

F O C U S

THE FRIENDS OF THE GOUCHER COLLEGE LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

The Goucher Library On-Line

by Iveta Hagelis, with special assistance from Linda Fowble, Margaret Guccione, and Randy Smith



From left to right: Margaret Guccione, Linda Fowble, Nancy Magnuson, and Randy Smith

As computer technology has invaded and pervaded every corner of our lives, so too has it affected the library. Gone are the days of the card catalog, that huge wooden structure standing at attention just inside the library entrance. Row after row, column after column of tiny drawers filled with 3 x 5 cards informed students of all the books to be found in the library's collection. Now you find computer stations where OLLI (the on-line catalog) does all the work locating the books at the Goucher library. No longer do you see students hauling those back-breaking volumes of the *Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature* to their tables. Instead, much research is conducted in front of a computer terminal where students point and click their way through WilsonWeb. For any alumnae/i who have not set foot inside a college library since graduation day, to do so now would be like entering a foreign country.

At www.goucher.edu/library Did you know that the Julia Rogers Library is found in two places? It is not just the building on the quad between Van Meter Hall and Kelley Lecture Hall. It can also be visited in cyberspace at www.goucher.edu/library. Anyone with Internet access can, from any location, access OLLI, enjoy on-line exhibits from the library's special collections and archives, and search through many specialized and general databases. Goucher students, faculty and staff, or any individual using a computer terminal in the Julia Rogers Library have full use of all the resources/databases that Goucher has to offer.

Margaret Guccione, information technology librarian, is the person in charge of maintaining the website and making it simple and easy to get around quickly. Design and navigation within the site is all-important. People entering the library through the web page need everything to be clear:

What's there? Where do they need to go? How do they get there? Too much clutter will only confuse them. Links from the front page need to follow what Margaret calls the "three-click rule." That is, from the front page people will go to the second tier, then to a third tier to get their information. Beyond that they will not bother. And then they have to be able to get back out.

Ever since vendors started providing databases in web format, librarians have succeeded in making vast scholarly resources available to today's students in a format with which they are most familiar. JSTOR, Infotrac, Ebsco, WilsonWeb, Lexis-Nexis—these are all familiar terms to many students and faculty. A database gives users two things: first, the full text of a long run of many periodicals and second, a search engine that allows them to find the content for which they are looking. Each discipline, each subject area now has vendors offering subscriptions. But these databases are expensive, costing from \$1,000 to \$28,000 depending on the materials offered and the number of allowed simultaneous users. This puts a strain on budgets, which is why more and more consortial arrangements have sprung up between college libraries.

Goucher's Julia Rogers Library, like all libraries, is constantly evolving, constantly upgrading its hardware, upgrading skills. It must stay competitive because students and their parents expect it, faculty require it. Years ago a library was defined as a room or a building housing a collection of books. Today a library is more than that. It is a place in which literary, historic, artistic, and reference materials

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FOL

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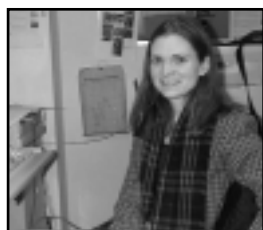
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College Librarian

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Student Employee of the Year

by Linda Fowble



We were pleased that Stephanie Creech '02 was awarded the Goucher Student Employee of the Year Award for 2001. Hired as a freshman, Stephanie is a computer science major and has been working with computer projects both in class and on the job. Most recently Stephanie completed a project for the FOL displaying all of

their newsletters since 1954. This year long project involved scanning, detailed editing, and creating a web page. Stephanie also learned Macromedia Flash to animate the opening screen of the web page.

Stephanie's work habits are impeccable. She is always on time for her job and works quietly on her projects without delay. Stephanie is dependable, ever so pleasant, and she also exhibits advanced computer skills.

Please visit the Friends of the Library Newsletter page at www.goucher.edu/library/av/Friends/index.htm to see her excellent work. Congratulations to Stephanie for all her hard work and dedication. The award is certainly well deserved.

Library Online

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of all kinds are stored and made available in a variety of hard copy and electronic formats.

Teaching Library Tech

Each new academic year Randy Smith, reference and access services librarian, faces an interesting challenge: introducing a diverse group of incoming students to the high-tech resources available at the Julia Rogers Library. Some of the freshmen hail from high schools that have libraries on the cutting edge of new technology and are already familiar with several scholarly databases. Other students have never gone beyond what they could find on Yahoo or Hotbot. And still others may have only conducted research using the resources available on the shelves of their small school

libraries or limited public libraries. Randy's goal is to bring all of these students to the gateway of the library's vast computer resources and to teach them how to do high-quality research in the most efficient way.

The staff of the Julia Rogers Library has developed a formal instruction program for freshmen. Librarians teach a three-part program woven into the students' required English courses and Frontiers seminars. Each of the three sessions encompasses its own theme and purpose.

In session one, *Wealth of Information*, students are given a tour of the library in order to familiarize themselves with the physical layout of the building. Then several of the databases are demonstrated so that students can get a sense of the power and importance of electronic information. The ease with which the library's databases can be accessed is the major emphasis.

Session two covers *Quality of Information*. The Goucher library subscribes to over fifty reputable databases. Some of these are general and others are subject-specific. Students are taught to navigate these subject-specific databases in order to be able to access the most scholarly sources of information on any given subject. A problem with modern electronic databases is that they are not intuitive. If someone is not shown the correct paths to take, much time will be wasted or, even worse, the best information will go untouched. Although students are more familiar with searching the web, Randy says that in most cases "web search engines should be their last option, not their first." The sources and the quality of information found on the web should be viewed with a critical eye. Good research requires perseverance and a demand for the best information.

Session three concerns *Depth of Information*. One should keep in mind that electronic information has not been around that long. Most Internet search engines have been operating for only a few years. Many

From the College Librarian

by Nancy Magnuson

There have been a few more changes in the library staff since I last reported to you. In April circulation supervisor Jean Marie Precious departed to pursue a degree at the Simmons Graduate School of Library and Information Science. Because the responsibilities of that operation and related activities had become increasingly complex in recent years, we opted to develop the new position of access services librarian. We were fortunate to find a candidate very close to home. Susan Ezell, introduced in the last issue of *Focus* as a part-time reference librarian, assumed the new responsibilities in June. In November, Muriel Jones, who recently retired from Towson University's Cook Library, will join us in the part-time reference spot.

We were sorry to say goodbye to Sheila Parsons, cataloging assistant since 1984, who resigned for health reasons. Her replacement, hired in June, is Jean Lindstrom. Jean was most recently a cataloging assistant at the Academy of Art College in San Francisco.

There will be one more search to conduct this fall, as reference librarian Deborah McKinney has resigned to accept a position at the Foundation Center in Washington D.C.

Serving as an intern in the archives this semester is Malissa Ruffner '77, a 2000 Mears Fellow who is entering her second year at the University of Maryland College of Information Studies. The 2001 fellowship was awarded to Debra Elfenbein '83, who has now completed her graduate program at the Pratt Institute, School of Information and Library Science. Learn more about the Mears Fellowship at www.goucher.edu/library/mea/rsfund.htm

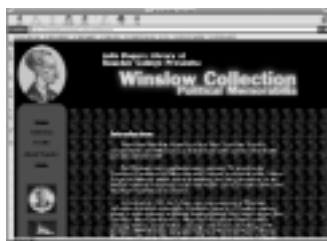
We also selected our first Burke Austen scholar-in-residence. Mary Favret, associate professor of English at Indiana University, will spend a week in residence at Goucher, conducting research in the Jane Austen Collection and working with students and faculty. She will give a public lecture the evening

of March 5, 2002 in the Alumnae and Alumni House. In other news, we recently accepted the archives of the Jane Austen Society of North America.

We were sad to hear of the recent death of Joan Austen-Leigh, JASNA co-founder, to whom Goucher awarded an honorary doctorate in May.

In May, at a festive afternoon event, we honored Sara Gilger Barnes '45 on the tenth anniversary of her volunteer service. Sally's energy and generous gift of time have been a true inspiration to all of us in the Julia Rogers Library! We were also proud that the AAGC recognized this outstanding alumna with the 2001 Ethel Cockey Award for service to the college.

Another special volunteer was honored in September, on the occasion of her 97th birthday. Jo Fiske is a member of the Friends of the Goucher Archives, that sometimes-raucous group of alumnae/i and emeriti known as the FOGAEI.



Check out these two library pages www.goucher.edu/library/av/Donnybrook/index/htm and www.goucher.edu/library/av/Winslow/index.htm

subscription databases only go back to the early 1980s (although this is rapidly changing). It turns out that it is still necessary for students to learn to go back to hard-copy sources like the *Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature* to help them find those scholarly journals that have not yet been entered into commercial and academic databases. So students are sent full circle—they are introduced to all of the advantages of doing research using electronic sources of information but at the same time shown the need for learning how to go back to hard-copy sources as well.

Members of the Friends of the Goucher College Library are invited to visit the library to learn about on-line resources and how to access databases. Just stop by the reference desk and someone can get you set up at a computer station and help you get started. The Julia Rogers Library can offer you many resources not found on the public web or at your neighborhood library.

Goucher's Digital Library
One purpose of a digital library is to make use of multimedia and computer technology in order to promote preservation of and access to rare and special collections. Items at the Goucher library that have been too fragile to be handled or even too sensitive to be exhibited in bright areas (for example the Round Robin letters) can now be made available to students, faculty, and the public. Cameras and scanners create digital versions of images. These high quality pictures of texts, manuscript materials and ephemera, can be

downloaded directly to computers, via the web, ready to use.

In the Spring of 2000, librarian Barbara Simons and Linda Fowble, multimedia specialist, wrote a proposal entitled "Unveiling Hidden Treasures" for a Goucher Strategic Initiative Grant with the idea of digitizing some of the incredible treasures found in the special collections area of the Julia Rogers Library. Once the \$4000 grant was awarded, Linda and Barbara

began purchasing, setting-up and testing the equipment needed for this task. With Barbara's knowledge of special collections and Linda's knowledge of the equipment, the partners moved forward, experimenting with a wide range of materials. Images of objects, such as a Jane Austen mug, were rotated via the web, glass biology slides were scanned, costumes were examined, and newspaper clippings were photographed.

After Barbara's retirement in Fall 2000, Linda continued to work on several projects with the help of six student employees. Rebecca Letsome '02, Stephanie Creech '02, Phong Le '03, Christopher King-Gates '03, John Wu '04, and Adam Hill '04 helped to make web-ready a collection of Jane Austen postcards, the first

Donnybrook, the Winslow Collection of Political Memorabilia, and all back-issues of the Friends of the Goucher College Library newsletters. In addition, Dr. William Johnson, professor of biological sciences, utilized the equipment to digitize hundreds of underwater 35 mm slides to be used in his classroom lectures.

Work on Goucher's digital library will continue under the Strategic Initiative Grant. Linda's plans are to add more web pages and to make these resources available on CD-ROMs for classroom use. To peruse the valuable work done by Linda and her staff, just follow the links directly from the Julia Rogers Library web page, www.goucher.edu/library.

Mark Your Calendar...

Oct. 16, 2001
Sanford Ungar, Goucher's new President, speaks to the Friends of the Library. 2 p.m. in the Alumnae/i House.

Oct. 31, 2001
Tour of the Free Library and the Library of the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia.

Feb. 2, 2002
Lecture by Richard Hall author of *Uninvited Guests*. 1:30 pm. in Merrick Lecture Hall.

March 5, 2002
Lecture by Mary Favret, Burke Austen Scholar in Residence

May 2002
Annual Meeting

New Membership

Yes, I wish to join the Friends of the Goucher College Library!
Enclosed is my contribution.

Make 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)

Patron (\$50)

Friend (\$25)

Associate Friend (\$10)

Faculty, staff, emeriti faculty and staff, first-decade alumnae/i, and student membership level

Name

Street address

City State Zip code

Telephone number

E-mail address

Books from the Friends!

The purchasing power of the Goucher faculty has been extended with the development of the Friends of the Library Fund. Thanks to a gift from the Friends, faculty can order books of general interest or outside their own area of the curriculum without committing their departmental funds (which are assigned from college funds). Having this avenue available is a great way to support the growth of the collection, especially as publishing becomes so much more interdisciplinary.

In addition to the Friends funds, the Julia Rogers Library has been the fortunate beneficiary of many gifts and bequests over the years. The following is just a sample of the endowed funds that provide continuing income for specified purposes. Other funds will be featured in the next issue of *Focus*.

- **AKR Fund** Anne Knobel Robertson was the wife of Goucher's fifth President. this fund is for the purchase of "books she would have enjoyed reading."
- **Bauernschmidt Fund** Marie Bauernschmidt was a prominent Baltimore educator, this fund was established

by her niece, Carolyn Langfitt Payne '49, to purchase library materials in all present and future formats in the field of education.

- **Falley Library Fund** Established in memory of Eleanor Falley, Goucher college librarian from 1919 to 1948, by Marie Edel '30 with her royalties as an editor of *The Riverside Shakespeare*. The fund supports library staff development.
- **Flowers Fund** In honor of Mary Ross Flowers '28, director of admissions from 1949 to 1973, established with a bequest from Clifford W. and Jean Arthur Reid '27 to support materials for new courses and new programs.
- **Wertheim Fund** Established in honor of Toby Wertheim '68, by her CBS News colleague Dan Rather, for the purchase of library resources in history.
- **Yousem Fund** The library's newest fund, established by Stella Platnik Yousem '54, supports projects related to the Jane Austen Collection.

Highlights From the Annual Meeting



Merle Phillips, left, and Rhoda Dorsey, addressing the audience at the Friends Annual Meeting.



On May 23, 2001 the Friends of the Goucher College Library (FOL) held its annual meeting at the Alumnae/i House. Merle Phillips, Friends president, reported that membership has increased over last year by 31% to 272. The year's programs included lectures by author Kate Waters and by Professor Julie Jeffrey, and a special tour of two of New York City's finest libraries. The Friends would like to pursue new fundraising activities, and welcomes input and assistance from the members-at-large. Merle ended her report by emphasizing that FOL continues to support future plans to

renovate and expand the Julia Rogers Library.

The featured speaker at this year's meeting was Dr. Rhoda Dorsey, president emerita of Goucher, who presented three films from the college's archives. The films are in very fragile condition. Dr. Dorsey and a group of volunteers, under the direction of Sydney Roby, special collections librarian, are working to preserve these treasures and to catalog the names of faces on the films for the archival record. This group has been working anonymously, motivated by a shared desire to carefully preserve Goucher's past.

Friends of the Goucher College Library
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