

Shimer This Week 3.9.7

BOOKS BY THE THOUSANDS ARRIVE AT SHIMER



Workmen installed shelves this week at Shimer as four thousand volumes arrived from the now shuttered Waukegan campus. An additional six thousand books were simultaneously delivered and shelved at IIT's Galvin Library. Shimer library director Colleen McCarroll says that a total of 15,000 Shimer books - that is, most of the Shimer collection from the Mount Carroll days - will eventually be housed there.

DEAR FRIEND OF SHIMER - Today promises to be the warmest of the year so far here in Chicago, but at Shimer, things have been heating up for the past few weeks. We have new signage for people arriving at our building. A new edition of our venerable newsletter, *Symposium*, will be out soon. And tomorrow, alums will be here to begin plans for an exciting reunion planned for this summer. For more of what's been going on, read on.



LIGHTS, CAMERA, SHIMER!

The bright lights of big city television shone on Shimerians this week as 15 students, faculty, staff, alums, and friends donned Shimer T-shirts and worked the phones for a

Eileen Buchanan leads off IIT Luncheon Talks



Faculty member Eileen Buchanan leads off a series of Brown Bag lunches on March 19 that are designed to introduce Shimer to IIT staff. It's part of Shimer's recruiting efforts for the Weekend Program.

The lunches are being organized by faculty member Stuart Patterson and IIT's Human Resources department, which is co-sponsoring the series. Pithy readings will be assigned for the one-hour sessions that highlight each of Shimer's four areas of study: Humanities, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences and Integrative Studies.

Other faculty members involved include Ann Dolinko, Jim Donovan and Barbara Stone. Dessert will be served.

telethon for Chicago's public television station, WTTW.

It was the first time Shimer had participated in such an event. Programming that night focused on menopause and the Rolling Stones - an interesting combination to say the least.

Among those on hand were: students JESSIE DIAMOND, LIZ HOOPER, LAUREN TAYLOR, VITTORIA FULBRIGHTWOODS, NICK SCHMITT, and JEAN ARSENAULT. Staffers included ELAINE VINCENT, CASSIE SHERMAN, ONI FULBRIGHTWOODS, SAMARAH DAHER, and FRANK CORRADO. Alums OWEN BRUGH and REBECCA SUNDIN (also a board member) were with the group, as were faculty members BARBARA STONE and STUART PATTERSON and Shimer friend KAREN CORRADO.



A Journey into Aids Activism

When writer Michael McColly talks about "spiritual activism" he is talking about AIDS victims getting politically active as well as personally involved in their own health.

Speaking at the first of Shimer's 2007 public lectures on March 2, McColly recalled offering classes in Yoga to AIDS victims at a conference in Durbin, South Africa some years back when others were only offering Power Point presentations and nobody was offering affordable drugs. "I had never been an activist before," said McColly, who is HIV-positive. The reaction to his focus on personal and mental health was so strong among attendees, he recalled, that he came home, sold his possessions, and began doing the same thing around the world.

Re-telling some of the stories from his recently published book, *The After-Death Room*, McColly pointed out how many women with AIDS, who have been deserted by their families and their society, have stepped up to fight governments whose laws don't protect them and deny them needed medication. "I'm alive because of the activism of twenty-five years ago," he said. He told stories

BOWLING FOR CHOCOLATE



The Shimer social scene is in high gear as spring approaches. Last week a number of students took off on Thursday night to go bowling in downtown Chicago. Sharing a dessert were (from left) Nicolette Stosur-Bassett, Shawna Johnson, and Mel Levi.

of people he has met at conferences in South Africa, India, Vietnam, and other countries. He told the audience that they didn't have to go much farther than Cook County jail to find a major incubator for diseases such as AIDS and mental health problems.

As for yoga, he added, "Yoga helps reduce stress and gives you the feeling you are doing something about your own self."

Other speakers in the lecture series are Francisco Ruiz, IIT Professor of Engineering and an inventor, who will talk about bridging the gap between the left-brain world of engineering and the right-brain life of invention in a lecture titled *Eureka! Invention as Art* on March 23, and David Lukens, Science Professor and Historian and a Shimer faculty member, who will present his valedictory lecture, *Crazy Uncles and Crazy Pendulums: Scientific Writing and Imaginative Writing*, on April 20.

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