

October 19, 2011

Dear Library Patron:

The fall semester is well underway and soon the campus will be ablaze with color. It is time to launch the library's 2011 Book-A-Year Club campaign. The past year has been another of unprecedented growth for the College. Our burgeoning online student population has increased our enrollment to over 2,100 students. The College now has a second graduate program, a Master of Arts in Security Policy Studies. This has necessitated expansion, and the College recently acquired the Regina Complex to house additional classrooms, offices, and practice rooms for its award-winning marching band and sports teams. The library is teeming with activity, as students rush to their classes, get a snack at the Falcon Café, use reserve materials, check out books, and use the computers. The library is the study spot of choice on campus for many students who regularly reserve the study rooms, fill the computer labs and hold study sessions in the library's reference area, conduct research and work on their assignments.

Last year was an eventful one for the library. WiFi is now throughout the building and our first floor reference area is crowded with students using their laptops. The library assisted in preparing for the site visit for the accreditation team for the Master of Science in Nursing, potentially the College's third graduate program. New approaches were formulated to serve the online student population as well as increased convenience for our on campus population, involving increased use of e-mail and voice mail, the development of online forms and online tutorials on how to request a book and how to find full text scholarly articles. The library hosted six art exhibits and a book signing, all of which received coverage in the local media. One of these events was a family affair; longtime adjunct English professor Dalma Takacs, formerly the chair of the College's English department, signed her new book in conjunction with an exhibit of paintings by her daughter Judy Takacs, who also did the cover art for the book. Our April 2011 exhibit, "Little Prints and Princesses," photographs of children by internationally-known, award-winning artist Janet Century, was featured in *Cool Cleveland*. For more information on these events as well as our current exhibit, "Magia dell'acqua: Marvels by the Water," images by photographer and cardiac surgeon Marcello Mellino, read the latest issue of *Book Bytes*, the newsletter of the Clara Fritzsche Library, now available on our web site at <http://www.notredamecollege.edu/resources-and-services/clara-fritzsche-library>.

But despite these positive developments, these are tough times for libraries. The very existence of the book is in question and the publishing industry itself is in peril. Cuts to the OhioLINK budget by the State of Ohio threaten core resources vital to our curriculum. Funding for libraries has also recently been reduced on the federal level. The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) received a 10.7% budget cut for FY2011, the budget of the Library and Technology Act (LSTA) was cut by 11.7% and LSTA Grants to States' budget was cut 7.26%. The Department of Education recently announced that it would zero fund Improving Literacy Through School Libraries (ILSL), down from 19.1 million in FY2010. In fact some presidential candidates even proposed eliminating the Department of Education itself. That is why your support is needed more than ever. Please select a book or DVD from the enclosed booklist, sign your bookplate and return them along with your check in the envelope provided. A donation to the Book-A-Year Club ensures that our students will have a variety of up-to-date resources that uphold the educational goals and mission of Notre Dame College. Your gift is much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Karen Zoller, Director
Clara Fritzsche Library