WAVES come ashore at UNI

Surf on over to the Rod Library Digital Collections and check out the history of WAVES on campus. The WAVES (Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Service) in this case consisted of women serving as U.S. Navy volunteers during World War II. During the war Iowa State Teachers College (today’s UNI) provided housing and facilities for the WAVES initial instruction phase, which involved five weeks of basic training. After basic training at ISTC, these women moved on to other locations for specialized training and eventually filled support positions in the massive war effort. The WAVES on Campus collection contains many photos of the “boots” (as the WAVES in training were known) as they became a fixture on the ITSC campus. You can also read a contemporary description of the WAVES program as profiled in the January 1943 issue of The Alumnus magazine. Browse through the WAVES on Campus and other digital collections by visiting http://cdm.lib.uni.edu or by following the Digital Collections link on the Rod Library home page. By Bill Maravetz, Technical Services.

Graphic Novels

Around the turn of the century comics were inexpensive and a form of reading entertainment for children and adults alike. The picture books, called comics, which are now called graphic novels, helped students and adults become interested in reading, thereby causing additional interest in different genres of literature. According to Debra Viadero, in her article entitled Scholars See Comics as no Laughing Matter, President “Barack Obama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu credit comic books with awakening their love of reading.” This article is printed in Education Week, February 11, 2009.

The fable of the Monkey King is woven throughout this story into the present time to give readers a feeling of what it is like to master discipline, show friendship, and visualize the larger picture of life.

While students are reading graphic novels they are increasing their literacy passegeway toward a superior learning initiative. By Amy Yates, Special Collections and University Archives.