The Charter Arrives!

Friends’ Fun Facts!

- 86 current members
- Members include current and former faculty and staff, current students, alumni, administration and trustees of the College, former interns of the Library, family members of current Library staff, Sisters of the Monastery, and people who are connected to us in wonderful & mysterious ways
- Over $8,000 raised

Inside this issue:

The Charter Arrives! 1

Barb Werner Retires 2

Farewell to Our Senior Student Workers 2

Librarian Brad Snelling Researches the Paul Robeson/Duluth Connection 3

Friends Reception a Success 3

The CAT is in the house—get your Friends tee-shirt today! 4

The finishing touches are being added to our Charter by calligrapher Meridith Schifsky. Meridith taught nursing at the College for 16 years. Her husband, Dr. John Schifsky, taught for over 30 years and is emeritus faculty at the College. Of course, both are charter members of our Friends group.

Meridith is using ink, gouche (an opaque watercolor), and gold leaf to “illuminate” the charter. The paper is a heavy all-cotton paper from the Fabriano Mill. Founded in 13th century Italy, the Fabriano Mill was the first paper mill in Europe and continues to produce paper today. The icons of our four charter patrons are: St. Jerome, the Venerable Bede, St. Brigid of Ireland, and St. Catherine of Alexandria. Once you stop by and view the charter, take a stroll around the Library. You’ll notice architectural features from the old chapel that were kept in the Library make an appearance in the charter.

The College’s Centennial year has wound to a close. With the completion of the charter, your generosity and support of the Library will be remembered at our bicentennial. Thank you!
Barb Werner Retires

Barb Werner, our Interlibrary Loan specialist, retired in January after 24 years of service. We caught up with her on one of her last days at the Library.

Q: What have been some of the changes you saw or experienced during your time here? Technology would be the biggest thing. The Library has been pretty lucky in maintaining the same people; there has not been a lot of turnover like at some places. In the early 90s, we started getting computers.

Q: Would you say technology has made your job easier or harder? There is certainly less paper where before requests and articles were all in paper and delivered to mailboxes. Now it is easier with just email, but technology and especially the databases have made my job much bigger as it is easier for people to just “push the button.”

Q: What are some of the things you most enjoyed about working here? Working with the staff we have, everybody seems to be mellow, with no big personality problems. Different places are not as friendly as ours might be. It was always a nice feeling going home and not worrying about those types of things.

Q: What are some things you will miss or not miss? It will be nice not having to worry about going out in winter or driving in the snow. It will also be nice not having to stick to a schedule.

Q: What are you looking forward to being able to do in your retirement? Being able to do more things with my kids and 7 grandkids. I have a lot of hobbies such as genealogy that have been put on hold. My job here has helped me learn how to do research, so I am really looking forward to doing that. Also volunteering and going to classes at my church and traveling. I would love to go to Italy and see the Vatican.

Q: What do you feel has been your biggest contribution here? It was so nice to get feedback from the students and know I have helped them get articles they needed; that was my greatest satisfaction.

Barb – we thank you for the hard work & dedication you gave to our Library. Best of luck in your future!

Our student workers in the Library play a vital role in helping provide services. There are four seniors, all working as evening student supervisors. We interviewed them to find out what some favorite memories are & what they learned working in the Library these past years. A common favorite memory was this past year’s fall meeting. Karen Ostovich, the Access/Student Services Manager, had the students do yoga culminating with her roaring like a lion. The students felt that they had learned valuable skills especially outside their comfort zone such as learning how to do research, be flexible, solve problems, help fellow students, & become a leader. We wish them the best of luck in all their future endeavors!
From Duluth to Harlem

Brad Snelling, our Periodicals and Collection Development Librarian since 2005, has been doing research on two recitals that were given in Duluth by the great black baritone and activist, Paul Robeson, in 1931 and 1946. Brad first came across information on these recitals several years ago as he was writing program notes for Duluth’s chamber music society, Matinee Musicale. Since then, Brad has made the singer’s visits to Duluth the focus of a research project for his master’s program at Stony Brook University-SUNY.

Brad is particularly interested in how Robeson’s appearances in Duluth connect to the city’s history of race relations. His research provides details on Robeson’s poor treatment in Duluth, particularly by the local press. As an example, he notes how the Duluth News Tribune ran a story on a minstrel show which was given at Central High School during Robeson’s first visit here in 1931. The article was placed next to the newspaper’s interview with Robeson on the same day as his recital at the Duluth Armory.

Brad is also exploring Robeson’s connections with the author and activist, W.E.B. Du Bois, who had traveled to Duluth in March 1921 following the horrendous mob-lynching of three black circus workers during the previous summer. After speaking at the first chapter meeting of Duluth’s NAACP, Du Bois went to St. Paul where he worked with other activists to press for anti-lynching legislation which was signed by Minnesota’s Governor J. A. A. Burnquist the following month. Twenty-five years later, Du Bois would join Paul Robeson and others to lobby the Truman administration for anti-lynching legislation at the federal level after a countrywide spate of violence against blacks following World War II. This failed effort, which culminated in a heated confrontation between Robeson and Truman in the Oval Office, occurred just weeks before Robeson’s return to Duluth for his second recital at the Armory in 1946.

One of the highlights of Brad’s research has been a visit to The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem. In a related project, Brad has also written an article on the history of minstrelsy and blackface in Duluth which was published by the News Tribune in December. Brad received the Dr. Deborah C. Hecht Award from Stony Brook for this work and completed his master’s degree in Liberal Studies this spring.

As part of the College’s Centennial Homecoming festivities, the Library had a reunion inviting back former student workers, library graduate school interns, staff, faculty, and community members for a reception to honor the kick-off of our Friends group. There was a nice showing especially of those of you who have become our Charter Friends. The weather was beautiful, the food was tasty, and the highlight was getting a sneak peek of the charter Meridith Schifsky has created for the Friends. Thank you to all who attended to make the day special!
“Whatever book I want to have I can get on loan from any library, while if I wanted to borrow money to buy these books I should find no one who would lend it to me.”

-Ibn Hyyan, 13th century historian

**The CAT is in the House**

Friends of the Library have a chance at being the hippest hipster on the block by sporting a Scholasticat tee-shirt. Our book catalog is named after this famous feline – *bibliotheca felas* (the cat of the library) - who, according to legend, among his many miracles, drove out all the rats from the granary of the Monastery of Blarney. Now you can own this great shirt with its visual *homage* to the *Lindisfarne Gospels* and those crazy Irish dudes who saved Western Civilization. Shirts are $10 + postage, with all proceeds going to the Friends of the CSS Library. To order, visit our Friends page - [http://libguides.css.edu/LibraryFriends](http://libguides.css.edu/LibraryFriends)