Starting this fall the Clara Fritzsche Library has another convenience to offer its patrons. The library now is a Wi-Fi hot spot. While the Falcon Café has had wireless capability since 2006, it extended only to the outside patio area and not to the rest of the building. People can now use their laptops to research a topic, surf the Internet, study or check their e-mail accounts while relaxing with a cup of coffee. The wireless range extends throughout the library’s first and second floors and access is free. With open computers at a premium in the library due to increased library usage, Wi-Fi is proving to be a popular draw. The reference area is often filled to capacity with students using their own computers. Plans are in the works to add some comfortable furniture to create a first-floor lounge area in the near future.
of Time and Place: Walker Evans and William Christenberry

This past fall the library received an unusual request. Maria DiFranco ’96, an alumna and former student assistant at the Clara Fritzsche Library was trying to assist her father in a long-time quest of his to locate the burial place of his grandfather, Alfonso DiFranco. Little was known about him. Through word-of-mouth and various family stories it was said that he came over from Italy around the turn of the century and located somewhere in the tri-state area of Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia, meaning to bring his family to America once he got settled. There was also one other distinguishing fact that helped to narrow down the search—he was killed by gunshot wound by his best friend.

With DiFranco being a relatively common name among the Italian immigrants that came to this country through Ellis Island and the various other ports such as Boston and Philadelphia, coupled with the frequent misspelling of ethnic names that took place at the time, even in the news media, it was hard to know where to begin. Using a combination of print and online resources plus a number of telephone calls and e-mails to courthouses, libraries, archives and churches in the Steubenville area, the details of Alfonso DiFranco’s all too brief life were discovered. A search of Ohio newspapers uncovered an article in the Steubenville Herald-Star concerning the high mortality

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rate of local mine and railroad workers which mentioned DiFranco’s death by gunshot. The shooting and subsequent coroner’s investigation were well-covered in the local paper and served to provide the missing pieces of his life story. A well-respected foreman on the Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway, he lived with several of the men in a boxcar by the Long Run Tunnel. DiFranco met his untimely demise when shot by his best friend, in a hunting accident. While the Ohio Death Certificate Index of the Ohio Historical Society only goes back to 1909, burial records maintained by the Catholic Diocese of Steubenville led to the cemetery of a Catholic church in the area as the final resting place of DiFranco. A talk with the priest at the church who checked the burial records confirmed this fact. Mr. DiFranco was so happy to finally have a resolution to his quest for closure that he generously made a donation of $250 to the library. The family is planning to make the journey down to Steubenville and dedicate a memorial bench in Alfonso’s name.

USEFUL RESOURCES FOR PROSPECTIVE GENEALOGISTS
Ellis Island Foundation
www.ellisisland.org. An excellent starting point, this site offers free searches of passenger lists by name and year of birth or ship. With “Passenger Search” you can access the records of more than 22 million passengers and members of ships’ crews who came through Ellis Island and the Port of New York from 1892 to 1924. You can view arrival records with detailed passenger information, original passenger lists (known as manifests), text versions of the manifests and ship pictures. Tips on conducting a genealogical search, materials on the history of Ellis Island and the immigrant experience, as well as links to other resources are also provided. Ancestry.com provides easy access to more than 4,000 genealogy databases with a single search. Coverage focuses primarily on the United States and the United Kingdom, although other areas are covered. Databases include the complete U.S. Census & Index (1790-1930), vital, church, court and immigration records. The Map Center contains more than 1,000 historical maps. Other notable collections include Daughters of the American Revolution Lineage Books; Social Security Death Index (updated monthly); WWI Draft Registration Cards; Federal Slave Narratives; and a strong Civil War collection. Databases are updated continuously as new information becomes available.

Another valuable resource when conducting a genealogical search are regional newspapers. Many newspapers are now available in full text PDF format and fully searchable by keyword. The Cleveland Plain Dealer Historical Newspaper provides access to issues published between April 7, 1845 and May 31, 1991. Searches can be done by keyword or a phrase in quotes and narrowed to a specific year. ProQuest’s New York Times Historical enables genealogists, researchers and students to search the complete contents of all issues of the New York Times from 1851 to 2007. Access Newspaper Archive NewspaperARCHIVE.com is an enormously useful resource for finding regional information. It is the largest historical newspaper database online, containing tens of millions of newspaper pages from 1759 to present. Every newspaper in the archive is fully searchable by keyword and date, making it easy for you to quickly explore historical content. The site is a work in progress, adding newspaper pages faster than you can search them. One newspaper page is added every second, which translates to over 80,000 images a day, or about 2.5 million pages per month. Additional sources for historical primary source content are HarpWeek, which provides electronic access to Harper’s Weekly from 1857 to 1912, and ProQuest’s American Periodicals Series Online, which contains over 1,100 periodicals that first began publishing between 1740 and 1900. Titles include special interest and general magazines, literary and professional journals, children’s and women’s magazines and many other historically significant periodicals. Both of these databases are available in OhioLINK.

The Cleveland Necrology File was produced from a microfilmed copy of an alphabetical card file containing local cemetery records and newspaper death notices gathered by the staff of the Cleveland Public Library. It contains death records for 1833, 1847-1848, and 1850-1975. The database includes paid death notices published in the following newspapers: The Cleveland Plain Dealer 1850-1975; The Cleveland Herald 1833, 1847-1848, 1876, 1878-1879; and The Cleveland Press 1941-1975. Another place to find death records in Ohio is the Ohio Historical Society Searchable Databases. This collection of databases (many of which were created under the Ohio Vital Information for Libraries Center, a grant-funded project of OHS) includes online documents such as those included in the Ohio Memory Project and online research tools such as the Ohio Death Certificate Index and the Ohio Newspaper Index, 1793-1996 that help you uncover documents held in the Historical Society’s Archives Library. The OhioLINK Finding Aid Repository provides access to additional collections housed in archives, libraries and other institutions throughout the state of Ohio. Collection descriptions from the contributing institutions are fully searchable, enabling researchers to hone in on relevant sources. Old regional and local history books may also provide clues when searching for an individual. ProQuest’s HeritageQuest Online contains the complete set of U.S. Federal Census images from 1790-1930, including name indexes for many years. It also contains fully searchable information on people and places described in over 28,000 family and local history books and in the Periodical Source Index (PERSI) which provides access to over 2.3 million genealogy and local history articles. With Google Books www.googlebooks.com, the complete contents of millions of books and journals can be searched for free. Many old periodicals and local histories are included. The HathiTrust Digital Library www.hathitrust.org, a digital preservation repository that contains the digitized contents of over 5 million book titles and over 250,000 serial titles, is another useful resource for unearthing genealogical information. It began in 2008 as a collaboration of the 13 universities of the Committee on Institutional Cooperation, the University of California System and the University of Virginia to establish a repository to archive and share their digitized collections. Since then it has grown to include 58 libraries including Ohio State University and an additional consortium, the Triangle Research Libraries Network. The aim of the organization is to preserve, manage and provide access to public domain and copyright content from a variety of sources including Google, the Internet Archive, and institutional collections creating a comprehensive archive of published literature from around the world. Catalog searches can be done by author, title or subject, as well as keyword searching and browsing or searching by individual collections.
book bytes

CLARA FRITZSCHE LIBRARY

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We're on the Web!
www.notredamecollege.edu/library

WRITER/EDITOR
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Joe Glass
Karen Zoller

Mystery Photo
If you can identify the whereabouts of the object pictured on the first page of this newsletter, send your answer to kzoller@ndc.edu. The first person to correctly identify the location will receive a $10.00 gift certificate to the Falcon Café.

EBSCO ADDS NEW FEATURES, SEARCHING EVEN EASIER

Regular library users know what a useful tool EBSCOhost is for finding full text articles. Recent enhancements to the EBSCO platform make research even more stress-free. More color has been added to the site with downloadable images often appearing when a topic is searched. Icons are used to delineate scholarly journal articles, magazine articles, book reviews, e-books, and reference materials. When the highlighted title of an article is clicked, a toolbar appears to the right of the abstract. In addition to printing, e-mailing or saving the article, a number of other options are available. Clicking “cite” gives the citation information for the article in seven formats including MLA, APA, and AMA. A permalink option allows you to paste the link in the body of an e-mail or other document. The Business Searching Interface has a Text-to-Speech feature in which audio versions of all news wire service articles and many other articles can be listened to at a variety of reading speeds. This link is found under the citation information when an article is selected. If the article is in a foreign language, a feature called New User Interface Languages is able to translate the contents of the user interface screen into 27 languages. Recently EBSCO purchased NetLibrary from OCLC and added all of its eBook and eAudiobook content to the EBSCOhost platform, greatly improving accessibility and making searching more streamlined. All content is searchable by keyword and the toolbar for all e-books even provides a dictionary in addition to citation information and tools for document delivery.

Starting in November many Wilson databases will be available on EBSCOhost. The H.W. Wilson Company offers 78 reference databases in all subjects. These databases are maintained by editorial staff members who are experts in library science and other subjects, and updated daily by staff in New York and Dublin, Ireland. Many of these constitute core databases in libraries including the Reader’s Guide to Periodical Literature, Education Full Text, Art Full Text and Humanities Index. The company also publishes an extensive range of print references in these areas, including Facts About the Presidents, Famous First Facts, and Current Biography. The powerful searching of the Wilson databases coupled with EBSCO’s ease of use will make finding information easier than ever.

EMPLOYEE PROFILE: BENNETT SNYDER

Patrons may have noticed a new face at the library circulation desk. Bennett Snyder started in late August as our new Library Assistant. He is in charge of managing the library’s serials collection, maintaining its Curriculum Library, attending to the circulation desk, and assisting with cataloging functions and special projects as needed.

A graduate of Brush High School and former resident of Lyndhurst, Bennett is familiar with the Hillcrest area. He has a B.A. in East Asian Studies with a minor in history from Wittenberg University where he graduated with honors. While at Wittenberg, Bennett was editor of the Wittenberg East Asian Studies Journal and Student Ambassador to exchange students from the island of Kyushu in Japan. In addition to this he went abroad during the fall of his junior year in Hirakatashi, Japan, where he studied Japanese language, Japanese politics, and East Asian economics. That previous summer, Bennett also attended the Japan Center for Michigan Universities where he was enrolled in a two-month intensive language study program.

In addition to these impressive credentials, Bennett also has a Masters in Library and Information Science from Kent State University. His varied library experience includes Student Manager and Circulation Assistant at Wittenberg’s Thomas Library; digitization, scanning, barcoding and database creation at CWRU’s Kelvin Smith Library and the CVRU Archives; and a practicum at the Cuyahoga County Public Library’s Mayfield Branch. In his spare time Bennett is the Secretary for the Cleveland Heights Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. He also works part-time for the owner of a home-based Internet book business. The circumstances of Bennett’s working at our library were very fortuitous for both parties involved. He had originally responded to the ad for clerical help that the aforementioned book shop owner had placed at Kent State University Library School at the advice of the Library Director. Arrangements were being made to have him start an unpaid internship at the Clara Fritzsche Library when an unforeseen vacancy opened up right before school was to start, and the library was able to consider him for the job. In the short amount of time here, Bennett has already proven to be a welcome addition to staff and we are happy to have him as part of the library team.

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missing, has a hold placed on it or is local use only. The procedure for requesting materials from SearchOhio is similar to that of OhioLINK. If you get a message saying that there is a problem with your record at your institution, contact the Library Director at kzoller@ndc.edu or call the library circulation desk at 216.373.5267 and ask for Joe Glass or Karen Zoller.

As with OhioLINK, SearchOhio items generally arrive in two to four business days and have a three-week loan period, but can be renewed up to only three times. If your designated pickup location is the Notre Dame College Library, the library will contact you when they arrive. Otherwise, you should monitor your library account to check for arrivals.

The Clara Fritzsche Library will automatically renew your SearchOhio books for you. If renewal is denied, we will contact you by phone or e-mail to return the book to the library from which you picked it up. All SearchOhio items must be returned at the end of the semester or summer session in which they were checked out. For additional assistance with SearchOhio requests, contact Karen Zoller at kzoller@ndc.edu.

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