

D'Amour Definitely Has It Covered

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"It seems as if every time I turn a corner," said D'Amour library director Priscilla Perkins, "there is something pleasing to the eye!" Evening circulation supervisor Deborah Beagle added, "When I do my rounds, I see a piece of art and I think, 'What a nice place for that to be!'"

The library has augmented its display of art. Now, drawing attention to just a few of the new pieces, a nicely framed and matted watercolor of irises by R. Malone greets visitors as they walk into the Clarke Reading Room; a serigraph by E. Landon faces the Collaboratory; a Julius Kamotjy etching of an old man reading the bible hangs near the circulation desk; preliminary oils and a newly framed mural print are displayed near the commissioned mural by Robert Sweeney on the second floor, affording students an opportunity to compare differences; and each alcove on the third floor is graced by a picture. The portrait of former President Beaumont Herman has been moved to a place of honor in the Mass Mutual Room, and eight registered Vanity Fair prints with explanations of their subjects join twelve sketches of Elizabethan England on the second floor walls.



Irises, a watercolor by R. Malone (1980), on the first floor



An untitled landscape by E. Nard (1979) on the third floor

These artworks are part of the 59 pieces of the college collection that were hung this summer, responding to a suggestion from President Anthony Caprio that we "display the art stored in the archives, using some of these blank walls to create a pleasant ambiance for our students."

Over the years, 32 pieces of art from the College's permanent collection had been strategically placed about the building. This fall, adding in the two teaching excellence plaques, the framed principles of intellectual freedom, and the eight rotating exhibits from College art classes, D'Amour Library's walls are adorned by 102 interesting pieces, a veritable museum!

Rosemary O'Donoghue - College Archivist

SAILS Will Help Library Embark on New Exploration

This fall D'Amour Library will be embarking on an information literacy assessment journey, SAILS, the Standardized Assessment of Information Literacy Skills, from September 14 through October 30, 2009. As part of the library's self-assessment for NEASC, this instrument will provide a standardized benchmark of student information literacy skills at Western New England College from incoming first year students to graduating seniors.

The results will identify the developmental landscape of student information literacy skills to help faculty and librarians enhance student learning in information literacy.

The knowledge test is based on the Association of College and Research Libraries' (ACRL) Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education.

(SAILS continued on page 3)

D'Amour Library New DVDs

Gran Torino

28 Days Later

Twilight

Obsessed

The Soloist

Pink Panther 2

Vicky Christina Barcelona

I Love You Man

17 Again

Mad Men Season 2

Entourage Season 5

Seinfeld the Complete
Series

Curious Case of Benjamin
Button

From the Library Director's Desk

On most weekends I visit my mother in Connecticut. I am fortunate to still be able to do this as my mom will turn 92 in November. And although I do not look forward to travelling through Hartford, I do look forward to our conversations which deal with a wide variety of topics including the health care debate, the state of Congress, and, of course, the economy. Always an avid reader, her twice weekly trips to the public library stopped years ago, but her reading and learning have not. The local newspaper is read each day and anything about Jane Austen is finished in short order. Our conversations are thought-provoking and lively and I so appreciate the perspective her long life lends to ideas and events. But a few weeks ago I was a bit surprised by a question she posed to me, her librarian daughter, "Are libraries still used today?" I assured her that they are, even though the library as she knew it has changed greatly.

I talked about the tremendous change in the format of the library's collection, about how so many of the materials students and faculty use today are in digital format making them accessible from just about anywhere, but also how we found that students still come to the library to use the databases and other electronic resources. And not just because the printing is free, but because they know they can get assistance from a librarian when Google frustrates them or they can't find the relevant sources they need for a project.

I explained how important "library as place" has become, that libraries are very much extensions of the total learning experience a college offers its students, not just its scholarly aspects.

Certainly libraries are still places where students come to study individually (last year the use of the study tables and soft seating increased 62% over the previous year) as well as to use computers and resources, but they are also places where the students work in groups discussing projects and ideas, where they are introduced to cultural and scholarly ideas through speakers and displays, where students

mingle with friends over a cup of coffee or check out DVDs, compact discs, or a bestseller that has nothing to do with a class.

Quiet is not always the norm, I told her, but there are always quiet places; learning doesn't happen quietly in a classroom, so why should it in a library? Yes indeed! Libraries are used today and D'Amour Library proves this year after year. My mom was pleased!

Libraries have changed in many exciting ways, but their mission to help students become lifelong learners has not. So as we start a new academic year, I hope that D'Amour Library will be a place for everyone. Try out the new seating, explore the works of art displayed throughout the building, come for quiet or for lively discussions, attend a Techno-Smarts workshop on a new database, get a refresher on *RefWorks*, or check out a DVD or a book to relax with. Whether it is to study or to do research using its excellent collection of print and digital resources, to meet friends in Java City II, to attend an Athenaeum lecture or concert, come be part of this exciting learning community!

Priscilla Perkins, Director, D'Amour Library

Database News

D'Amour Library has expanded its collection of online databases. The recent purchase of **Early American Imprints, Series 1: Evans, 1639-1800** provides access to an extensive collection of primary source material for the study of early American history including advertisements, almanacs, bibles, broadsides, catalogs, charters and by-laws, contracts, cookbooks, elegies, eulogies, laws, maps, narratives, novels, operas, pamphlets, plays, poems, primers, sermons, songs, speeches, textbooks, travelogues, and more.

The **19th Century British Pamphlets Collection** includes the most significant British pamphlets from the 19th century held in research libraries within the United Kingdom. The pamphlets offer insight into the political, social, and economic issues facing 19th century Britain.

The **Life Sciences Collection** from JSTOR provides full-text access to hundreds of scientific journals. The collection's strengths include: health, general sciences, aquatic sciences, biological sciences, developmental and cell biology, and zoology.

American History in Video contains more than 2,000 hours of online footage dedicated to the study of American History.

All of these databases are accessible both on-campus and off-campus via D'Amour Library's web site.

Dan Eckert, Interlibrary Loan and Serials Librarian

First Year Students Win Gift Certificates in Survey Drawings

Congratulations to Marisa Harris, Samantha Solomon, Adam Cruz, and Charles Kelehan who each won a \$50 Gift Certificate to the Campus Bookstore from D'Amour Library. All first year students who completed the information literacy surveys were eligible. Drawings were held in July. Read about the results of the pre-test in Josh Becker's article on the next page.



Against the backdrop of student art in the Clarke Reading Room, Mary-Jane Sobinski-Smith presents Samantha Solomon with her survey gift certificate.

The Class of 2013 Interprets the Information Environment

According to a literacy Pre-test survey, first year Western New England College students arrived on campus with a significant awareness of information literacy issues. The Pre-test included 30 questions about students' use of information sources, beliefs about ethical and appropriate information use, and methods of research during their last year of high school.

Incoming students appear very aware of the need to use academic information sources to inform and provide context for their research papers and projects. When asked whether they agree with the statement, "All information published on the web is verified, accurate and reliable," only 3.4% of the 2009 incoming students found the statement to be true.

Other Findings Included:

- 98% of students in high school had to complete research projects with secondary sources.
- 95% of students used library resources for a paper or project.
- 95% used digital resources such as databases, full-text articles, and online encyclopedias for a paper or project.
- 88% of the students were users of Facebook.
- 56% of the students used Wikipedia at least once a month.

The final survey question asked students what resources they used to learn about current events. Students were allowed to select more than one answer. A chart summarizing students' views and attitudes is included below.

Surprisingly, traditional forms of mass communication are still widely used. 91% of the respondents selected TV News. 80% of the students mentioned their parents. 76% of the students indicated that newspapers and newsmagazines were their source for information. Online news sites came in 4th at 62%.

The least utilized information source was blogs. Barely 3% of the student responses indicated that blogs were a news source for current events. Only 2% of the students survey indicated that they did not follow current events.

These survey results illustrate that incoming students understand the importance of using secondary sources, while also acknowledging that web information may be both inaccurate and unreliable. This may indicate why 95% of incoming students used the library when completing a research assignment. Librarians at D'Amour hope that this trend will continue.

Joshua Becker, Instruction Librarian

(SAILS continued)

Focusing on both basic and advanced information literacy skills, the test queries students about their research strategy, tools for identifying information resources, techniques for developing and revising search strategies, strategies for evaluating and selecting information, and using information sources in an ethical and legal manner. The results will be reported by cohort. Additional test information can be found at <http://projectsails.org>.

SAILS will be administered as a web-based test through Manhattan for those classes and students agreeing to participate. The librarians are looking forward to the data from SAILS to provide a perspective of information literacy across the academic levels and to provide a map of where to focus further information literacy efforts.

Mary Jane Sobinski-Smith, Head of Information Literacy

Notable New Books In D'Amour Library

Outliers : The Story of Success by Malcolm Gladwell. A provocative look at the patterns behind everyday phenomena.

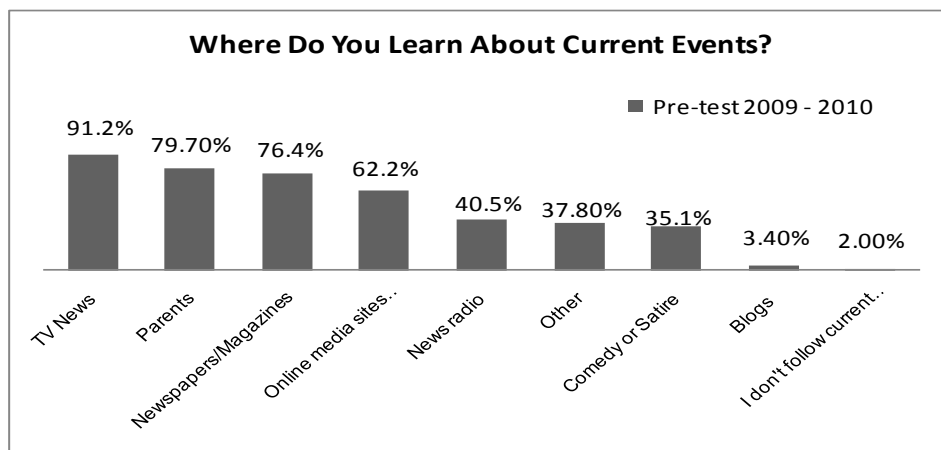
2666: A Novel by Roberto Bolano and Natasha Wimmer. An ambitious, Latin American masterpiece of fiction.

The Oxford Companion to Global Change by David Cuff and Andrew Goudi. An essential work encompassing all aspects of environmental change.

Investing in a Sustainable World: Why Green is the New Color of Money on Wall Street by Matthew J. Kiernan. A timely look at socially responsible investing.

The Enemy Within: 2,000 Years of Witch-Hunting in The Western World by John Demos. A sweeping examination of witchcraft through the ages.

Pictures at a Revolution : Five Movies and the Birth of the New Hollywood by Mark Harris. Sure to become a classic on film, Harris examines significant 1960's movies in a time of a rising cultural tide.



2009 Information Literacy Pre-test Results

I have always imagined that Paradise will be a kind of Library.

- Jorge Luis Borges

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Phone: 413-782-1535
Fax: 413-796-2011
Reference: 413-782-1655

Reference Hours

During these hours, professional staff are available for research assistance in person, by phone, IM, and email.

Monday-Thursday:
9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Sunday: 1:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Who we are

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Loan Librarian

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Judith Gossman, Library
Associate for Serials

Vicky Ludwig, Collection
Development Librarian and
Reference Coordinator

Rosemary O'Donoghue,
Archivist

Priscilla Perkins, Director

Lindsay Roberts, Circulation
Associate

Mary Jane Sobinski-Smith,
Head of Information Literacy
and Instruction Services

Annual Glickman Picnic A Huge Success

On Thursday, June 11, D'Amour partnered with the Advancement Office to host the second annual picnic for the 60 champion readers of our neighboring Glickman Elementary School. This proved to be a very entertaining get-together for everyone involved. In order to honor the many hours of reading these youngsters did, we had some great craft activities, rambunctious games in the gym, and of course it wouldn't be a picnic without ice cream.

The number of books the students read was truly astounding, and they were very proud to take part in a celebration of their accomplishments. Asked about their favorite books, they were so enthusiastic that titles were being shouted from every table.

The sand art and scratch art were great hits, giving each student a couple of unique souvenirs to remember the day. Collaborating with the dedicated staff of Glickman School has



Glickman School students enjoying Western New England College hospitality on June 11.

been a unique and pleasurable experience that D'Amour Library is hoping to make a tradition.

Vicky Ludwig, Collection Development Librarian

D'Amour Home To New Mac Lab

Over the summer, library room 219 received a welcome renovation and became the Macintosh Computer Lab. The editing classroom that had been in room 214 was moved to the new space, and 13 new iMac computer workstations were added, making 23 Apple computers available. In addition to specialized digital editing software to support communication, journalism, and media students, each computer features the Microsoft Office suite.

The room will serve as both a classroom and computer lab for students and faculty. As a classroom, 219 features an instructor's workstation, projection system, and blackboard. When not in use as a classroom, the new lab will be available for general use.

The D'Amour Library staff is thrilled that the library holds another computer lab. "The computer lab in 219



Room 219 at D'Amour Library

is a great addition. More students will now be able to satisfy their information needs in a quiet environment," says D'Amour librarian Valerie Bolden-Marshall.

Priscilla Perkins, Director, D'Amour Library