritchard Room of the Library
  - Library Forum with Dr. Elizabeth Zolnier.

- **Wednesday, February 4, 2009, at 3:00 p.m.**
  - in the Pritchard Room of the Library
  - Flicks with Friends, *The Pope’s Toilet*.

- **Saturday, February 7, 2009, at 7 p.m.**
  - in Hayden Auditorium
  - Friends’ Spring Program, *The Mystery of Dashiel Hammert*, written specially for Hiram College’s Big Read Festival and staged as a vintage 1940s radio drama featuring the Largely Literary Theater Company.

- **Wednesday, February 11, 2009, at 4:15 p.m.**
  - in the Pritchard Room of the Library
  - Library Forum with Dr. John Andrews.

- **Wednesday, February 25, 2009, at 4:15 p.m.**
  - in the Pritchard Room of the Library
  - Library Forum with Ms. LaShawnDa Pittman.

**The Friends of the Hiram College Library**

Please make checks payable to Hiram College. Thank you!

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**Renew Your Membership for the 2008-2009 Academic Year**

We gratefully welcome your membership gifts to the Friends of the Hiram College Library. We know that some Friends prefer to follow a calendar year when renewing their memberships, rather than the academic July-June fiscal year of the College. Please make your generous gift at your convenience so that we can meet our goal of $35,000 by June 30 to undergird the acquisitions of the library.