



WINTER 2010 THE FLYLEAF

A PUBLICATION OF THE FRIENDS OF
THE HIRAM COLLEGE LIBRARY

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.



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Programs Past and Future

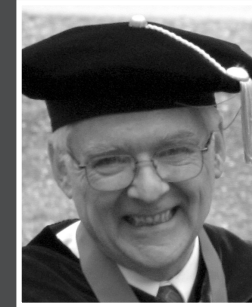
Since the Spring issue of the Flyleaf appeared, the Friends have sponsored a wide range of programs and activities. The annual business meeting and dinner convened on May 17, 2009. Among other business, officers were elected for 2009-10: Michael Grajek (President), Cathy Mansor (Vice President), Jane Dye (Recording Secretary), and Richard Hall and Rocco Yeargin (Members at Large). A highlight of the meeting was the presentation of the Jessie Smith Award to Gorman Duffett for his outstanding service over many years to the Library and to the Friends. After a delicious dinner, Stephen Fleming, Hiram's Men's Basketball Coach, spoke eloquently on the role of athletics in a liberal arts education.

In June, as part of alumni weekend, the Friends sponsored "Funeral for a Gangster," a murder-mystery dinner theater piece by Eileen Moushey. Jenifer Warren, Coordinator of Housing at the College, directed the play and Cheryl Preisendorfer of the Friends' board produced it, while the cast included Jenifer and her husband Jack, Hiram Inn staff Tawny Criblez and Nathan Steiner, and Damaris Peters-Pike. Set at the wake of Vito 'the Gut' Marzetti at a speakeasy in 1928, the performance brought the cast and an audience of eighty together to 'pay their respects' to the deceased mobster and solve his murder.

For the autumn, the Friends had agreed to co-sponsor with the Hiram Historical Society a program entitled "Wilderness Plots," a musical performance based on the work of local author Scott Sanders. Unfortunately, the folk musicians from Indiana who present the show cancelled unexpectedly. Rather than rush another offering into the Fall slot, the board decided to concentrate on the program scheduled for February. In keeping with Hiram's winter weather, this will feature three-time Iditarod competitor and newspaper columnist Karen Land. Land is an award-winning speaker, and discussion of her experiences on the trail will be enriched by the presence of Borage, one of her sled dogs. The program will be Monday, February 8, at 7:30 p.m. in the Kennedy Center ballroom.



President's Message



When Dave Everett invited me to stand for election as president of the Friends of the Library this year, I agreed readily, for several reasons. The first is my relationship with the director of the Library. During my decade in the dean's office, Dave was a member of my staff, and in so many ways an exemplary team player. It is my pleasure to have an opportunity now to be a member of his team.

The second reason is my appreciation for the accomplishments of the Friends. In fulfilling the organization's mission over the past 25 years, you, the members, have not only been good friends of the Library yourselves, but you have also recruited many more, by promoting the Hiram College Library as an important intellectual center of our larger community, not just the local campus. In addition, you have helped to raise nearly half a million dollars to help the Library cope with budget pressures created by limited College resources and the rapid increases in the cost of materials and new technologies.

Finally, I know from my acquaintance with many of you that you share my enthusiasm for books, real books, and the sense of place that is a real library. I'll have more to say about this topic in future issues of "The Flyleaf," but you should know that I am keenly interested in finding ways to transfer that enthusiasm (that some may think of as quaint these days) to a younger generation of library users.

I appreciate very much this opportunity to serve the Friends of the Hiram College Library. I'll do everything I can to help the Friends continue their wonderful record of support to the College as they start their next quarter century.

Mike Grajek
President, Friends of the Library

Updates

In Memoriam Roland V. Layton

By Joanne Sawyer

June 21, 2009 marked the passing of a true friend of Hiram College, its library and the greater Hiram community. Professor Emeritus of History Roland V. Layton passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family, at the Greenbrier Valley Medical Center in Lewisburg, W.Va. He was 79. Noted for his gentle nature, keen intellect and southern charm, Roland was a favorite teacher and valued mentor to many Hiram College students. He taught at Hiram for 22 years.



The Hiram community will miss this true gentleman and teacher very much. Along with his dear wife Frances, he contributed so much to the cultural and intellectual life of Hiram and to its physical beauty. He worked steadfastly to create the lovely Pendleton House Garden, which is a tribute to his memory, and he also wrote a history of Pendleton House, another tribute to his interest in local history.

Reacting to his death in a post to the Hiram College News, a Hiram alumna wrote, "Dr. Layton loved bikes, dogs, flowers, history, and students, though in what order I don't know." (Pam Tyndall, post to Hiram College News, 6/30/09, 9:02 a.m.) That may be because Roland Layton delighted in everybody and everything. He lived in the present while appreciating the past. His Vanity Book concludes, "And that's it for now!!!" as if there were still a lot more to come.

In his quarter-century in Hiram, Roland was a great supporter of the Friends of the Hiram College Library, serving on the organizing committee in 1984-85. He served on the nominating committee in 1986 and again as a member-at-large from 1990-93. He was awarded an Honorary Life Membership (forerunner of the Jessie Smith Award) in 1995. In retirement, it was his habit to set aside at least an hour each morning to keep up with his reading, especially in the field of history, and the fruit of this extensive reading was often the informative and witty book reviews that appeared in local newspapers. He also kept up the discipline of reading Russian, a language he learned during a stint in the army in the early 1950s.

Roland also served as a trustee of the Hiram Historical Society and continued his interest in and support of local history at the Greenbrier Historical Society. He said, "I always believed in the value of 'local history' and preached to my students that their lives would be enriched by immersing themselves in the history of wherever they lived." (Layton, "My Vanity Book," 2009: iii.) An interesting aspect of Roland's focus on local history is the fact that he deposited in the Hiram College Archives his journals of the Hiram College trips he led as well as a large cache of correspondence with former students and, after his move to West Virginia, with faculty at Hiram. These papers might someday become the raw material of a future historian's view of Hiram College in the 1970s and '80s.

Roland was always modest and self-effacing about his accomplishments. When he self-published "My Vanity Book" in 2009 he explained in the introduction that it had long been his ambition to write a book on a historical subject. Alas, it never happened. So he compiled the articles and reviews he had written over the years, along with a personal introduction and his curriculum vitae, and distributed copies to family and friends.

How We Spent Your Gifts

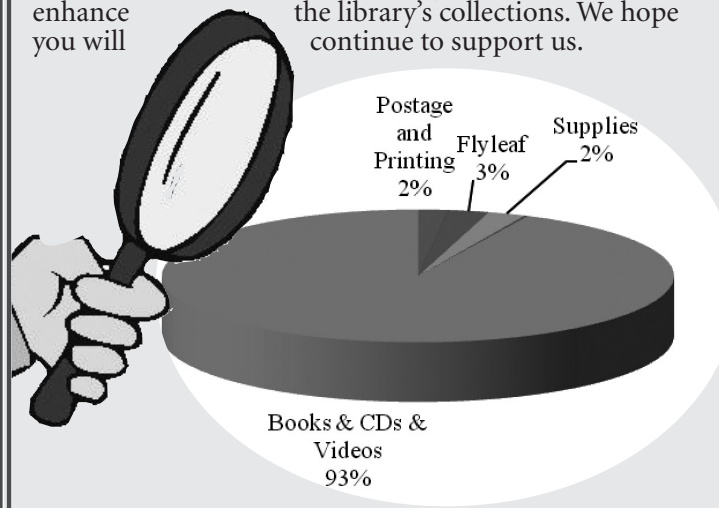
By David Everett

This past year, the Friends raised nearly \$25,300 in membership gifts. In addition, some \$3,000 was donated to the principal of the Wil Hoffman/Friends of the Library Endowment with another \$1,035 given to the principal of the Archives Preservation Endowment. The bi-monthly book sales raised an additional \$1,525.95.

This year, as the chart below shows, membership gifts went primarily to books, CDs, and videos, as this category accounted for 93% of our expenditures. This was up from 86% a year ago.

After this column appeared last year, a member challenged us to do better, especially by lowering the costs of "The Flyleaf." We took that advice to heart and changed the look, feel, and production of our newsletter with the Spring issue. That issue cost less than \$50 to print, drastically reducing our costs.

We continue to look for ways to keep costs down and spend as much of your gifts as possible to enhance the library's collections. We hope you will continue to support us.



Events

Profile of New Officers

The Friends' new president, Michael Grajek, has long been associated with Hiram. He joined the faculty in 1973 and served as Dean of the College from 1997 to 2006; he is currently Director of Institutional Research and Planning. In addition to his courses in mathematics, he is known for innovative classes like the Freshman Colloquium "Say it Ain't So, Joe," on sports and American culture that he recently taught. His annual fall parties, which bring students and faculty together to eat home-made donuts and solve intricate puzzles, have been a feature of the Hiram scene for over thirty years. In addition to the support that

he has given to the Library as Dean and a loyal member of the Friends, he has also donated a number of items over the years, including rare contemporary magazine accounts of Garfield's death, and the chess set which adorns the new book section.

The new Flyleaf editor, Donald Fleming, joined the Friends as soon as he arrived in Hiram in 1998. He has taught courses in history at Hiram as an adjunct or visiting instructor for a decade. The lateness of this issue of the Flyleaf is entirely his responsibility and he begs your forgiveness and indulgence for this fledgling effort.



The Friends of the Hiram College Library

I (we) wish to join the Friends of the Hiram College Library at the following level:

- | | | |
|---|-----------------|------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student | \$5.00 | Amt. _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend | \$30-\$99 | Amt. _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Century | \$100-\$999 | Amt. _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Director's Club | \$1,000-\$2,499 | Amt. _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clock Tower Club | \$2,500+ | Amt. _____ |

- I made my gift online at <http://giveto.hiram.edu>
 Enclosed is my/our gift to the Friends of the Hiram College Library
 I/we pledge \$ _____ in ____ payments by June 30, 20 ____.

Please allocate my/our gift as follows:
 \$ _____ Friends of the Library (general)
 \$ _____ Jones Archival Preservation Endowment
 \$ _____ Prof. Wilson Hoffman/Friends of the Library Endowment

I am: Alumni Trustee Parent Friend Faculty/Staff
 Student: Weekend College Traditional Other Specify _____
 Name(s): _____
 Class Year(s): _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Please bill my: Visa M/C Discover Am. Ex.
 Account Number: _____
 Name as it appears on card: _____
 Total Amount: \$ _____ Exp: _____
 Signature: _____
 Matching Gift: Enclosed Will be sent Online

Please make checks payable to Hiram College. Thank you!

Renew Your Membership for the 2009-2010 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.