In Memoriam - Evan Farber

AUGUST 06, 2009

Evan Farber was both colleague and friend, a man whose ideas about, and attitude toward librarianship influenced me throughout my career. Both as librarian and later as professor of library science, whether sitting at the reference desk or in the classroom, I constantly drew upon what I had learned early on in my career by working with Evan in the Earlham library. Evan was also a great pal, someone whose view of life I found sympathetic, with whom I could with ease talk on a personal level. I find it difficult to come to terms with the fact that Evan died while I was out of the country and that I had no chance to visit with him one more time. All of us who knew him will remember him for the rest of our lives.

Elizabeth (Bonnie) Frick

MAY 11, 2009

I first met Evan in 1973 and then got to know him well when I moved to DePauw University in 1975. We last talked just a day or so before his passing. Evan was so generous with his time and so thoughtful and reflective. He was a caring and gentle individual but at the time focused and with definite ideas. His so perceptive insights always continued to amaze me.

He did so many things for me that I cannot list them all (Earlham-Eckerd Bibliographic Instruction Workshops; College Library Directors’ Mentor Program, helping me with my dissertation research, hosting several visits to Earlham by DePauw faculty members, librarians, and administrators, etc. and etc.). Evan, I thank you for having such a positive impact on my career.

I also recall other sides to him, such as his love of good desserts and the almost withdrawal anxiety he had if he did not read the New York Times daily. As with any great teacher, his influence will live on through those so many on which he had such a profound impact.

Maria Gorecki Nowak ’81
APRIL 13, 2009

I'm not unique. Evan helped everyone he met, and touched people's lives with his calm, quiet demeanor and daily mentoring. I always think of Evan when I think “Earlham.” The two are inseparable for me.

Evan not only helped me to stay in school, but he taught me many of life's lessons. He helped me to get into graduate library school against heavy odds. When I graduated from IU, he helped me out by paying me $20 a week for months, so I could eat and pay a tiny bit of rent. He also sponsored a small wedding shower for me, with all the library staff. All these were kindnesses that can never be forgotten.

At Lilly, an inventory was to be done in the periodicals collection, with Yoko and I doing most of it, without direct supervision. When we stopped for quite awhile to look at Life magazine photos from World War II (mostly from the Pacific), we became engrossed in the tragedies there. Evan came strolling by and turned an eye towards us, noticing that we weren’t working. I thought to myself, “Oh, Oh, we’re in trouble now.” He didn’t say a word. As a librarian for 35 years, I’ve matured enough to realize that Evan kept on walking because he knew that the interchange Yoko and I were having was much more important to the global community than any inventory.

The kind, gentle, yet sturdy, and sometimes tough Evan is the one I always picture. I'll always remember the day he attended my brother’s wedding in 2003, at St. Andrew Church. He still had his familiar twinkle and sincere interest in everyone and everything.

My sincere condolences go out to his family, with the special thoughts of how he and Hope influenced my family so much.

Ellen R. (Isley) Jones ’72

MARCH 25, 2009

My family moved to Richmond, Indiana in 1961, when I was in the second grade. My father, Fred Fragner, was the director of a Child Guidance Clinic in Richmond and taught several courses at Earlham College over the years. At Earlham, he met and became close friends with Evan Farber. Both of them shared a thirst for knowledge and a passion for learning and would frequently have long, involved discussions about any and every possible subject. They shared a deep caring and concern for all human beings and were very involved in the local community. They also spent a great deal of time with the students of Earlham and really were dedicated to helping the students explore and learn in a very warm and positive atmosphere. Evan's family was very welcoming to my family and I believe his daughter, JoAnna was closest in age to me. We moved away in 1965 but my father, Evan, and his wife, Hope, stayed in contact over the years. My father passed away recently (3/7/09) and while I was researching Earlham College for a scrapbook I'm making about my father's life, I came upon the article about Evan passing away. His passing is a huge loss for his family, the community and everyone who was fortunate enough to know him and I offer my sincerest condolences.
MARCH 16, 2009

My sincere condolences to Evan’s family. I have some great memories of Evan and of Lilly Library.

When I arrived at Earlham in the fall of 1965, I was struck by how different Lilly was from any other library I had used before or since. The Clements Library at The University of Michigan or the MBL Library in Woods Hole, MA are great world class facilities but Lilly was special. There was such a variety of spaces within that invited one to stay and enjoy/utilize......I think I enjoyed more than utilized! Evan taught me a lot about using a library and he was extremely generous to and tolerant of me.

One incident particularly stands out. When I was a senior, I and some friends were in Lilly one evening. We were in a bit of a playful mood, as was often the case. At some point some primal urge overtook my usual calm and collected self. I grabbed one of my friends and promptly placed her on the Xerox machine intending to photocopy her butt. Of course the instant she landed, the glass shattered into a thousand pieces. I figured my life as I knew it was over at that point. But Evan (and Tom Kirk may have been there as well) came over and simply stared for a moment and then very calmly took care of the situation. It was more than I deserved but typical of his relationship with students I suspect. Bless you Evan.

David White ’69

MARCH 09, 2009

I remember the great book migration from the old library to the new one. For a young student more focused on physical activities than learning, at least carrying the books across campus satisfied the former and put me closer to the latter. Evan’s calmness caught my attention.

So many of the Earlham faculty from the late 50’s early 60’s had such dedication and patience with a slow learner like me. They will be forever appreciated.

Nat White ’64

MARCH 03, 2009

Evan had imagination, good instincts, and a true interest in the real lives of people, many of whom just crossed his path and went on, having benefited in some way from Evan’s special ways. I traveled with Evan to library conferences and found that it took forever to get anywhere since everyone wanted to greet him. I especially remember one woman who pulled Evan aside for career advice. Evan had never met her yet he delved into conversation with her and we all just continued to walk along as a threesome.

Many years later at Evan’s retirement party at another library conference, it was taking forever to wind up the event since a woman...
was sitting next to Evan holding his hand and crying at the thought of him leaving the profession. Evan didn’t really seem to know her. She could have been the same woman as before but more likely, she was another one of the many librarians who felt moved by Evan’s inspirational leadership.

Evan helped me become a librarian by suggesting that I try the job once my temporary teaching job ended. So I began as Science Librarian at Earlham before going to library school and I am amazed that here I am almost 30 years later, following in the footsteps of Evan and Tom Kirk. I love this job, not so much for it being in a library, but for being in a profession that calls upon having an interest in others. Evan and Tom have been my role models in that.

Most of my appreciation for Evan, therefore, comes from knowing him as a person, as a reader of good books, as a real intellect, and from seeing the life that he led with Hope Farber, a woman as special and strong as he. They have been dear friends to so many and are greatly missed.

Sara Penhale ’71

In 2007, the American Library Association published my book A Good Match: Library Career Opportunities for Graduates of Liberal Arts Colleges. The book is dedicated, in part, to Evan. He had encouraged me in the study underlying the book, especially after he found that between 1963 and 1991 over 100 Earlham alumni had gone on to do graduate work in library and information science (LIS). That figure represented 1.7 percent of all 1963-91 Earlham graduates compared to a national percentage of 0.3 percent. The book covers the 1962-2000 classes, including 179 Earlham alums who had attended LIS graduate programs; an average of five each year for that 39-year period.

A Good Match follows the progress of 431 librarians from the classes of 1962-2000 who were students at Earlham and seven other US liberal arts colleges. The time period encompasses the 1962-94 years when Evan was Earlham library director. In the book the respondents describe those who influenced them, why they decided to become LIS professionals, and how they view their career in the LIS field. Service is found to be the unifying theme. One of the survey questions asked what they liked best about LIS work in general; 41% of the Earlhamites responded in terms of service to others or helping people. Another question asked what the participants remembered about their college’s library director; 83% of the Earlham alumni-librarians wrote in positive to glowing terms about Evan. Although a few said they did not recall much about him, Evan was the only library director who received not one negative comment. For many of us, Evan was our role model for how to be a librarian/information professional.

In preparing for the study, I asked Evan how he became interested in identifying potential librarians from among Earlham students because he was certainly doing that when I was a student in the late 1960s! He said he liked EC students so much and wanted to help them. And he did think of them as potential librarians saying he admired that they were bright, efficient, and personable...I latched onto certain students...and I liked their interest and personality (unpublished interview). In The Call of Service: A Witness to Idealism, Robert Coles says that service is a function not only of what we do but of who we are. Evan exemplified the ideal of service to others not only in what he did but in who he was.
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<th>Rebecca Watson-Boone ’68</th>
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<td>Evan was, for me as for many others, one of the main reasons I became a librarian. He plucked me from the depths of working in the computer lab (at that time in the basement of the library, not sure if it is still there or not) and brought me into the light of information, organization and the thrill of the hunt for that needle in a haystack that answered the question just right. He imparted a love of libraries and of information. He said to me “you know, you’d make a great librarian!” At the time, I was flattered, as I grew older I thought “Oh, he says that to all the girls,” and now that I’m old and wise, I realize he saw in me something I didn’t even see in myself. I’ll appreciate him always for encouraging me to become a librarian.</td>
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<th>Genevieve Foskett ’87</th>
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<td>Lilly Library was the most glorious building on campus. Evan Farber made it so. Indelible memories for all that passed that way - the wondrous collection inside, the all night room where Humanities papers were finished the night before, the golden light beaconing out across campus, the aura of the Japanese reading area downstairs, and the irreplaceable genius at its helm. My sincere condolences to his loved ones on your great loss..</td>
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<th>Tad Dunlap</th>
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<td>As a child, I knew Evan as a librarian at Emory University, a member of my family's church, and a friend of my parents. When I arrived at Earlham, I saw him in a whole new light. I knew that he was friendly to me, and always inquired about how I was doing at EC. I later realized that he was genuinely interested in all students, not just ones whose parents he knew. I knew that I loved studying and just being in the library. I later realized how much he had to do with creating the atmosphere of that wonderful place. I thought I knew quite a bit about research when I entered Earlham. As new worlds of resources opened to me under the direction of Evan and other library staff, I realized I had a long way to go. Thank you, Evan, for your love of students and learning..</td>
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<th>Anne Cherry ’69</th>
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<td>They say that when an old person dies, it’s analogous to a library burning down. What could be more true of Evan Farber. He began his career at the same time I entered Earlham as a freshman, and even at that early stage he was a font of information, eager to help, and obviously a person who had found his calling. One can’t put a price on the contribution Evan made to the quality of education received by me and countless Earlham students over his long career.</td>
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Ben Hole

Earlham’s library, its ethos shaped by Evan’s welcoming presence in the late 1960’s, was a second home on campus for me. It has, after decades, remained my favorite library. Evan was very good at making everyone feel that the world of books, scholarship, and research was a hospitable place, within everyone’s grasp. What a gift!

Peggy Carey

Encouragement, thy name is Evan.

Ray Ontko

It doesn’t seem like so much time since Evan and I were deeply involved with ACRL issues. While I don’t recall the specifics of library-related conversations, I do recall the ones about tennis and handball because we shared such a deep interest in those sports. Evan was still playing handball when I took the coward’s way out and switched to racquetball. It wasn’t quite a strenuous as handball; it also didn’t require as much skill.

Working with Evan was always a pleasure because he was always such a thoughtful and reasonable person. While Evan has written widely about bibliographic instruction, his commitment to taking the library to students was his overriding purpose.

Ann and I have also good memories of the assistance and advice that Evan provided at the time we were launching Research Strategies, a journal that was devoted to bibliographic instruction-related topics. Evan also contributed in numerous ways to our Library Issues: Briefings for Faculty and Administrators.

Evan was president of ACRL at the time that the first ACRL Conference was held in Boston in 1978. If I recall correctly the theme of the conference was “On the Shoulders of Giants” as the Division honored Robert Downs and Keys Metcalf. They were indeed giants. Evan is in good company.

Ann Dougherty

FEBRUARY 26, 2009

From Mary Hyde Hood, 1980 Earlham grad, I remember well, as others have mentioned, being turned loose in Lilly Library in my first days at Earlham during the fall of 1976 with a large packet of questions that we were to answer in order to learn how to research and fully utilize our libraries (Lilly Humanities and Wildman Science). I was already adept at using the comforting card catalog and doing basic periodical research, but I’d never used microfilm, microfiche, or lived among the stacks until I came under Evan’s spell. As others have observed, Evan was the consummate gentleman and scholar. I remember him as a"
natty dresser, with an air of metropolitan sophistication. He exuded a quiet air of authority. Once he sniffed out that I was one of Steve Heiny’s few Classics majors, every time he saw me, Evan would inquire what and how I was doing and talk to me about his daughter (Cindy, I believe) who was also a Classics major. Although I did most of my studying at my desk in my room, I spent countless hours at Lilly and I think the building’s beauty, tranquility, open-ended possibilities, and feeling of a safe retreat were all extensions of Evan’s personality and influence. Our older son is now a sophomore at Earlham, and I still have the same feeling of contentment and peace when I walk through Lilly and soak in the gorgeous views from its windows.

I guess some of Evan’s love for and proficiency at research must have rubbed off on me because the one book I have had published so far was the product of five years of intensive research. Like Evan, I view researching a subject I am passionate about as the ultimate treasure hunt.

Others have mentioned the famous photo of Evan on guard holding the machine gun. Here is a link to that photo, originally published in college newspaper The Earlham Word and prominently featured in my junior year 1979 Sargasso yearbook on page 33: Evan Farber on guard (https://share.acrobat.com/adc/adc.do?docid=69bfa115-3a2f-41d5-9e80-86a182ceaeb1)

On a poster next to Evan is the following text:

For him that stealeth, or borroweth and returneth not this book from its owner, let it change into a serpent in his hand & rend him. Let him be struck with palsy & all his members blasted. Let him languish in pain crying aloud for mercy & let there be no sucease to his agony till he sinks to dissolution. Let book worms gnaw his entrails in token of the Worm that dieth not & when at last he goeth to his final punishment, let the flames of hell consume him for ever.

Thanks to my husband Steve, fellow 1980 EC grad, for creating the link to the photo and copying the text from the poster.

Interestingly, the way I learned of Evan’s death was not from my son, or daily missives from Earlham (perhaps I missed a mention in ATH), but from my niece Katie who is preparing to enroll in a master of library science program. Katie’s hero, radical librarian blogger Jessamyn West, wrote a piece about Evan called Evan Farber 1922-2009 (http://www.librarian.net/stax/2693/evan-farber-1922-2009/). Like Katie (and her sister Emily Warrener Gough EC ’05), Jessamyn has a sister who is an Earlham grad, from whom she heard the sad news.

My love and greatest respect to all Evan’s family. Think of what a magnificent job Evan must be doing organizing and improving the libraries in the next life!

Notes: I also submitted this memorial note on Jessamyn West’s blog at the address listed in my post.

FEBRUARY 25, 2009

Evan Farber had an impact on so many college librarians and of course in so many diverse ways. For me, the first contact I had with Evan was at an ACRL conference where I presented a paper and he appeared at
a reception and discussed with me the pros and cons of the arguments presented in that paper. To my delight, Evan quoted that paper many times subsequently and he always somehow knew some how to frame the issues in terms of college librarianship. Indeed, his example is one of the primary reasons I pursued a career in college librarianship.

I served with Evan on the College Library Leadership comm. and later on had the good fortune for Evan to be one of the mentors presenting at the college library retreat in Philadelphia when I became a library director.

At SLU, much of what we do now in terms of instruction is directly influenced by the ideas, models, and best practices developed by Evan. In this way, his legacy for all of us lives on and continues to be very vibrant today. Thank you Evan!

Bart Harloe
St. Lawrence University

FEBRUARY 24, 2009

In January 1961 I came to Earlham College as the newly appointed Reference Librarian. Robert Agard was the College Librarian. Shortly after I assumed my duties at the old Library at Earlham College Bob Argard left to become the Assistant Director of Libraries at the University of Mass. By this time the design, plans and fund raising for the construction of the new Lilly Library at Earlham College was mostly complete. During the next year Phil Shore served as the acting College Librarian. It was a busy but very good year working with Phil. Then, in 1962 the Serials Librarian at Emory University, Evan Ira Farber was named Earlham College Librarian. His mentor was Guy R. Lyle. Construction was completed on the new Lilly Library and the physical move was made across the campus from the old Library to the new Lilly Library. I still remember that moving time.

Evan developed and exported Bibliographic Instruction/Library Instruction/Course Related Library Instruction. This was Evan's passion and he became the leader in the field. He was known and respected in all academic libraries.

My late wife, Barbara Marshall Siefker, also worked part time for the Earlham College Library. She was the first Science Librarian at Earlham. One of her first student assistants at the Science Library was a dedicated and talented young gentleman by the name of Thomas Kirk. Tom would go on to later become the Science Librarian at Earlham and still later in his distinguished career he returned to Earlham as Director of Libraries succeeding his mentor, Evan Farber.

I also enjoyed working with Hope, the Secretary to Evan who also became his wife.

I left Earlham in 1964 and spent the next 34 years in two other institutions of higher education as an academic librarian. Evan's influence, especially in the area of library instruction, was a real force in academic libraries during all that time.

I consider it an honor and a privilege to have known and worked for and with Evan Ira Farber. Evan was a small person in stature but he was a giant in academic librarianship.

Don Siefker
FEBRUARY 23, 2009

Memories of Earlham will always include Evan, and the many hours I spent in his library, doing schoolwork but also enjoying sunsets from the window at the second floor desk I made my own. The memory I cherish is the one of Evan walking by me one Sunday afternoon during my senior year and telling me that he was going to start charging me rent. I would have paid it gladly. With deepest sympathy to his family on their loss. May Evan rest in peace.

Anne Halpern '73

I send my aloha to the family and friends of Evan Farber, a man who gave so much of himself and who was a truly great librarian. At Earlham I found in Evan a role model, and my work in the library meant so much to me - when Evan said I could handle the reference desk on my own I felt a thrill of accomplishment. I was impressed with the proactive role that Earlham's library took in the life of the college - that was Evan's doing. When I applied to graduate work in library studies at the University of Hawaii I was told that the faculty knew of Earlham's work and immediately decided I would be accepted. At that time I did not realize how well known and respected both Evan and Earlham were. I have spent my career as a librarian and teacher in Pacific Studies at the Univ. of Hawaii, much influenced by the values that Evan quietly and lovingly shared at Earlham. Mahalo (thank you), Evan, for all of your contributions to librarianship, to Earlham, and to the lives of students.

Karen M. Peacock '70

As a young librarian focusing on library instruction at Wittenberg University, I looked up to Evan Farber as an icon - and that was before I actually knew him. I later became acquainted with Evan and discovered his warmth, his sense of humor, and his nurturing soul. When I eventually assumed the directorship at Wittenberg and entered the ACRL's mentorship program for new college library directors (a program I believe Evan helped establish), imagine my delight to discover that he had been assigned to be my personal mentor. That is something like showing up at a basketball tryout and finding out that Michael Jordan was to be your personal coach. I think Evan would enjoy this analogy even though he was probably an even bigger fan of football - a fact about him that I always found amusing.

Evan made me proud to be a librarian, particularly one at a small college, where he demonstrated for us all the important part we could play in providing a solid education. Our profession would not be what it is without him; he advanced it by leaps and bounds - Jordan style!

Kathy Schulz

When I was in library school at the University of Kentucky, I discovered that I already knew what bibliographic instruction and pathfinders
Around The Heart : In Memoriam - Evan Farber

Mary Landrum ’96

When In the 1970s I was the Library Director at Bethany College in West Virginia I spent a week at Earlham in one of Evan's seminars on engaging faculty and students in bibliographic instruction. He started the first session saying that at a Quaker college everyone was equal, so we would all address each other only with our first names and with no titles. What a start!

When I came to Wabash in 1980, I soon went to visit Evan at Earlham. He and others on the staff took me out to lunch. As I was leaving, Evan offered to provide any help I might need in being a fellow library director at a sister school of "like quality" to Earlham as he called Wabash. Soon I was calling him about budgets, book ordering policies and more and Evan always referred me to Phil Shore, one of his remarkable librarian team members at Earlham. I quickly found out that apparently Phil ran the day-to-day library operation. Phil told me he did so, always consulting with Evan, so that "Evan could preach the gospel of BI on campus and around the country." Almost every time that I visited family in Richmond, I went over to see Evan, Phil and the other librarians.

In 1984, my dean asked me for information on three nationally respected library directors so he could select one to be my outside evaluator (Wabash librarians have associate faculty status without tenure on five year renewal contracts). He selected Evan. That gentle Quaker spent two days talking to it seemed to me everyone on campus, including stopping students on the mall to ask about the library and me. Before he left to return to Richmond, we met in my office and Evan said, "Well Larry you know I've helped a number of folk find jobs!!" My heart almost stopped. Did this mean he would recommend I not be reappointed! Then he smiled and said, "But of course you will not need my services." Later that week, I learned from a Wabash faculty colleague whose father taught at Earlham that Evan sometimes had such a strange sense of humor!

Two of my most enjoyable times with Evan were first when we drove together to Oberlin College at the first meeting of liberal arts library directors from around the country who that weekend formed the Oberlin Group which began to meet every year at different campuses. The second time was when my wife and I were invited to Earlham for Evan's retirement party and heard faculty and students express their admiration and love for him, just as I did.

The Earlham Provost called me earlier that year to ask me who I thought could be the next library director. I said that the only person who could step in and be accepted by all parties was Tom Kirk. No surprise, the Provost said that everyone he had called around the country had also suggested Tom. As many of you may know, Evan nurtured Earlham student Tom Kirk to become a librarian, hiring him to run the science library and so earn money to get his library masters at IU.

How appropriate that this gentle humble Quaker's memorial service will be in Stout Meetinghouse on the campus. Over the years, during many
of my weekend visits to Richmond to see family, I attended the early morning silent meeting in Stout. Often Evan and his beloved Hope were there.

Larry Frye

Working at Lilly with Leo and Evan was the best work-study job on campus, even better than paint crew. As a public librarian, I do my best to keep Evan's vital approach to bibliographic instruction with me at all times.

Roz Kutler '84

FEBRUARY 21, 2009

Evan Farber is one of my most enduring memories of Earlham. His passion for books and research was absolutely infectious, and he made every trip to Lilly Library a compelling passage on the journey to truly understanding the world. Coming from a high school where the librarian was comatose on good days, I was amazed by Evan's quiet but constant presence and his total accessibility to all of us woebegone students. He cheerfully tolerated my barefoot study sessions (indeed, he helped me search, unsuccessfully, for my beloved Hush Puppies which were stolen by some foul varlet during one finals week), and it was Evan who introduced me to the wonders of inter-library loan -- something I remembered with both fondness and snarls as I sat captive to the microfiche whilst researching 18th-century newspaper articles for my master's degree at the University of Toronto. Evan, you brought excitement and joy to the search for knowledge. It was a lesson that has sustained me my whole life. Thank you.

Barbara Pleva '71

I have fond memories of working in the Science Library and remember that one of our first assignments was to go learn how to use the library. I anticipated that this would be a half an hour at most and would be basically a waste of time. However, we were given a workbook with many questions that made you explore all the aspects of the library. This exercise took most of the day and ended up being one of the best learning experiences that I had. I have utilized what I learned that day throughout college, graduate school, and now as a professional biologist. I enjoyed Evan's curiosity, intellect, and his willingness to help students grow and adapt to college life. He will be missed by all that knew him.

Thomas J. Evans '76

I always thought that Evan Farber put his library patrons first, as he wanted the library to be a resource tool to open people's minds to the larger world. As such, he was not a stuffy librarian, but someone who wanted people to use this great resource to be better equipped to think about the world and to play a positive role in its transformation. Evan cared about people and he will be missed as he was one of the
Douglas R. Bell ’74

Evan Farber made my years at Earlham fuller and happier by his accessibility and knowledge. His intense interest in and support of every student using the library were a revelation, as my previous experience had been with the relative indifference of the New York Public Library system. What he taught me changed my life. Evan Farber was a warm and loving person and I mourn his passing.

Julie Flagg Pittman ’70

When I was at Earlham, every class had a “library day.” We went to the library, where Evan Farber himself took us around to see the reference books for that discipline. For each class there was an instruction sheet on how to find resources in the field. Then he took us to see the shelves where the original works and related books were shelved. One philosophy professor said, “You may not have plans to be a philosophy major, but for this semester I will teach you how to think like a philosopher.” Evan helped him to make that happen.

Evan’s work has spread far and wide. When I went to Indiana University, where the librarians used Evan’s model, I enjoyed five more years of excellent research assistance. Now I am a professor. I ask librarians to do the same thing that Evan did for the students. As a result, students produce much better papers; they also comment that the library classes make them feel “more respected and important” as they grow into adults. One student (true story!) was holding a reference book and exclaimed, “Wow! I never knew that you could learn so much from BOOKS!” (as opposed to the Internet). Evan’s unique model of integrated library instruction will continue even past the end of his life, for which we are all grateful, and we will miss him,

Nancy Otis Chamness ’78

Judy Goldsmith Naden ’71

Evan was my freshman advisor and soon became my friend. I had difficulty academically the first semester of my freshman year, and Evan was always there to offer support. I also fell in love with Lilly Library and literally did all my studying there, not just my research. Although my first career had nothing to do with libraries, I chose as my second career library science. At the time, I wasn't consciously choosing this profession because of Evan (I became a children's librarian, which is certainly different from being an academic librarian): but I know that deep down, I wanted to be a librarian because of Evan and Lilly Library. As a librarian, I soon learned about the tremendous contributions Evan made to the world of academic libraries. It was then that Evan became not just a friend, but a hero to me! I am so glad that I got to see him when I was at my last reunion; he will be sorely missed.

FEBRUARY 20, 2009
On behalf of the Price and Thornburg families, I send our thoughts and prayers to the members of the Earlham community and Evan’s family on the loss of a dear friend. Evan was an extraordinary scholar and servant—he made the Earlham library into a model for scholarly study, and at the same time understood the role of the library in serving a community.

Barbara

Evan Farber greeted me and made me feel at home in Lilly Library the first time I visited Earlham. His excitement about sharing information was genuine. Evan’s enthusiasm as he introduced how to explore information changed my life. I even became a librarian. For many years I was a librarian in university level, private and public libraries. I am very grateful to have met him for he has really influenced my life tremendously. His directives have lived within me and will continue to live in my quests for knowledge and the pursuit of the truth. Thank you Evan Farber for helping me live into the questions!

Libby Edwards Coss ’81

I spent much of my Earlham work grant as a circulation desk worker and enjoyed greatly the time shared with Evan. He was a very caring person when I was going through troubled times. Evan was a very good listener and in his quiet way had much wisdom to share. He and Hope were neighbors of mine, two or three houses down from me on College Avenue, in Richmond. They both were very warm people, when I was feeling uneasy with myself and quite alone, on campus.

After leaving Earlham, living a lost and economically unsuccessful life I called Evan, asking him whether it made sense for me to attend library school. It was not a particularly good time because of the current job market in the field, he said and kindly discouraged me from taking that path. Somewhat later, on the counsel of a friend, I embarked in a public health career in occupational health, and in spite of my mediocre undergraduate grades in science, my career occupational hygiene was both successful and was personally satisfying. Moreover, it clearly met the Buddhist criteria of “good vocation.”

Years later, after my brother, Bill Tabb, spoke at an Earlham convocation he was approached by Evan, who asked him how I was doing and asked what I was doing. Bill reported that Evan was pleased that my decision seemed correct, and that I was making contributions in my field in spite of my earlier strong bias toward the humanities and social sciences, while attending Earlham. I appreciated this greatly.

E. T.

Evan surprised and delighted me and my classmates when he showed up for our 30th reunion dinner in October 2007. After dinner, when we went around the room sharing our favorite Earlham memories, it seemed especially fitting for me to tell this story:

In the first term of my freshman year, I was invited to meet with Evan
in his office at Lilly Library. It seems that Evan had a tradition of meeting personally with every new student, an ambitious goal that amazed and humbled me at the time. Evan really wanted to get to know me so, uncharacteristically, I was doing most of the talking. Out of the blue, in mid-sentence, Evan interrupted me and asked, "Do you realize how often you say, 'you know'?" I was dumbstruck. He continued. 'Every time you say, 'you know', it's as though someone hits me in the forehead with a hammer. After a while, I'm not listening to what you're saying. I'm just bracing for the next 'you know'.' Needless to say, the rest of the conversation was a bit stilted, as I struggled to avoid the pounding phrase that obviously had become an unconscious mainstay of my teenage vocabulary.

Afterward, it occurred to me that that was one of the very few times in my young life that an adult had corrected me. I had always been a cooperative, respectful, likable boy and a model student. I wasn't perfect, but I think my agreeable nature earned me a lot of good will and spared me criticism even when it would have been warranted. But that's not healthy. We don't do young people any favors by glossing over their imperfections. In these intertwined acts of inviting, listening, and correcting, Evan showed me the wondrous power of a teacher to mold the character of their students.

I am now the teacher, and Evan lives on in me, in ways big and small. I seek to have meaningful encounters with my eighth graders where I invite, listen, and gently correct. And I utter a silent apology to Evan every time I say, "you know".

Randall Roeser '77

Evan was an awesome resource for students in terms of accessing library materials and service, but more importantly his openness and innovativeness were extraordinary. I don't think we realized how significant Evan was. I did not until moving on to other institutions where librarians spoke in hushed and reverential terms about him and his impact. He will be deeply missed by the Earlham community as well as the broader academic community.

Erich Frankland '90

Evan Farber had a profound impact on my Earlham experience. It was his influence that decided my career path. He encouraged me to work at the Morrisson-Reeves Public Library during the summers when I was not working for him at the Lily Library. He helped me get a scholarship for my MLS degree at I.U. He and Hope treated me like family. I feel very fortunate to have known, worked with and been impacted by Evan Farber.

Joy (Brumfield) Mandelbaum '66

In the fall of '63 I came to Earlham already having heard of the Eli Lilly Library; it had just recently opened. Little did I know how much of my time I'd spend there. And only later did I learn how much Evan Farber's contributions had helped make it happen.

That first year, if memory serves, every class had a special session in
the Library -- many given by Evan -- introducing us to the materials supporting our subject. And early each semester Library staff worked with us on using the relevant index systems.

The Library, guided by Evan Farber, has become a gold standard. Earlham wanted the Library at its center. We are the beneficiaries. And the unfolding stories I enjoy reading in Earlham's communications about the Library and its successes continue to be a beacon, just as the ceiling lights seemed to beckon at night.

Thanks to Evan and all who have contributed to this fine Library and school.

Rachel Davison '67

The library was brand new when we came to Earlham and became my favorite study spot. I usually managed to be quiet there but my mom and Maida Loescher's mom got kicked out by Evan for talking too much. My deep gratitude to Evan for making such a wonderful place for us to learn.

Janice Wheater-Cowen '67

FEBRUARY 19, 2009

While at Earlham I worked for 3 1/2 years at the Lilly Library under Evan's leadership. I enjoyed the experience totally--much more fun than being a dorm monitor. My first recollection is Evan supervising the moving from the old library to the new building. At the time of the GE College Bowl Evan tried to get me into Library Science for grad school and told me "I had such a great store of trivia that I would make a great reference librarian." I never followed up but became a history professor instead! I am very sorry to hear of his passing.

Brad Nutting '66

Evan was my advisor during my years at Earlham. He was a valuable mentor and dear friend. His daughter Cindy was a classmate. I enjoyed my time with Evan as a guest in his home, as a tennis partner and a role model. I was fortunate to visit with Evan this past fall as many of my classmates came back for our 35th reunion. I will always treasure my memories with Evan. He left all of us he touched better off. What more can you ask? My thoughts are with Cindy and her family.

Ben Zwirn '73

I attended Earlham for two years and then completed my degrees at Ball State University. I did Masters work at Grand Valley State University and then completed an MA in English at Western Michigan University. Everywhere I studied, Evan Farber was known by the library directors, either personally or by his reputation and stature in the advances of library science. More than one professor who I did research for commented on my talent for “finding things,” particularly in the humanities and medical literature. I owe it all to Evan Farber and his
infusion of library science into just about every first-year course I took at Earlham. He made it a joy to “find things!” It was wonderful to spend some time talking with Evan at the recent class of ’77 reunion dinner which he attended, and to have the chance to thank him for the invaluable skills I learned from him and continue to use, and now teach to others. I feel so honored to have known him and learned from him.

Lauralee Pierce Middleton

I, like Chris Benfey, was a “faculty brat” lucky to be around Evan Farber during my youth, and later when I went to Earlham. I recall his gentle, ironic sense of humor, and also being in awe of the fact that he played handball at the Y, and the strength and speed that required.

Most of all I loved that Evan and Hope fell in love and built a fabulous combined family, with my good friend Jeff Nagle as one of the lucky two boys to be surrounded by so much feminine pulchritude. Evan and Hope’s houses were always warm and friendly places to visit. I am grateful for their example of building and rebuilding.

Paul Gibby ’75

Evan was one of the greats at Earlham. From his innovative training and skills tests for incoming freshmen/women to his willingness to help with the most arcane questions and permutations of research, he was a mountain of a man.

I would often hide in the library to do research because my friends would never think of finding me there (later hiding in the science library, because I was discovered.) Evan was ever-present and always willing to help.

Evan was the epitome of why Earlham remains a great institution and a leader in undergraduate instruction.

Morgan Gale ‘86

I remember first seeing Evan at the new student orientation slide show that introduced us to common faces and buildings. They were talking about the library and the rules and up came a picture of Evan Farber holding a machine gun in front of the library. We laughed at the image at a Quaker college, but only because it was funny given the situation. The following year when I came back to help with the new students, there he was again with the gun and now it was hysterical, given that I had met Evan. A gentle soul that saw a larger picture of the world and someone who I thought was funny. I credit him to my success in grad school as I was far ahead in research tactics and tools because of the magic he worked in our library. He will be sadly missed by Earlham and the academic world where he made a large impact on what libraries look like today for students.

Alizabeth Aramowicz ’90

Evan was our librarian during a very exciting time for undergraduate
research and academic libraries, and it was Evan, and those like him, who made it such an exciting time. Evan loved and respected students, faculty and scholarship. His vision of the library and librarians as an integral part of student research helped reshape the role of undergraduate libraries and the partnerships between librarians and teaching faculty both here and in many institutions throughout the country. Evan was always alive intellectually, interested in everything and everybody. He was a gifted teacher both in the classroom and one-on-one. We could always tell when Evan had worked an evening reference shift because in the morning there would be dozens of reference books left open on top of the shelves -- a trail left by Evan as he and the students explored ideas and research topics. Librarians from all over came to learn from Evan, and I was lucky enough to work with him for many years. He was endlessly demanding of excellence, and he was endlessly supportive. His life was a gift to generations of students, faculty and librarians, and I am immensely grateful to him.

Nancy Taylor

As a new library director at the College of Wooster in 1991, I asked Evan to be my mentor through the GLCA faculty mentoring program, and his advice was invaluable to me. Evan laid the basis for the modern Information Literacy movement with Earlham's program of Course-Related Bibliographic Instruction in the 1970s, 80s, and 90s, which became the model for all of us in the college library community. But above all, Evan was a friend. We will miss him.

Damon Hickey

Evan was a wonderful mentor to so many academic librarians. He was a great listener, a person who always gave you his honest and insightful opinion about any situation, and a loyal supporter of what you were doing and what you wanted to become. Without his consul, so many librarians would have been lesser professionals and people. He remains an inspiration to me and so many others for his professionalism, dedication, and imagination. God rest his soul.

Gary Thompson

Evan is the only person in my experience who had the courage, care, and insight to tell me why I didn't get hired for a job. For that honesty alone I owe him a tremendous debt of gratitude. What more can one ask of a friend than the truth? His warmth, humor, inquisitiveness, knowledge, and professionalism were endearing. I shall miss him greatly. May he rest in God's Light and Love.

David Gansz

I remember meeting Evan for the first time in 1982 since he was my designated “advisor” my freshman year. His caring and soothing insight calmed me in moments of study frenzy and tension. I later remember him introducing me to the library and the art of research. With hindsight I realize that he also introduced me to the new fangled realm
of the Internet. His passing is a great loss shared by many.

Erika Leiman ’86

Evan was a legend in the college library community. I met him at a library conference in Charleston in the mid 1980’s. We walked together through the old town section and found a place to have dinner together. It was the beginning of a great friendship. I count it a great honor to have known him.

Always a gentleman, a constant mentor and nurturer of young talent, Evan encouraged the highest standards of librarianship as an indispensible part of the teaching/learning environment.

I know that the Earlham community will miss him greatly. At least among librarians Earlham had the “biggest, little college library in the country.” Good bye old friend, rest well.

Maynard Lowry

Evan Farber was a special mentor to me, as he was for so many others who passed through Earlham’s halls, so fortunate to have learned and grown under his influence. Looking back, among the most important things I learned as an undergraduate was how to learn, and how to conduct research. Evan’s powerful influence on my young intellectual life stands out among the bright light from giants who shared their gifts with all of us at Earlham in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Doug Pineo

Evan Farber was in his first year as head librarian when I returned to Earlham to teach a one-year appointment in the absence of Arthur Little. He quickly established himself as a warm and caring individual in the one year that I knew him. I can only imagine the tremendous contributions he would make in the many years that he was on staff.

David Deacon ’60

Although I was only able to spend one year at Earlham, it did not take even the first quarter to realize what a wonderful privilege it was to have Lilly Library as a resource. As a high school student in a large city, I’d had access to several good college libraries for research, et al, in high school. Still, I was impressed by, and grateful for, what I found when I hit campus.

It also took less than a quarter to find out that the driving force behind such an excellent facility was Evan Farber. What a wonderful friend to scholars, students and otherwise, he was. His passing brings back 42-year-old memories of diligent research, “all nighters” and the like.

I shall treasure my memories as I know others will, too. Thank you, Evan.

C.G.
Evan led his legion of followers/admirers with a combination of compassion, concern, the well-expressed and placed probing question, and most of all example. I was honored to be among his followers forever changed by his grace and his confidence in me; that was most important of all. He made us believe we could do whatever we set out to do, and then he watched us do it and cheered us on. I shall miss his voice always.

Scottie Cochran

Thanks so much for notifying us of Evan Farber's death. While I did not spend much time with him while I was a student, my memory tells me that Evan WAS the Lilly Library -- the names were just synonymous. And Lilly was the new centerpiece of campus when I was there. It was a pleasure to walk into the building and to study there. So I am proud to have shared Earlham with him and to share the news of his remarkable career. My sympathy to his family and friends in their loss.

Meribeth Wallio Smith '69

Evan was my faculty adviser at Earlham, and he really provided wonderful advice. I remember how diplomatic he was when I found a class in the catalog interesting, but he thought it was a bad idea. "Professor such-and-such's heart really isn't in that class," he once told me.

In many of my English classes, we'd have a day when we'd troop over to the library to get a lecture from Evan about how to research our papers. Those lessons were some of the most important things I learned at Earlham.

Dave Gallman '93

Evan was a man whose deep convictions informed his work. Because of him, generations of Earlham students (and students at other colleges and all over the world) learned how to do research--not only to write papers or pursue academic goals, but to live as responsible, informed, and empowered human beings. What a tremendous testament to what one human being can accomplish!

Lauren Lessing '91

... and who of my EC generation can forget that picture of Evan leaning back in a chair up against the newly installed electronic security system with a machine gun across his lap.

David White '81

I had known Evan's stepsons David and Jeff at Olney Friends School, but my first memories of Evan come from freshman orientation my first
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<th>Katharine Neumann Richman ’73</th>
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<td>Evan was my advisor when I was a freshman. He really went out of his way to address my issues, and misbehavior, and even though I didn’t listen to his advice, he was there; he stepped up and let me know how he saw things. In retrospect I can appreciate an adult who took the time and energy to be present for me, as so many were not. I remember Evan as a sincere guy who really cared.</td>
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<td>Fred Allebach ’79</td>
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<td>My father, Walter R. Davis, English professor at Notre Dame at the time, thought so much of Earlham’s library and Evan Farber, that he suggested that I attend Earlham on the library’s merits alone. I was accepted at St. Marys, I.U., and Purdue, but my Dad said Earlham’s library was the best, so I attended! I am so sorry for the family’s loss, but be comforted in the fact that Evan put his heart and soul into that library and it showed. He was a great man.</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Davis ’84</td>
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<td>Evan was the library or the living embodiment of it. I remember while working there one summer after the library had been renovated, he had to move an art installation to another spot. He, myself, and another student, (Mike, I think) had to move a fragile wood and wicker basket-like hut the size of a large dog house. It astounded me how he took Mike and I through the thought process of the best way to solve the problem. He really cared that it be done well. Ultimately, we decided to have Mike get in the hut and carry it on his back to the new spot with Evan and I helping. It took all afternoon, but the art piece was moved without damage. I also remember one of Evan’s biggest maxims: students will not learn something until they need it. As a middle school teacher, this is brought home to me a thousand times a day, and I thank Evan for putting it to words. He reminds me to make every lesson necessary.</td>
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<td>Merideth Block ’95</td>
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<td>Evan welcomed me to Earlham in 1986 and immediately initiated me into the wonders of bibliographic instruction. Although I graduated from a top notch liberal arts college and an R-1 university, this was the first time that I came to understand the extent to which faculty and...</td>
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librarians could be truly partners in the teaching and learning process.

Aside from his excellence as a librarian, Evan developed cultural literacy to the nth degree. He had a special knack for discerning what his colleagues cared about and helping us to keep abreast of the most current things that might otherwise pass us by.

I will miss his kindness, his generosity, his total commitment to the enlightenment project of translating information into knowledge that can make the world a better place. The world is a better place because Evan Farber passed through.

Welling Hall

Evan crosses my mind all the time and I will keep thinking of Evan the rest of my life. I was one of his freshman advisees, I worked for him in the library, and I was learning from him all the time about what it is to be a humane scholar, intellectual and citizen. One lesson that left an impact was during May Day -- a friend and I refused to participate in the merry-making because we were, frankly, too embarrassed. We were hiding out in the basement of Carpenter, I think, and, to our even greater embarrassment, we ran into Evan in knickers and tights, bells, etc. But he was not at all pleased and he asked us sternly why we weren't participating. After our stammering about, he called us philistines and turned his back to us and left to join the festivities outside in the sunshine. That lesson was then and there etched into my heart and soul, and if there is only one lesson I learned at Earlham is not to be a philistine.

Another time there was a CPUSA member on campus collecting signatures to get on the ballot and without thinking I signed it. Later that day, I started worrying about this and went to Evan for advice, and he taught me that what I did was a good thing and why. The last I heard from Evan was in the tumultuous days at Earlham in April 2005. Students had done something, and I had written a letter. Again, it was Evan, who understood the passion for freedom and justice, and never, never, was a philistine. Evan, the world is just so much darker without you. Thank you for your light.

Michael

The library hired many students who depended on works-study jobs for their sustenance, particularly in the summer. I was one of them for several years. Working at the library was a very nice experience because we were encouraged to work in various sectors of the library, so we got to learn about how things worked at the library. Although I did not have much contact with Evan Farber, the times that we crossed roads, he was very kind towards me, making the working environment a nice one - at least for the students. As I was about to graduate from Earlham, Evan called me into his office, and enticed me to consider going into library science. I was both surprised and honored that he felt I had enough skills to serve in such capacity. He even took the time to write a letter of recommendation for me in case I decided to pursue such a career. I figured he did this for all students who worked at the library with some consistency. However, it still showed how he made efforts to entice people into the librarian profession and also expressed his appreciation for our efforts at the library.
I am saddened to learn he has passed, but glad that Earlham, I, the
students who worked under his leadership, and the library staff had the
good fortune of having him among us.

Sarah Hernandez ’88

When I came to Earlham as a transfer student in 1972 I was amazed at
how much the library reminded me of the library at Mt. Hermon
School, which had been my favorite place to work, read and relax,
though we had had too little time for the latter. At Mt. Hermon’s
Library we had been encouraged to take off our shoes and that seemed
also allowed at Earlham’s, for example.

My first work-study job before I was hired to run the Indiana Public
Interest Research Group office on campus, was repairing some and
making other kinds of bindings in the library. That was among the most
peaceful indoor jobs I would ever have.

But the biggest impact on me was Evan’s introduction to research in
the social sciences and in periodical literature generally. I have never
spent a better single day with any teacher than that first day with Evan
and a handful of students. This contributed to my great appreciation of
the law and its methods of organizing statutes, decisions and other
materials. I thought that there should be no reason why anyone could
not have a pretty good chance of helping to solve any problem on
earth, or right any wrong as long as he or she had access to a good
library.

My mother became a librarian, or media center director, in mid-
career, and she touched a whole town for a generation, so I know from
another perspective what this phenomenon is about. Probably inspired
by Evan, my brother Michael attended I.U. Library School for a while
after graduating from Earlham -- until he decided to devote himself to
writing and editing the creative work of others. He has now had several
books published.

Working for or with Congress since 1979 I have kept in touch with the
Research Librarians at the Congressional Research Service and
exchanged information and ideas and research sources with them fairly
often. Many of them are about to retire as well.

As Evan first majored in Political Science, could we suggest that
Earlham, IU, and Senators Lugar and Bayh establish in Evan Farber’s
honor, a joint undergraduate and graduate program and chairs in the
Library and its role in Public Policy and Citizenship?

John M. Fitzgerald ’74

I was the last of six kids to go to college in my family and two of my
siblings were already faculty at other universities when I attended
Earlham. One day I was telling my sister about this kind, friendly, but
exactng librarian at my new college, Evan Farber. She went on to tell
me about his many accomplishments and his national prestige. I
wouldn't have learned that from Evan. His gentle humility and
willingness to work directly with students -- on first steps in a library
or complex senior year research was a treasure for Earlham. His is a
face, demeanor, and attitude I vividly remember 27 years later. Thank
you, Evan.
Pat Murphy ’81

When I came to Earlham, we were still using the card catalogue - with cards. I remember Evan as a busy bee hovering and flitting around his hive, but never inaccessible to anyone. I have fond memories of many hours of learning and studying in that warm and artistic library.

Rebecca Johnson Brown ’72

It was startling to me to learn that Evan had died. My first reaction was ‘Oh how sad; he wasn’t that old!’ Seeing that he was born in 1922 was a shock. He was so young in spirit and outlook that one did not think of him as elderly. Evan’s contribution to Earlham’s library, all of us as students and the library community as a whole, is well documented and appreciated. In the last twenty years I have come to treasure him even more as a keeper of our community spirit. When he would come to Portland and attend alumnae events it was always the best of times, because he knew where everyone was, what they were doing and likely had seen them recently. He cared so much about all Earlhamites, was so interested in all of us. He was the glue for those of us far away from campus. And he had the cleverness to marry the lovely Hope! Some say that no one person is irreplaceable, but those people didn’t know Evan.

Judi Davis Umaki ‘65

My fondest memory of Evan happened during my Junior year. I was studying late-ish at the Lilly Library and decided to take a break and blow some bubbles off the balcony on the second floor. Soon after the bubbles started cascading down into the lobby area below, I noticed Evan looking up at me. I thought for sure I was busted and would be escorted, quickly, from the library. Instead, Evan told me to keep doing it. He liked it! His only request was that I try to avoid getting bubbles on the books.

Evan made the library a wonderful place to be. His sense of humor made me realize that being a librarian was a viable career option, and in many ways influenced my decision to become a librarian. I very much appreciate the impact he had on the lives of the students he taught AND the librarians he inspired. He will be missed.

Cheri Smith ’88

Evan’s quiet, thoughtful, mentorship has given me a life long respect for scholarship. His programs at Earlham are the envy of my friends at Bates and Colby College. He will missed by many.

Linda Keniston-Dubocq, MD ’75

Evan Farber greeted me and made me feel at home in Lilly Library the first time I visited Earlham. His excitement about sharing information
was genuine. Evan’s enthusiasm as he introduced how to explore information changed my life. I even became a librarian. For many years I was a librarian in university level, private and public libraries. I am very grateful to have met him for he has really influenced my life tremendously. His directives have lived within me and will continue to live in my quests for knowledge and the pursuit of the truth. Thank you Evan Farber!

Libby Edwards Coss ’81

Evan was a powerful and vivid presence at Earlham in the late ‘60’s, and despite his long and monumentally productive life, I am deeply saddened to hear of his passing.

Two memories: One day in 1966, I returned to the library from a study break in Carpenter, munching absentmindedly on a candy bar. After more than forty years, I still remember that it was a Payday candy bar. As I crossed the lobby and started bounding up the steps to my study carrel, I was ambushed mid-stride by Evan, the Protector of Books, who took me by the arm and commanded me to finish the candy bar on the spot, before taking another step. The rule against food in the library was absolute: no earwig nor cockroach would ever find a crumb of sustenance in his library. Terrified young freshman that I was, I complied. Evan was a commanding presence, a force to be reckoned with.

A dozen years later, I ran into Evan at a conference in San Francisco. I reintroduced myself to him, told him I was working as a post-doc at Stanford University, and reminded him of the candy bar. He said, yes, he remembered the candy bar, and in the next breath asked me whether the library at Stanford was any good or not for what I was doing. No small talk, kiddo, just tell me about your library!

Now I am a college president, and I can value more than ever Evan’s contribution to the cause of preserving and spreading knowledge. He remains for me the paradigm of great librarianship. We will never see his likes again.

Thomas J. Hochstettler, Ph.D. ‘69

Much of my career has revolved around the use of libraries, and I owe a singular debt of gratitude to Evan for helping me to discover the beauty and power of the library.

Phil Webber ’67

I loved Lilly Library as it was in the 1970s. Rightly or not, I attribute the things I love about that library to Evan’s presence and influence. The building seemed inseparable from the man — after all, he greeted me every time I came through the door! It was a place for research and study, but it was also a place where I found beauty and peace.

Judy Hijikata ’76
Though I did not know Evan personally, I was clearly impacted by his approach. I recall an experience I had as a first-year graduate student in which a more senior member of the lab I worked in and I were both at the library seeking information. In a few moments, I had found the exact article I was looking for. My fellow graduate student was stunned. She had no idea how to use the library for even basic information gathering. I was stunned that she had not had this education built into her undergraduate experience from the first year. It was then that I realized the impact Evan's approach had on my own education.

Erika Barthelmess '90

Evan was my academic advisor at Earlham. The best piece of advice he ever gave me when I wasn't sure which classes to take was, “Choose a professor, not a class.” Although at Earlham, we really didn't have any bad professors, that wasn't so much the case in graduate school. And when I myself became an academic advisor at Shippensburg University, passing on that advice helped a number of students avoid falling victims to ineffective teaching and pave the way towards taking charge of their own learning.

No matter how busy Evan Farber was (and he usually was), if I went into the library and mentioned to him that I had a question, he would stop what he was doing and sit down with me to see what I needed. After I graduated, whether in my roles as a Peace Corps volunteer, a teacher, a school director, or a parent, I've often thought about how Evan's quiet attentiveness boosted my confidence and taught me how to empower those around me just by stopping what I was doing and really listening. Thank you, Evan, for being such a positive role model for so many of us.

Marni Jones '89

I will always remember Evan as a scholar and a gentleman. He and his staff were a remarkable resource for all EC students. I remember several times, after 11 p.m. in the all night study room, as Evan was finally leaving for the day, he would always poke his head in and say “Goodnight” to we over-caffeinated students. It has been a year of great loss for EC with the passing of Peter, Bob and Evan.

Brad Johnson '82

Remember your freshman orientation to the library with Jim Kennedy? I remember the card catalog being computerized - and what a BIG deal that was for the time. I don't know when it happened - whether while I was a Richmond Kid using the Earlham library for my first research paper - on orangutans, fyi - or while a freshman or sophomore working at the library for work-study. I remember my 'boss' Leo Chang, and hanging out there on 'my' time too. I learned about so many different kinds of music while at the library - since Earlham had a nifty album collection! And even different kinds of art to view. I remember the 'current' books out on display that opened my eyes to new ways of framing the American experience - down to the social implication of hair styling! The library enriched my life - and I'm sure in more ways than I even know.
I remember all the great learning that happened using those great reference books. Although I loved my classes at Earlham - there was nothing like learning to ‘feed myself’ knowledge, using the library.

Cheryl Williams

Evan was THE face of Lilly Library to me throughout my Earlham career. I believe we served on a committee together at some point, but he was the quintessential library resource. He was interested in what interested the students and ably assisted our research. It was through his professional guidance, the expertise of his staff, that I came to love not only Lilly but academic libraries in general. The faces of Earlham may pass away and change but they are forever etched in our memory as part of the Earlham experience.

Holly Dillon Inglis '74

It was the end of second term in my junior year. I was studying for an upcoming exam as were friends: David Miller (1990), Keith Plutchok (1990), Matt Foote? (1992). We'd been studying for many hours and had reached a crossroads. Our quandary was; would we perform better on our upcoming exams by studying more or would it be better to blow off a little steam (read - have a few drinks at an off campus saloon). We held a brief contest involving flicking a paper football into a waste can to determine our course of action. Evan was always a fan of competition and so observed with keen attention. When we erupted with triumphant yelps he shared in our elation. We explained to him what was at stake and he smiled. With a wink, Evan told us that some of the finest research takes place outside the library, and sent us off with his well wishes for both the evening and our upcoming exams. He told us he was interested in how the results panned out and wanted to know when we got our exam results.

The above anecdote aside, Evan on many occasions gave me formal instruction on research techniques, that served me well as a student then, and serves me well now in my post Earlham professional life. I will always remember the part that his instruction had on what I was able to glean from many of the courses I took at Earlham.

Joshua Hoyt '91

I suspect I stayed in college my first desperately homesick year partly because Evan Farber looked at me in puzzled ways which startled me out of myself. "Do you think your parents are immortal," he asked me one day when I went to him for advice whether to stay in college or drop out. This produced some tears. "They'll be around for awhile," he told me softly. "But you should stay in college." He then went on to questioning me about the bright yellow shade of my tennis shoes. The shoes were the color of neon magic markers. The shoes hurt his eyes, he told me. Could I please keep them under the table. Evan taught me how toughness and humor could help me through the worst paper I ever wrote and the most painful moments of change and transformation. I feel tremendous gratitude to Evan Farber for keeping me grounded when it would have been easier to speed off and away from the real work I needed to do.
Judith Nichols ’84

Evan Farber was a wonderful man and a superb college librarian. One of the things I'm proudest of during my time at Earlham is that I was a student member of the committee that selected him. The library was then housed in a charming but creaky and inadequate building. Its collections and services had lagged badly, and the higher administration had rightly concluded that a major investment was necessary. Evan dramatically improved the whole operation in an astonishingly short time. Soon the far-from-charming but much more adequate Lilly Library was built, and Earlham became a model for innovative librarianship in a small college.

Evan was, in addition, a terrific addition to the community for both faculty and students. Different enough from the Midwestern Quakers who dominated it to stand out, cosmopolitan without being contentious, he represented one of those rare, fortunate personnel decisions that bear unexpectedly rich fruit for decades. To put it less bureaucratically, he was a great friend to a great many people, and even those of us who hadn't seen him in forty years miss him.

Christopher Clausen ’64

Entering Earlham in 1963 as a freshman, I worked a few hours each week at the Lilly Library and enjoyed getting to know Evan Farber and his secretary Hope Nagle whose husband Kenneth I had gotten to know at Quaker Haven prior to his fatal automobile accident. At the library, I noticed with approval as the relationship between Evan and Hope developed into more than a professional one. It was a pleasure more recently to host an Earlham DC Alumni gathering in my home at which Evan was the featured attraction. In my days at Earlham, the library was very central to campus life, and I've appreciated since how important Evan was in making it so.

Allan Kellum ’67

I never knew Evan in any special way other than having been a student who used the library every day and nearly every night over a four year period. But I knew a few things. One was that those students who worked with Evan loved him. Another was that he kept an eye on the students in the library like a kind, yet vigilant owl. You felt intuitively that he cared about the students, his primary readers, first, and the books, second, though he did care about both. And then there was this special kindness he gave me: I went to see him during my junior year and explained that I was having a hard time concentrating due to stress at home, in my family. I was over sensitive to distraction. He smiled and told me that for as long as I needed I could reserve one of the special break-out rooms upstairs. Having a special quiet place to go to got me though a tough winter. That Evan extended this kindness to a student he hardly knew does not surprise me, given all that I've ever heard about him. Thank you, Evan.

Joe Goldiamond ’73
I remember asking Evan to read over the draft I had written for a national essay competition. After reading my paper, he invited me to visit with him and started the conversation with “I hope our friendship can endure what I have to say.” I listened. I learned. I revised. I earned the national award. He cared about clarity of purpose and excellence. He knew that every moment was an opportunity not to be missed.

Etienne Ozorak ’89

More of “”

Goodbye, Evan. I was truly sorry to learn of your passing. I remember your guidance and willingness to help each learner embrace not only the challenges of research and learning; but an appreciation of writing and giving. You set the tone for the six books that I have written, and all the faculty and peers from Earlham have given their underpinning implicit support in my completion of five degrees. You shall be missed…and yet, I know that you shall always be with me. Be at Peace, Evan…and may there be peace to your family in their time of sorrow...

Dr. Lloyd C. Williams ’69

Evan did such a good job and radiated joy in doing it. His sensibilities helped to make Lilly Library a refuge for students, as well as a gateway to research.

Evan and his team gave me a great feeling of confidence in doing bibliographic research, which has proved an irreplaceable and lifelong tool.

Perhaps the greatest tribute to Evan is all the great librarians he has trained. There are so many carrying on the teaching.

Thank you, for a job so very well done.

Melissa Moye ’84

I worked in the library all four years I attended Earlham. Evan was nothing but a gentlemen and teacher at all times. He considered every question worthwhile and deserving of his undivided attention. He definitely made Earlham a better school.

Ronald Wilt ’88

What I most value that I learned from Evan is the “joy of the hunt” in the search for information at the library. Who would have ever thought that the very process of seeking information could be fun? I try to impart this on to my students in my own teaching, and I am indebted to Evan for conveying this to me.

Ben Gorvine ‘94
I still treasure my research packets I received for just about every class I took at Earlham. I show them to friends and they ooh and aaah over how easy it must be for me to do research in a library now. I loved getting stuck when working on research papers. Evan was always so helpful. He was like an eager detective looking for lost Christmas presents. If one route didn’t work he so eagerly switched gears and thought of another path to find the answer. His eagerness always got me very excited about my research.

Erin Carr ’93

I’ll always remember how, during a recession when my Earlham classmates were having trouble landing jobs, Evan encouraged me to accept a morning anchor position I’d been offered at the NBC affiliate in my then-hometown, St. Louis. I was struggling with the decision as I hadn’t yet graduated and some of my professors were understandably concerned about how I would manage to fulfill my requirements. But Evan didn’t waiver. He had for a long time taken me aside in the library to discuss and critique my radio pieces he heard on WHON, the Richmond station. He had high hopes for me and assured me that it would be an opportunity lost if I didn’t go. I went. I thrived in radio. And yes, I finally got my degree. Thank you, Evan!

Barbara Howard ’78

FEBRUARY 18, 2009

No body likes 8 a.m. classes. I remember my 8 a.m. Shakespeare class. We met in Earlham Hall over breakfast. This was one of my favorite classes at Earlham. Evan brought something special to the class. He will be missed.

William Donges ’76

When we attended Earlham, it was a time of many changes. Evan provided an anchor for us. We spent MANY hours in the library and we knew what ever else might be going on, Evan would be at the library and could provide counsel, if needed. Through Evan, we learned to value and appreciate what a wonderful and unique library Earlham was blessed with. Evan was always a special friend. He will be missed. Our prayers are with Cindy and her family.

Sonsee and Gene Hambrick ’73

I wish I’d told this story to Evan Farber; but then, he knew this story so well, in so many ways.

The great learning secret in a school is the librarian.

I met Evan in 1975 as I was following cross references on existentialism and Catholicism and couldn’t find Flannery O’Conner short stories on the shelf. I had read about his many awards and dovetailed efforts with the
Eli Lilly Foundation, but I was unprepared for the profound respect he had for me, a small town Indiana girl looking in the library for answers to life's big questions.

As a school administrator and teacher for more than 30 years, I have told so many young people about Evan Farber, the brilliant, wonderful, quiet man who made the world a better place by his superb work as a librarian.

The story I tell you now, the story of so many great men, is how the very retelling of Evan's life's work, as it touched my young and searching years, has inspired the students who hear it to respect their own passion for learning, and ... as Evan Farber, Librarian Extraordinaire, is the iconic image of Wisdom Waiting I invoke, to go to their school library, be it the local grammar school or a famous institution of higher learning, and engage in a real conversation about ideas with the librarian.

Let me pass along the gratitude of a pre-med student at Brandeis, a chemistry student at Rutgers, and a music student at Wittenberg - current examples of students dismayed at their initial disappointment with college who saw the light in my eyes in describing Evan Farber - and who then went to the school library and found a gentle, brilliant, interested librarian to mentor them.

This is Evan's legacy: an unfolding network of compassionate, rigorous, respectful educators whose honor it is to encourage others, and to be a resource to them. That, and the outstanding, award-winning collections of the EC library!

Thank you, Evan!

Deborah Tonner '77

Through his leadership in undergraduate library instruction, his success in greatly enhancing Earlham's library collections, his leadership roles with national library organizations, and his mentoring of the numerous students who have gone on to careers in library and information science, Evan must rank near the top of Earlham educators that have made the most impact on the college's history and reputation.

I remember the bulletin board in the Lilly Library lobby filled with photocopies of book and magazine article title pages, each with an insightful comment by Evan encouraging others to explore that resource further, along with sayings, notes, short commentaries, etc. I remember Evan's quiet demeanor and his unexpected wit. I remember his professionalism and his love of the college.

The last time I spoke with Evan was during the 30th reunion dinner for the class of 1977. I sat at a table with Evan, who I knew well, and his sister, along with Peter Cline and Bob Southard, neither of whom I had ever met, strangely enough. Evan, while very frail, had the same sparkle in his eye and the same quick mind as he always had. We had a wonderful conversation on a wide range of topics, and I came away from that night impressed by and proud of the high quality of faculty that Earlham has historically attracted. All things must pass, but Earlham has certainly been hit hard lately by the loss of so many Earlham icons.

Evan, you will be sorely missed by a great many people.
Alan Simon ’77

As a freshman at Earlham in 1970 I worked at the circulation desk in Lilly Library and was in awe of Evan. (As a student at Indiana University’s Graduate Library School four years later I was not surprised to hear Evan's name come up in class lectures.) Evan mentored Tom Kirk who, in turn, mentored me as I worked for him in the Science Library my sophomore - senior years. Both of those men made a huge impact on my career in reference work and bibliographic instruction. Although a career change has moved me from the library to the pulpit, I remain deeply grateful to Evan.

Paula DesRochers Bremer ’74

When I transferred to Earlham in my sophomore year from the University of Arizona, imagine how surprised I was to find the library the center of campus life. It was there that you found academic support, intellectual challenge and emotional sustenance. In other words, you found Evan. He forever changed the way I thought about the path to understanding and wisdom.

Nancy Perlman ’65

Several years ago in a conversation with our reference librarian at the University of Southern Maine it came up that I had studied and worked at Earlham. Her eyes brightened at the mention of my experience with the two Earlham libraries. She knew of Evan Farber and thought Earlham’s library was the holy grail of American higher education libraries. To her Evan was the best of the best. I would agree. I still remember my first year at Earlham in 1975-76 learning how to do proper research for class assignments. Evan was the person who taught me. My other memory of Evan was him telling me how to properly treat a book while reading it. While he created an outstanding library and was world renown in librarianship, he also worked one on one with Earlham students.

Stephen Nelson ’80

As a biology major in the early ’70s, Evan Farber taught me how to do library research, an essential skill for writing biology papers. But I don’t think I realized what a gift he had given me until I began graduate school in social work in 1988. We were expected to write papers with appropriate references. The faculty introduced us to the library where all the other students looked around with fear on their faces while my response was simply eagerness to find the stacks and get started. I realized then that I owed my comfort and familiarity doing research in libraries to Evan Farber. So thank you, Evan, for a lifetime of knowing that libraries are my Friend!

Annie ’75
I didn't know Evan personally, but I used Lilly Library from 88-92, and I saw his influence everywhere. He helped shape the academic careers of thousands that he never even met, like me. I was fortunate to attend a college with a top-rate library run by one of the best librarians in the country, if not the world.

Brian Kirchner '92

Evan had retired by the time I started working at Lilly Library during my first year, but he was in the library many days a week and always seemed involved in what was happening on campus. He was a huge help to me when I decided to apply to library science programs, but it wasn't until I started graduate school that I learned how important he has been to the library profession. It seemed that he was always popping up - in class lectures and assigned reading, and later in job interviews as potential employers would always ask about him and his influence at Earlham. I feel so very lucky to have known him and to have learned from him.

Niamh McGuigan '02

I grew up in Richmond as a faculty brat and was a friend of Evan's daughters and of Hope's sons. I was always a little in awe of Evan's four daughters in their (to me) huge house; it seemed like something out of Little Women. Around the library, when I was just a kid and then, briefly, an Earlham student, Evan always behaved as though he expected great things of me. But what we mainly shared was tennis. I must have played hundreds of hours of tennis with Evan, when I was in my early teens and he was — well — a grownup. He had strange slices and chops as a player and enormous energy, but he also had a wonderful sense of humor, making jokes along the way and, in some way I can't quite describe, conveying his own wisdom about life. He played tennis very seriously and he played for fun. Sometimes exotic visitors joined us on the court, such as our local congressman, David W. Dennis. Dennis, I think, was a Republican, and Evan thought we should lay a wager on the game. If our side won, Rep. Dennis would change his vote. Evan was a wonderful, utterly distinctive man. I feel very lucky to have known him.

Chris Benfey '77

I suspect I became a journalist in part because of Evan. He helped me realize that in order to find information you need, you must know not only what resources to turn to, but what questions to ask. In retrospect I see that this applied not only to our studies but to our lives.

I'm writing a column about Evan along these lines. I would appreciate hearing from anyone who would care to share something on the subject. You may contact me at lstepp@aol.com.

Laura Sessions Stepp '73

I received the sad news of the passing of Evan Farber and I am deeply moved when I remember the calm, intelligent, compassionate Evan
who helped me integrate in the Earlham community in the spring 2001 when I first came as a fulbright exchange professor. My office was in the library. We became friends, and in my second term at Earlham between 2003 and 2006 we used to discuss a lot on Middle East issues and interfaith dialogue. He was an open, peaceful and courageous believer in the human nature and in friendship and solidarity between people of the world. My sincere condolences go to his family as well to all Earlham family. People like Evan are rare nowadays and we need a lot to compensate this loss.

Saoud El Mawla

I just learned of Evan’s death from the professor of a grad course I am taking through ISU, in Library Science. I have not processed it as yet, but I know that the loss is huge! Evan was my boss when I worked in the library, he and Leo. To have worked with such the Ultimate Librarian, it was an honor. And really cool, and fun, besides. I hope that everyone with a wonderful memory posts them here, in honor of Evan. and libraries.

Anne Kirchgraber McKee ‘82