

# FROM THE STEPS of Adams Library



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Rhode Island College

Spring 2010

Adams library has been awarded two grants. As was covered in the last issue, funding from the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities will enable us to digitize Professor Chet Smol-ski's urban geography collection. The second grant, from the National Endowment for the Arts, will make Adams Library part of The Big Read program described in the article below. Thank you to all who were involved in this truly collaborative team work.

April 2010 will be a busy month for our college and our Library. It is National Poetry Month. Also, it is during April that we celebrate National Library Week. This year The Big Read will combine both celebrations. Edgar Allan Poe will be the guest of honor, and his work will be the centerpiece. Please join us! We look forward to the opening in the Library of the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning. Kudos to Vice President Ron Pitt and his team for this successful Davis Grant effort.

This is the fifth issue of our newsletter. This initiative is maturing nicely. Each issue is a gem, full of information and insight about our staff, library events, book reviews and reflections. I am glad that my colleagues are contributing so enthusiastically to the enrichment of each issue. We hope that you will enjoy reading it and that you will consider submitting your contributions for our next newsletter.

~Hedi BenAicha, Director

## Then and Now

Continuing with our look back  
at how we've grown

### Reserves

	FY09	FY10
<b>Check-outs</b>		
Laptops	4,278	5,373
Reserve Collection	3,708	4,794
<i>an increase of 21%</i>		
<b>E-Reserve</b>		
Print-outs	21,501	21,643

## THE BIG READ BRINGS *Edgar Allan Poe* TO RIC AT KICK-OFF EVENT ON APRIL 7, 2010



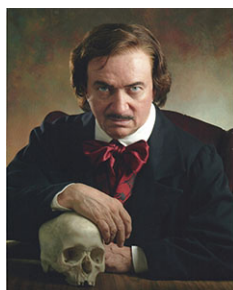
NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
FOR THE ARTS



INSTITUTE of  
Museum and Library  
SERVICES



Join us in Sapinsley Hall on Wednesday, April 7 at 9:00 AM for The Big Read Kick-Off. President Carriolo will welcome special guests, including Christine Taylor, Program Director from The Big Read, and Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts, Honorary Chair of Reading Across Rhode Island, along with hundreds of local middle school and high school students. The program will feature David Keltz of Baltimore who will portray *Edgar Allan Poe* and portray several of Poe's short stories and poems on stage.



Each of the students and teachers attending this event will receive a complimentary copy of "Great Tales and Poems of Edgar Allan Poe," along with a reader's guide and a CD recording of works by Poe. The students will then participate in a writing contest based upon the writings and life of Poe. In May they will return to Rhode Island College to hear the award-winning pieces read aloud by Providence mentalist, mind bender, and Poe impersonator, Rory Raven.

This program will begin a month-long series of lectures, films, performances, and tours designed to bring the writings of Edgar Allan Poe to the Rhode Island College community. There will be an exhibit in the Library lobby showcasing The Big Read and illustrated editions of Edgar Allan Poe's

works. The film series will include classroom viewings of horror movies from Poe's stories, including "The Masque of the Red Death," "The Pit and the Pendulum," and "The Murders of the Rue Morgue." Film Studies faculty will then discuss the influence of Poe on the horror film genre. Henry Barnard School fifth graders will also experience The Big Read by taking part in poetry and short story readings, a performance by Rory Raven, and a Poe writing contest.

The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts, in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services designed to revitalize the role of literature in American culture and bring the transformative power of literature into the lives of its citizens. The Big Read brings together partners across the country to encourage citizens to read for pleasure and enlightenment.

Information about all The Big Read events will be available on the Library webpage at [www.ric.edu/adamslibrary](http://www.ric.edu/adamslibrary) and in The Big Read LibGuide at [http://ric.libguides.com/Big\\_Read\\_Edgar\\_Allan\\_Poe](http://ric.libguides.com/Big_Read_Edgar_Allan_Poe).

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## Carol Hryciw-Wing, Head of Technical Services *By Debra Thomson*



In the music she creates with fellow choir members, in the interconnected work of the Technical Services Department, and in her meticulous structuring of bibliographic records for the HELIN catalog, Carol Hryciw-Wing strives to create agreement through a consistent, orderly and pleasing arrangement of parts.

Although most library users are unaware of the behind the scenes activity of Technical Services, it would be impossible to find a specific book on the shelf or its catalog record without the work that this department performs. The staff of Technical Services, under Carol's supervision,

meticulously creates precise records of library holdings, resulting in an online catalog that conforms to national and international standards. They also diligently label and physically process the books and other materials so essential for research.

Like most of the library world, Technical Services has changed considerably over recent years. When Carol became department head in 1977 the library was using limited technology for circulation and bibliographic records, but the revolution was still 20 years away. Carol describes the period that followed as groundbreaking. "Libraries have taken advantage of the online world and benefitted from it," she asserts. "I have been awed and inspired by what everyone on our staff has been able to do. My colleagues in Tech Services have embraced the technology and have not been fazed by the changes."

Throughout the transition Carol has kept her eye on professional standards, written and re-written procedures, trained staff, and overseen the implementation of change. She makes certain that each task performed in the department leads to the same end and that information and knowledge can reach the library user. "What has not changed," she explains, "is the need to provide the best access." Her persistent efforts and attention to detail ensure that the end product, whether it is the book on the shelf or the online record, is of the highest quality.

Outside of work, Carol is a volunteer in Fall River's SMILES Program, <http://www.smilesmentoring.org/> where she has been mentoring her "reading buddy" through first and second grade. They read, play word games, write and color together. Carol says of her experience, "Being a mentor helps the community. It's fulfilling to learn something more about where youngsters are coming from and to influence where they are headed in their lives. And my reading buddy knows that I care about him as a person, too." Since the age of eight, Carol has been singing in a church choir. To her it is satisfying because of the harmony that it creates, "It is a social setting where you become personal friends and learn and laugh together. We learn a lot, not just musically, but we play a part in fostering a faith community."

Carol Hryciw-Wing earned a BA in Classics at Brown University and an MA in Classical Studies from the University of Michigan. She taught Classics for one year and then began working on a Library Science degree from Simmons College. Upon completion, she came to Rhode Island College and began her now 35 years in Adams Library. She is married to Frank Wing, a videographer, and they have three grown children. The Wing's nest in Fall River is not empty, however. Carol and Frank live with their cats Smokey, Corey, and Josey.

## *A Tribute to Frank Notarianni*

*by David Maine*



The Adams Library Staff has been shocked and saddened by the very sudden passing of Frank Notarianni on February 27, 2010.

A long time Reference and Government Publications Librarian he retired in 2002, although, Frank's spirit still lives on at the college. He was well liked and respected not only by his library colleagues, but also by the many faculty members and students who crossed his path over the years.

Frank's passion for American history, the political process, geography, and public affairs served him well as a Government Publications librarian as he helped numerous classes and individuals research their way through the legislative process. Frank always put the student first and was energized by excellence in student scholarship and effort.

That so many of his former student employees have gone on to careers in libraries and academia is a tribute to Frank Notarianni as a mentor, friend, and, above all, a fine and kind hearted gentleman. He will be greatly missed!



## Saudade de Madeira *By Marlene Lopes*



On February 20, 2010, between the natural disasters in Haiti and Chile, a powerful storm hit the Portuguese island of Madeira. A series of devastating flash floods and mudslides resulted, killing 42 people, displacing hundreds, and destroying a large portion of the water and communications infrastructure of the island. Along with sadness at its misfortune came memories of the Madeira that my husband and I have come to know and love. I offer here a taste of our Madeira adventures, along with a glimpse of the areas that were later hit hard by the floods.

At 10:00 a.m. our rental car, a Fiat Panda, is delivered, and our road adventure begins. We head north of the city into the high mountains, our ears constantly popping as we rapidly rise. As we ascend, fog blows in so quickly that entire mountains appear and disappear within seconds.

On another day it is sunny in downtown Funchal, and the bright colors we remember have returned in all their brilliance. We walk through the city and make frequent stops for pictures.

The scenery is breathtakingly beautiful in the mountains, with waterfalls, trees and plants in every shade of green, and flowers that spring even from the sheared volcanic faces that line the roadsides. From the many overlooks we can view both the peaks surrounding us and the valley below which is dotted with orange tile roofs. Long-legged and independent sheep feed at the sides of the unfenced roads and cross at their leisure.

Whenever we reach the sea Ed unloads his gear and tries some fishing. "They use bread," he mutters when he returns to the car empty handed. "They use bread to catch fish, and I don't have any." Europeans in an oversized tour bus snap Ed's picture and wave to me as they pass.



In her state of the College mid-year address to faculty and staff President Carriuolo noted the disaster and reminded us of the thousands of Portuguese-Americans living in Rhode Island and the strong connections that many have to this beautiful part of the world. Many Rhode Islanders have made contributions, and the U.S. Senate has passed a resolution, introduced by Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) and co-sponsored by U.S. Senators Jack Reed (D-RI), John Kerry (D-MA), and Scott Brown (R-MA) expressing its support for the island of Madeira.



### *March is Women's History Month*

2010 is the 30th anniversary of the National Women's History Project. The project began in 1980 with a lobbying effort that resulted with President Carter issuing a Presidential Proclamation declaring the week of March 8, 1980 as the first National Women's History Week. In 1987, another successful lobbying effort resulted in Congress expanding the week to a month, and March is now National Women's History Month. The 30th anniversary theme is "Writing Women Back into History". The Adams Library exhibit for the month of March was created by Judith Stokes. It features recent writing in the area of women's history, including works by several Rhode Island College faculty members. The exhibit will be available through March 31st. A LibGuide on this topic is available at <http://ric.libguides.com/WomensHistory>.



## Helen Forman: Getting to Know a RIC Benefactor

By Liz Warburton, Class of 2010

**H**ave you ever wondered who RIC's buildings are named after? If you've ever stopped to think about our campus buildings' namesakes, you might remember Helen Forman. Helen Ginsburg Forman was one of RIC's most generous benefactors who donated millions of dollars to the college before her death in 2005. The Helen Forman Theatre in the Nazarian Center is named after her, and the Sylvan R. Forman Center Admissions Building is named after her beloved husband.

Although Mrs. Forman's philanthropy and dedication to her alma mater are well documented, most people don't know of her background. Helen Ginsburg was a lifelong Rhode Island resident, and she received a degree from the Rhode Island College of Education in 1934. Upon receiving her degree, she went on to teach in the Rhode Island school system where she helped children of all backgrounds, including the mentally challenged. Her collection of personal photos shows a cheerful and well-liked young woman, always surrounded by friends. Helen began dating Sylvan Forman in the mid-1930s, and the pair had an extensive written correspondence from



1939-1941. Sylvan was a postal worker stationed in Springfield, MA, causing him to be away from Helen for days at a time. Despite the distance, the two were in constant contact. Sylvan wrote to Helen almost every day, and she saved all of his letters. Sylvan and Helen were married in 1940, and they began a successful but modest life together. The two invested wisely in the stock market and saved the majority of their gains; the majority of this money would eventually be donated to Rhode Island College.

Putting the Formans' financial successes aside, their personal correspondence is interesting in the face of

the increasing technology we have today. In the 1930s and 1940s, letter writing was one of the primary means of communication. By reading Sylvan's letters to Helen, the love he felt for her is evident through his quick wit and charming thoughtfulness. Even seventy years later, the messages of these 1940s lovers are

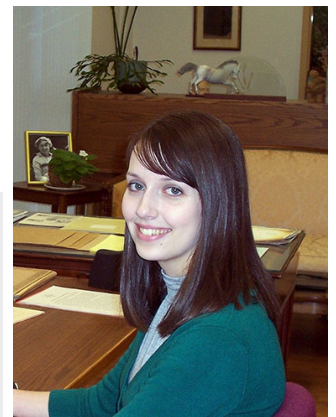


touching to their reader. Letter writing is America's lost art form, and perhaps we could re-examine the value of our e-mails and text messages by comparing them to the Formans' letters.

Over one hundred of Sylvan's letters to Helen have been added to the Helen Forman Collection in the Special Collections at James P. Adams Library. This Collection also contains memorabilia and photos related to Mrs. Forman's academic career and life in Rhode Island. Stop in to read some of the Helen Forman's correspondence, and you may leave with a newfound appreciation for RIC's most generous benefactor.



*Elizabeth D. Warburton, the daughter of RIC alumna Susan (Roach) Warburton '80, has been an assistant in Special Collections since 2008. In addition she has conducted research on the State Home and School and prepared its nomination for the National Register. An outstanding student, with a double major in history and anthropology, she plans to begin work this fall at the University of Vermont on a graduate degree in historical preservation.*



# Our Collections

## ***The Lovely Bones***

by Alice Sebold

*A Book Review by Ellen Morais*



The *Lovely Bones* is the story of Susie Salmon, a 14 year old girl who is brutally raped and murdered by a neighbor in 1973. It is a haunting account told in Susie's own words as she watches from her heaven, a place created of all her simplest dreams while alive, a place she identifies as "the in-between, someplace between Earth and somewhere else." Similar to the snow globe in the book's opening passage, Susie's heaven is both a blessing and a curse.

Here she is safe from physical harms but not exempt from the emotional pains of longing. Ultimately, heaven is "comfort, but it's still not living." It is a solitary and sometimes lonely place of watching, contemplating, and learning all she wasn't able to see and know while on Earth. Some might compare it to the idea of purgatory.

It is from this vantage point that Susie watches her murderer dispose of her body and cover his tracks. She is able to actively watch lives, from beginning to present, while hearing their inner most thoughts, feeling their desires, tasting their fears, and delighting in their joys. It is also from here that Susie sadly observes as her family disintegrates lost in their grief.

While sad on the surface, Susie's story is interwoven with themes of hope, acceptance, forgiveness, and, ultimately, love. She even hints at compassion for her killer, "*What I think was hardest for me to realize was that he had tried each time to stop himself. He had killed animals, taking lesser lives to keep from killing a child.*" As Susie grows, so does her heaven.

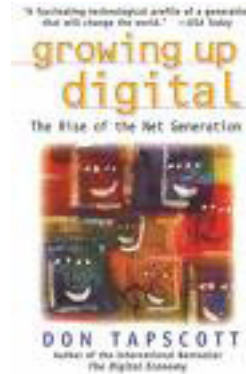
This concept of individual and changing heavens created of our dreams, desires and fears, and a progression through levels as lessons are learned is reminiscent of the novel *What Dreams May Come* by Richard Matheson. There, Chris Neilson, from the beyond, watches helplessly the demise of his wife Ann who commits suicide when she cannot cope with the tragedy of his death. Both novels explore the theme of letting go of the past and the ones we love, though in slightly different ways.

In the end, *the Lovely Bones* is a story of the invisible cords that connect us to each other and of the "bones grown" out of adversity that hold us up. It is this message that will resonate deep within your soul and stay with you long after you turn the last pages of this book.

## ***Growing Up Digital: How the Net Generation Is Changing Your World***

by Don Tapscott

*A Book Review by Judith Stokes*



Basing his report on the findings of a \$4 million private research study of 8,000 young people in 12 countries, author Don Tapscott characterizes tech savvy youth born between 1978 and 1994 by the strengths inherent in their collaborative, connected, passionate approach to life. Cautioning baby boomers and gen-Xers to think twice before condemning behavior that appears distracted or immature, he explains that the work habits of the net generation can be highly productive; their civic engagement and volunteerism is exemplary; and, by every traditional measure, they are as intelligent, if not more so, than their elders.

## ***Brokeback Mountain***

*A Film Review by Brian Baker*



When I first heard about *Brokeback Mountain*, Ang Lee's movie based on the short story by Annie Proulx, I had no idea it would change my stance on an important and controversial "gay" issue. It was 2005; I was 27 and a happily single gay man. *Brokeback Mountain* changed forever my views on same-sex marriage.

This film stunned me. Director Ang Lee's ability to portray this love story without censorship made me feel that, finally, a real "gay" love story had been portrayed in a mainstream movie. I went to the theatre with anyone

I knew who wanted to see it and ended up seeing it five times. I bought the DVD the day it came out and have shown it to many friends and family members. Each time I watch it I am struck by the simplicity of the film; marriage should never have to be denied to people even though it doesn't fit the social norms.

Although actors Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal did not win awards for their portrayals of Ennis Del Mar and Jack Twist, *Brokeback Mountain* won Golden Globes and Oscars, including Best Achievement in Directing and Best Writing, Screenplay Based on Material Previously Produced or Published. At last the gay community has a film that can change social stereotypes and opinion in a vast and fundamental way.

## ***Giving to the Library***

Gifts help to support our mission and make it possible for the Library to provide the highest level of excellence in the collections and services we offer. There are many ways to give.

You probably already know that you can join the Friends of the Library, donate new and used books or materials and shop at our book sales. Now you can also support the Library by making an online donation. Visit the Give to RIC page and use the Gift Des-

ignation pull-down menu to select Adams Library. Gifts can be given in honor of graduating students, faculty, friends or others.

For more information see the Giving to the Library LibGuide available from the Adams Library homepage. You can also contact Hedi BenAicha, Library Director, or Debra Thomson, Gifts Coordinator.



# Confidentiality: A Fundamental Library Issue

By Carla Weiss

At the Circulation Desk a student wants to know who has borrowed a book he needs for a class; a professor asks which of her students have read the reserved readings; a parent requests a print-out of books borrowed by her daughter. Library staff members explain that they cannot reveal this knowledge. When a police officer demands that the library turn over the internet transactions of a suspected child molester, they indicate that they need a warrant before they can honor his request. Why? It is the law in Rhode Island. In fact, all 50 states have laws regarding the confidentiality of library records.

This issue gained importance in the 1970's and 1980's when libraries began to experience increasing incidents of law enforcement requests to examine the circulation records of books and other materials. There were queries as to the names and addresses of individuals who asked for information about explosives, guerilla warfare, or anti-war activities. Libraries were asked to report any "suspicious looking foreign people."

Challenges to the right to privacy have continued, especially in recent years. After the attack on the World Trade Center in 2001, Congress passed almost unanimously the USA PATRIOT Act (Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools

Required to Intercept Terrorism). Sections 215 and 505 of the Act have a direct effect on the promise of libraries to protect the privacy and confidentiality of library users.

The FBI can now request the library files of any individual when there are "reasonable grounds" to believe that they are "relevant" to an authorized terrorist or intelligence investigation. That means that the FBI can examine records of library materials circulation and usage, interlibrary loan transactions, searches on library computers, notes taken by staff when providing assistance, e-mail correspondence, and telephone conversations.

Library staff member who receive these requests are prohibited from notifying anyone (including co-workers, friends, or family) that an investigation is underway. Those who violate the gag order or refuse to turn over records may face imprisonment.

Although there is no specific "right to privacy" written in the Constitution, the Supreme Court has interpreted that there is an implicit right to privacy stemming from the First, Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments: freedom of expression, due process, and protection against unreasonable search and seizure. The American Library

Association in its Code of Ethics states:

*We protect each library user's right to privacy and confidentiality with respect to information sought or received and resources consulted, borrowed, acquired or transmitted.*

The Adams Library Privacy and Policy Notice emphasizes our endeavor to protect the privacy and confidentiality of library users, but it also acknowledges the restrictions of the USA PATRIOT Act. The Library purges the book borrowing record once the book has been returned, but other confidential information about library use may remain for years.

In this time of Facebook, blogs, cell phones, online shopping, and surveillance systems, many people have become nonchalant about the ideals of privacy and confidentiality. Some Americans are willing to give up these rights because they would like to see terrorists apprehended. However, if we believe in "innocent until proven guilty," is it okay for the FBI to examine the private records of someone who is *under suspicion of being* a terrorist? How important to you is the confidentiality of your library records?

## Reflections: on the Digital

By Kresten Jespersen

The digital age found its first and most powerful expression in William Gibson's novel *Neuromancer* published in the year of Big Brother. A potent evocation of "1984" mentality *Neuromancer* built on the foundations of Philip K. Dick's novels and on a long history of science fiction writing. Next year it will be out as a movie.

Cyberpunk, virtual reality, the hacker, the triumph of the corporation over the state (never mind academia), mind-altering drugs, and bio-enhancement, mixed into the shadow world of the spy are all familiar to us by now -- thanks to Gibson's memorable novel. Movies such as the *Matrix* with its theme of the struggle for freedom in a digital world are legacies of the cyberpunk mentality. The battle against "Mr. Smith" continues despite the apparent invincibility of this digital government agent. But can Google overcome China? The real world is just as elusive and complex as fantasy. Imagination is a potent weapon in both worlds.

It is unpredictable, unconventional, and unorthodox. The computer is more than a tool; it is a gateway between the real and the fantastic.

The digital world occupies its own matrix and defines its own reality. Artificial intelligence (AI) will enhance and supplement our own biological inheritance and subvert our tendency toward mental laziness. As the mind begins to function to its full potential, we will enter an increasingly complex and more challenging reality. We can now only guess at that world. We are still in the age of Babbage, of the machine itself, as a separate and distinct entity from ourselves. We need now to absorb the machine, to transform and fashion it to our human purpose: the expression of the full potential of humanity through the realization of freedom of the mind. When our spirits fly because of Babbage, we will have truly entered the digital age.

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