

# F O C U S

THE FRIENDS OF THE GOUCHER COLLEGE LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

## Library Awarded Prestigious Special Collections Grant

*Funding to support cataloging of rare books and papers*

*By Jennifer Spieler*

Thanks to the team of Special Collections Librarian and College Archivist Tara Olivero, Professor of English Arnold Sanders, College Librarian Nancy Magnuson, Librarians Cindy Ogden and Barbara Snead, and student Cassie Brand, the Julia Rogers Library was recently awarded a \$198,121 grant to catalog Special Collections items.

Awarded by the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR), with generous funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Cataloging Hidden Special Collections & Archives grant is the largest the library has ever received. The funds will be used to support the project "Mapping Special Collections for Research and Teaching at Goucher College." The team hopes this project will "serve as a model for small liberal arts colleges that could teach undergraduates to conduct bibliographic analysis and description with under-utilized special collections and limited resources." Goucher librarians have already received several calls for advice from other small colleges who are now inspired to apply for a CLIR grant.

The CLIR grant includes funding to hire three special collections professionals for one year: a librarian, a cataloger, and a project associate. The project will include materials from the James Wilson Bright Collection; papers from writer H.L. Mencken and wife, writer and Goucher alumna Sara Haardt Mencken; the Chrystelle Trump Bond Dance and Music Collection; and the Alberta and Henry Burke papers and Jane Austen Research Collection. Cataloging will increase access and opportunity for students, faculty, and scholars to use these materials. Other initiatives to promote student research in Special Collections & Archives are under development and will be announced in the coming months.

Goucher's project was one of 15 selected from 118 applications, and Goucher was the only small college to receive a grant. Congratulations to the project team for all their hard work and success!



**Top: Sheet music, ca. 1844, Chrystelle Bond Dance and Music Collection. Bottom: Cassie Brand '09 analyzing a book from the Bright Collection to be cataloged.**  
Photo by Kate Dannals

**SPRING 2009**

Vol. 53, No. 2

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## President's Update

By Cori Rich Tyner '82

Happy New Year.

As I look out my window at the Alumnae/i House, I can see the almost-complete Athenaeum. The building is quite impressive, and I am so amazed at its magnitude. If you have not yet seen it or taken a tour, please come back this April during Alumnae/i Weekend to do so.

The Athenaeum is scheduled to be completed this coming summer, and the library will then be moving to its new home. We know many of you have fond memories of the current library, and we would like to invite you to a reception to say "farewell" to Julia Rogers on Sunday, April 26, at 9 a.m. An invitation will be mailed to you soon.

Thank you all for your support in meeting our goal of naming a group-study room in the Athenaeum. We have now paid off our \$75,000 campaign commitment and can return our energies to the many other kinds of support we want to provide our library. We are extremely excited about the Friends of the Library Room, and we hope you are, too!

Our Annual Meeting, at which we will elect new officers, will be held on Monday, April 6, 2009, at 3 p.m. After the meeting, we will present the fifth annual Julia Rogers Research Prizes. This year, the prize is a charter participant in the first Student Symposium being held that same day, so there will be many opportunities to view the different kinds of student work being presented.

Have a wonderful spring, and I look forward to seeing you this coming year.

Cori Rich Tyner '82  
President

## Personalizing the Burke Collection

*Public talks showcase a love affair with books*

By Jennifer Spieler

Many are familiar with Goucher College's internationally known Jane Austen Collection, but how many are familiar with the history of its collectors, Henry and Alberta Burke '28? College Librarian Nancy Magnuson had the opportunity this past December to speak about the Burkes to an audience at the Omaha Public Library, in celebration of what would have been Jane Austen's 233rd birthday. Titled "A Collector's Love Story: The Henry and Alberta Burke Collection at Goucher College," the talk touched on not only how the Burkes and their collection came together but also how the collection has provided a lasting legacy to Goucher College.

The Omaha presentation grew out of an October appearance by Nancy and English professor Carol Phippen at the Annual General Meeting of the Jane Austen Society of North America and earlier presentations by both Nancy and Carol at various on- and off-campus events. According to Nancy, "people always ask such good questions that we find ourselves doing more research so we can incorporate new information."

Amassed over 45 years, the Burke Collection is rich with Jane Austen first and variant editions, books about the Regency period, and the personal papers of the Burkes. Also included is an extensive set of notebooks of more ephemeral materials kept by Alberta during her lifetime, citing any and every reference to Jane Austen she could find. When asked why she was so drawn to Austen, it's been said that Alberta would respond only with a quizzical look, as if the person had asked, "Why do you like fine steak?"

Alberta Hirshheimer met Henry Burke through his sister-in-law Sarah Rosenberg Burke, also of Goucher's class of 1928. Their families each fostered a love of books and culture from early childhood. Alberta and Henry married in 1930 and their life together was centered around a love of the arts, travel, and reading.

Speaking to public groups about the collection provides the opportunity not only to talk about the materials but also to share wonderful anecdotes about the Burkes themselves. For example, one item that's not part of the Burke Collection is a lock of Jane Austen's hair. Alberta had actually



**Alberta and Henry Burke, around the time of their marriage. Photo courtesy of the Henry and Alberta Hirshheimer Burke Papers, Goucher College Library.**

purchased one; however, at an Austen meeting in England, after hearing complaints of Americans buying up all of Austen's relics, Alberta is quoted as whispering to her husband that she would "give them the damn hair." And she did. That lock is still on display at the Chawton House Museum in England.

Alberta Burke first approached Goucher in 1939 to inquire about donating her collection to the college, and her life's work has enriched Goucher since its arrival at the library in 1975. The collection has given the library great visibility, including the receipt of a prestigious John Cotton Dana Award in 2003 for a public relations campaign and the biennial Burke scholar-in-residence program that draws senior scholars to Goucher for research and work with students.

Plans are in the works for several more presentations this year on the Burkes—at Broadmead in Cockeysville, for the Baltimore Bibliophiles in November, and for Maryland JASNA when they tour the Athenaeum for the first time next December. Nancy's talk at the Omaha Public Library has also been preserved on digital podcast. To hear it firsthand, head to [www.omahapubliclibrary.org/events/streaming.html](http://www.omahapubliclibrary.org/events/streaming.html).

## From the College Librarian

By Nancy Magnuson

I'm delighted to welcome Yvonne Lev back to Goucher as distance-learning librarian. Yvonne was our collection development librarian from 1985 to 1990 and then joined the staff of Cook Library at Towson University. Yvonne retired from TU in 2007 after serving in several positions, including acting university librarian. As part-time distance-learning librarian, Yvonne will work with Goucher's limited-residency graduate students to ensure their access to library resources.

We have filled one of the positions for our CLIR grant project and are busily recruiting for two more. Cassie Brand '09 will be working part-time as project associate until she graduates in May, after which she will be a full-time employee for the duration of the project. Cassie has been a student employee in Special Collections & Archives and we're glad that she wants to stay on before beginning graduate studies in library science.

We are also recruiting for a new position, director of library preservation, which has been funded by a generous bequest from the estate of Marie Ruzicka Feldmann '27.

This semester, the library will have several activities to honor the memory of Julia Rogers, as we prepare to move out of the building named for her. Please stop by to see the exhibits about Julia Rogers—the woman and the library. Please check our web page at [www.goucher.edu/library](http://www.goucher.edu/library) to learn about our “Celebrating Julia” events.

Our first Sally Barnes Intern, Scott Davis '10, has been researching the college's architectural history and recently presented his work “Building a Greater Goucher: The History

of the Towson Campus” to the Barnes family.

In February, Instruction Librarian James Huff chaired a session titled “The Role of Libraries and Librarians in the First-Year Experience” at the 28th Annual Conference on the First-Year Experience, in Orlando, FL.

Parts of our Jane Austen Collection have been doing some traveling. The collection was highlighted as part of an exhibit at the Frederick Public Library in January in conjunction with a discussion series on the theme of love and forgiveness, which included a lecture on *Sense and Sensibility*. We also loaned several items to the Historic Odessa (Delaware) Foundation for their exhibition titled “A Jane Austen Christmas.”

The Athenaeum has generated a lot of interest outside the college, as well as questions from other libraries about what it is we're doing. Recent library and building site visitors have included staff from the Loyola-Notre Dame Library, York College, and the Sheridan Libraries at Johns Hopkins. We especially enjoyed hosting Nancy Venditti Gauss '76, who is director of library services at Western State College of Colorado. Nancy visited in December with her mother, Nancy Orth Venditti '50, and sister. We were also visited by *Chronicle of Higher Education* reporter Scott Carlson, and the Athenaeum is mentioned in this CHE podcast <http://chronicle.com/media/audio/v55/i14/techtherapy>. And, we had a great tour with Senator Barbara Mikulski in December. The Athenaeum has even been featured on a quilt square coordinated by IT Librarian Margaret Guccione as part of a Maryland Library Association quilt project.

## Save the Date

September 9-12, 2009

The grand opening and dedication of the Athenaeum and the kick-off of the 125th Anniversary of Goucher College



## New Membership

Yes, I wish to join the Friends of the Goucher College Library. My contribution is enclosed.

Please make your check payable to Friends of the Goucher College Library. Mail this form and your check to Friends of the Goucher College Library, Julia Rogers Library, Goucher College, 1021 Dulaney Valley Road, Baltimore, MD 21204.

- Benefactor (\$500 or more)
- Sustaining Friend (\$250)
- Contributing Friend (\$100)
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- Friend (\$25)
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Faculty, staff, faculty and staff emeriti, first-decade alumnae/i, and student membership level

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# Digitization Project Promotes Preservation

*Goucher partners with PALINET initiative*

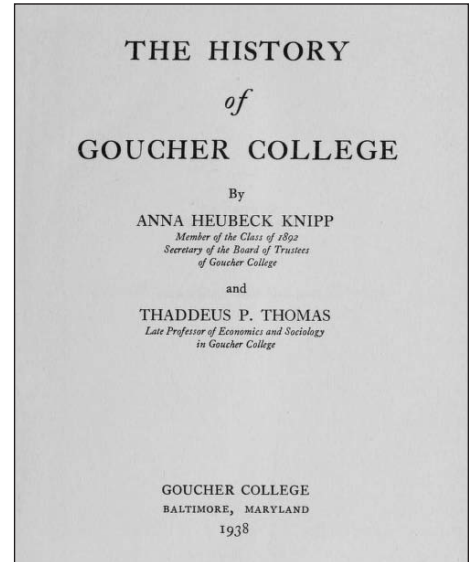
*By Cassie Brand, student liaison*

To increase awareness and access to Goucher's Special Collections, the Julia Rogers Library decided to partner with PALINET (Philadelphia Area Library Network) this past summer on a pilot project for digitizing collections. The project focused on digitizing unique items in 14 libraries from the mid-Atlantic region that would be accessible online. The digitized books will be available to the general public, and the digital file will be preserved, allowing rare or brittle books to be used without potential damage to the original object.

Each book sent to the Internet Archive digitization site is personally handled and tracked by the Internet Archive team. The books are digitized by hand, ensuring that all pages are correctly captured and the books are gently handled.

Goucher has contributed three items to the project: *History of Goucher College* by Anna Heubeck Knipp and Thaddeus P. Thomas, *History of Goucher College, 1930-1985* by Frederic O. Musser, and *Reminiscences of Thirty Years in Baltimore* by Lilian Welsh, and we will continue to digitize items important to Baltimore and Goucher history.

Digitizing items will promote use and raise awareness about the scope and content of Goucher's collections. Anyone—on campus or around the world—can access these texts by going to [www.archive.org/details/goucher\\_college](http://www.archive.org/details/goucher_college) or by searching for Goucher College at the Internet Archive Homepage, found at [www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org). Users can browse the books using the "flip book" viewer and can search the texts by keyword.



**Knipp and Thomas' text is now accessible world-wide, thanks to Goucher's partnership with PALINET.**

Friends of the Goucher College Library  
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