

SPRING 2002

DREW

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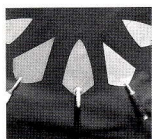
IS THE LIBRARY RELEVANT
IN AN ELECTRONIC AGE?

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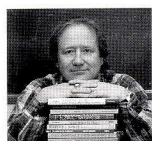
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An exploration of how Drew University Library has become an information hub rather than a repository for print materials.



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John T. Cunningham C'38 traces the brief history of the University archives and discloses some of the treasures there.



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Four of Drew's faculty reveal their leisure-time pursuits outside the classroom and lab.

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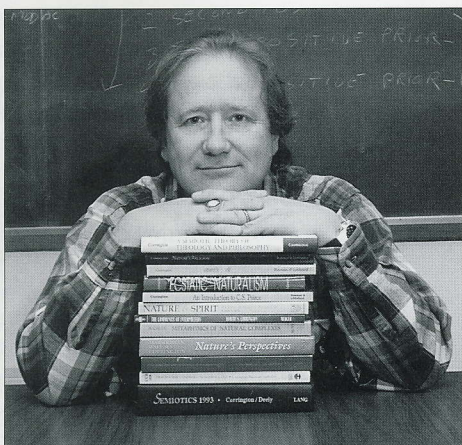
“[It was] like an avalanche inside a volcano.”

—SCOTT SHIELDS C'76,
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONAL
AT THE WORLD TRADE CENTER DISASTER SITE.



Two Miles a Minute

It's a common daydream: donning a helmet and climbing into the driver's seat; buckling into the multipoint restraint system. The engine responds seemingly to pure thought; the clutch is out and tires scream; down the track, inches from the wall; accelerating, 100...110...120...



At this point, the phone usually rings, dragging most of us back to the mundane tasks that sent us journeying in the first place.

For Robert Corrington, the dream continues as he nears the first turn.

“At this point, you can’t just touch the brakes,” he explains, “you need to almost slam on them, while maintaining control and setting up to enter the turn with the car in the best possible position and attitude. There are so many variables that you can never do it perfectly—there’s always room for improvement.”

Usually, professors of philosophical theology don’t deal much with hard corners and long straightaways. But for Corrington, a day running his 300hp Porsche 911 offers a unique and effective way to clear the mind.

“The academic world can be very small and cramped,” he says. “Car racing is a complete change for me. I’m never unhappy when I’m in my car—it’s like an antidepressant without the side effects.”

Corrington is a member of the Porsche Club of America’s North Jersey chapter. The club leases time at professional tracks like Pocono Raceway and Watkins Glen, giving members opportunities to unleash their speed fantasies safely and in style. Drivers don’t actually race each other, they compete against the clock and the track.

Club members get to race at as many as 11 events a year, usually enjoying four half-hour runs per day; but before they get to set a tire on the track, their cars are thoroughly inspected.

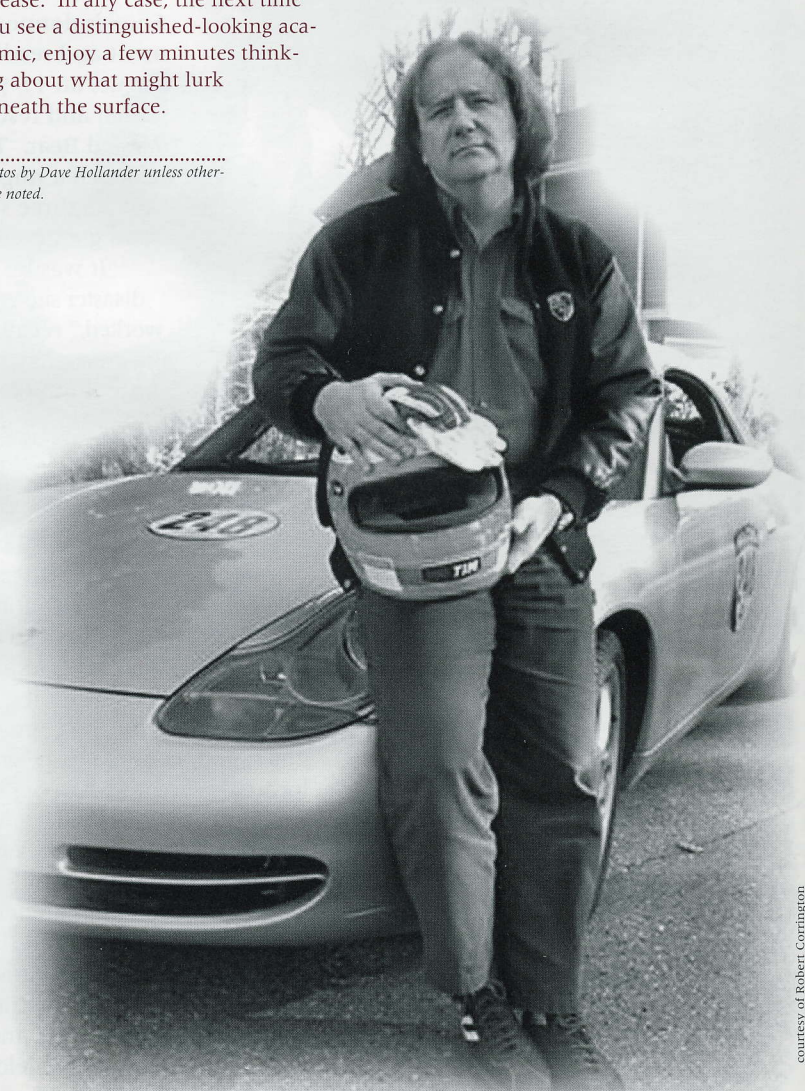
“They’re pretty fussy about safety issues,” says Corrington. “Each car must pass a ‘tech check’ and be evaluated by a test driver. Everyone is committed to a safe day of racing.”

When they’re not running their cars, members do “track work” in the pits or clocking tower in support of other drivers. It’s all exciting and fun, but nothing compares to getting up to speed out on the track.

“Driving in these events has taught me that power isn’t evil,” Corrington explains, “and that the creative use of power can become almost sacred. To use this power optimally, a driver must develop a relationship with the machine—effectively making it an extension of his personality.”

Drew faculty extend themselves every day by transferring knowledge and helping students develop intellectual power. What they do in their own time helps support their mission by providing a little distraction and release. In any case, the next time you see a distinguished-looking academic, enjoy a few minutes thinking about what might lurk beneath the surface.

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 Photos by Dave Hollander unless otherwise noted.



Robert Corrington, professor of philosophical theology; racing from the academic world

courtesy of Robert Corrington

FASCINATING FACULTY

photo courtesy of Robert Corrington



Ever wonder what Drew faculty do in their time away from the classroom? Robert Corrington, professor of philosophical theology, and three other faculty members tell about their latest leisure pursuits in the feature "Tales Out of School," page 19.