

# F O C U S

THE FRIENDS OF THE GOUCHER COLLEGE LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

## FOL Spring Lecture to Feature Professor Julie Jeffrey

Date: April 4, 2001  
Time: 7:30 p.m.  
Location: Merrick Lecture Hall

Does it make a difference that films distort history? How far should a filmmaker be allowed to stray from historical fact in order to achieve entertainment goals? Are you savvy enough to view historical films on big Hollywood budgets with healthy skepticism?

These and other important questions will be addressed on April 4 by Julie Jeffrey, Goucher Professor of History, during her lecture "Filmmakers and History: Steven Spielberg's *Amistad*". Professor Jeffrey has

authored a book entitled *The Great Silent Army of Abolitionism: Ordinary Women in the Anti-Slavery Movement* (University of North Carolina Press, 1998) and, most recently, an article entitled "*Amistad* (1997): Steven Spielberg's 'True Story' for *Historical Journal of Film, Radio and Television* (March 2001). She developed a particular interest in *Amistad* when asked to lecture at a graduate seminar on film and history at the University of London last year. "The abolitionist movement was the most important reform movement in pre-Civil War history", Professor Jeffrey

says. "Why isn't it dramatic enough to be shown accurately?"

Using *Amistad* for analysis, a film she believes has many strengths including its presentation of African culture, Professor Jeffrey will explore the standards one should use when evaluating a film. For example: What are the goals? How are particular topics chosen? What choices have to be made?

Those planning to attend this event would benefit from having previously viewed the film. Professor Jeffrey will also be showing film clips during her talk. This promises to be a very interesting evening!

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## In this issue

### New York Library Tour a Big Success

On November 30, 2000, 24 enthusiastic book-lovers, in the capable hands of Rhoda Dorsey and Bev Winters, toured two of this country's finest libraries: The New York Public Library and The Morgan Library. The trip was co-sponsored by the Goucher Alumnae/i Tours Committee and Friends of the Goucher College Library. This first-time joint effort was a great success and has already launched plans to organize future tours to other renowned libraries.

First on the tour was the New York Public Library. Here the group was given an overview of the library's



interesting beginning. The group was then apprised of the recent refurbishings and improvements completed in the majestic Rose Main Reading Room and the Bill Blass Reference Room. A

visit to the Rare Book Rooms and Special Collections as well as a brief introduction to the library's current exhibit, a multi-dimensional presentation called "Utopia: The Search for the Ideal Society in the Western World," were special features of the tour.

The second half of the day was spent at the Morgan Library. The highlight here, of course, was the Jane Austen Collection. Ms. Leslie Fields, associate curator in the Department of Literary and Historical Manuscripts, showed the group several examples of the manuscript materials in the library's collection. These included letters written by Jane Austen to her sister Cassandra, parts of manuscripts, as well as

### Filmmakers and History: Steven Spielberg's *Amistad*

Goucher history professor Julie Jeffrey to deliver FOL lecture

### In Focus

Meet Neil Meyerhoff

### New York City Library Tour

Friends visit the New York Public Library and the Morgan Library

*continues on page 4*

## IN FOCUS



*In Focus: A new feature profiling individuals who play key roles in the future plans for the library.*

## Meet Neil Meyerhoff

by Iveta Hegelis

Most of our Friends have already heard that exciting changes are being planned for the Goucher College Library. For over a year many people have been hard at work to make the library expansion dream a reality. Consultants have been called in to study the needs of the library. Architects have been hired to produce drawings. Strategic financial plans have been debated. Input from faculty, staff and students has been solicited. The driving force behind all this effort is Neil Meyerhoff, chair of the Library and Technology Task Force.

Neil brings the experience, knowledge and enthusiasm that is needed to fulfill this demanding role which he believes is "to keep the process moving." A member of the Goucher College Board of Trustees since 1994, Neil also serves on the Board of the Maryland Institute, College of Art, where he has been chair of the Building and Grounds Committee for more than 10 years. He has also served for a number of years as a member

of the Buildings Committee at the Park School and was himself involved in the building industry for 11 years. Neil's connection to Goucher runs deep; his mother, Jane Bernstein Meyerhoff, is a member of the Goucher class of 1945.

Passionate about the need for the library's expansion, Neil has every detail, every statistic, every timetable on the tip of his tongue. He speaks eloquently about the interesting history of this project, which started as a \$13 million plan to overhaul the library's environmental systems and ended as a \$29.5 million, long-overdue, 45,000 square-foot addition. The Library and Technology Task Force has taken great care to mesh the needs of a college library entering the high-tech 21st century with the goals and demanding standards of Goucher. Neil remarks, "In order for Goucher to continue to attract the kind of students who would be interested in what the library has to hold for them, then it needs a better library... We want to teach them the new technology plus we want them to feel that this is a warm and inviting place where their intellectual curiosity can be satisfied."

Neil visits the campus frequently, not always for a Board meeting. He enjoys attending classes at Goucher and is currently studying English literature. Neil lives in Baltimore with his wife Sayra and their two children; a daughter currently at Harvard University, and a son at the Gilman School. An accomplished photographer, Neil recently exhibited his work at the C. Grimaldis Gallery in Baltimore.



*Acting President Bob Welch, with Cindy Crawley '97 curator of Frontier Impressions*

## From the College Librarian

by Nancy Magnuson

In the last few months two new librarians have joined the Julia Rogers Library staff. Our national search for a collection management librarian resulted in the hiring in October of Barbara J. Snead, who had most recently served as assistant librarian at the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore. Prior to that she was

head of acquisitions at Johns Hopkins and in several positions, including library director, at Hiram College in Ohio.

In January, Susan Ezell began as a part-time reference librarian during the early evening hours. She will be working with many of our graduate education students and her position is supported in

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF

*Jane Austen*

Congratulations to the library on its special presentation of "Twenty-Five Years of Jane Austen." This delightful publication, written by Laurie Kaplan, professor of English at Goucher, and Nancy Magnuson, college librarian, and designed by the Office of Communications, was very well received. Among the many accolades included a personal note from Joan Austen-Leigh, great-great-great-grandniece of Jane Austen. She writes, "I am absolutely thrilled with your Jane Austen booklet. It is beautifully put-together, designed and executed... In fact there are many treasures and discoveries to be found in the booklet together with nostalgia for a vanished age."

part by that program. A new Baltimorean, Susan has served as director of the libraries at Phillips Academy in Andover, MA, and Ohio University Eastern.

In conjunction with *The Frontier in American Culture*, a traveling exhibition in the library last fall, we were able to promote the showing of a wonderful collection of 19th century paintings by Francis Blackwell Mayer owned by the college. That exhibit was curated by Cindy Crawley, in close collaboration with members of the Goucher art department. Cindy has been a member of the Friends since her graduation in 1997.

In January the Julia Rogers Library hosted a national set of visitors. Seventeen first-year library directors who are part of a mentoring program sponsored by the College Libraries Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries attended an intensive three-day seminar designed to introduce them to various aspects of their new position. When the participants left, they were both energized by their experience and enthusiastic about their time at Goucher. Goucher librarians, in turn, enjoyed the opportunity to show off some of our accomplishments and our plans for the future.

Those future plans continue to include the work towards the renovated and expanded building, which is occupying a great deal of time and energy on the part of many members of the Goucher community. A major player in this planning is Friends member and Goucher Trustee Neil Meyerhoff, profiled in this issue. Neil has participated in a heroic number of meetings and planning sessions on behalf of the library project.



Attendees at the event, pictured above from left to right were Margie Simon '75, Scott Stevens '92, Marjorie Warmkessel '76, Emily Bergman '75, Cynthia Earman '89, Nancy Magnuson, and Kenna Forsyth '63. Also in attendance was Julia Gelfand '75.

Goucher alumnae and alumni who are librarians (and also members of the Friends) gathered recently during the midwinter meeting of the American Library Association in Washington DC. The conversation was lively and among the projects hatched was a Goucher librarians listserv to be hosted by Cynthia Earman. Another of Cynthia's projects is a new public library being developed in Kigali, Rwanda. If you would like further information please contact her at cearman@yahoo.com.

## Become a member of the Friends

The purpose of the Friends of the Goucher College Library is to generate goodwill and financial support for the Julia Rogers Library. We sponsor a variety of programs and events throughout the year in an effort to promote the role of the library within the college community.

As a member you will receive invitations to FOL special events, a subscription to the *Focus* newsletter, and use of the library collection. We invite you to join the Friends and to show your support as the Goucher Library prepares for exciting changes.

## 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)  
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Street address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

# Thank-you for Your Support

On behalf of the Goucher College Library, the Friends would like to acknowledge all those individuals who generously donated to its Bookplate Fund. Between November 1999 and November 2000, 32 donations totalling \$1,600 were received to mark our 50th anniversary year. Each book purchased from this fund will carry a specially-designed anniversary bookplate celebrating the ongoing support of the Friends organization here at Goucher.

## Gifts Received

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Clara Lu Bell  | Merle W. Philips   |
| Melinda J. Burdette '72 in honor of her friend Arlene Rubin Hamburger '59 on the occasion of her "special" birthday on December 14 | In memory of Michael Muuss<br>Barbara Salazar                                    |
| M.J. Bushman '96 in honor of the birthday of Virginia Barrows Blandi '30   | Doris Schmeiser '37 in memory of Marie O'Connell Perkins '37<br>Helen P. Seward  |
| Nancy Gauss  | Alice L. Shugars in memory of her sister, Isabelle Shugars Suhl '44              |
| Julia M. Gelfand   | Sara L. Siebert  |
| In memory of John D. Gregory   | Jean Silber in memory of Robert Edwards, husband of Harriett Carlson Edwards     |
| Editha H. Grice  | Margie Simon in memory of Diane Waite Case '74                                   |
| Ann S. Griffiths   | Nancy E. Smith in memory of A. Arlene Smith                                      |
| Drusilla P. Jones  | Karl and Joan Sussman in honor of the 45th anniversary of Jean and Sidney Silber |
| In memory of Sarah Dowlin Jones  | Anne Caldwell Taylor '74 in honor of her mother, Mary Van Keuren Taylor '48      |
| Dorothy Krug in memory of Emily C. Schilpp '28   | Adela H. Van Metre   |
| Lynn A. Labun  | Toby Wertheim  |
| Ann Lacy   | Mollie K. Witow  |
| Jennifer Littman   |  |
| Nancy Magnuson in memory of Marianne Diggs Fleagle '40   |  |
| Genevieve Miller   |  |
| In memory of Io Degraw Mears   |  |

## New York Library Tour

*continued from page 1*

two interesting short notes. Also included in the presentation, which the group was invited to inspect close up, was the manuscript of *Lady Susan*, the only complete manuscript of Jane Austen's known to exist, and a copy of *The Spectator*, one of only 20 books known to have been part of the Austen family library.

The disappointment of having to leave these treasures was offset by two excellent docents who enthralled the

group, one with a talk on The Morgan Library's special exhibit on John Ruskin, and the other with a discussion of the history of the original library building and how Pierpont Morgan assembled his astounding collection. With reluctance the group exchanged these magnificent surroundings with the comfort and camaraderie of the tour bus and headed back to Goucher.

## Mark Your Calendar...

The Friends of the Goucher College Library annual meeting will be held Wednesday, May 23 at 2:00 p.m. in the Alumnae and Alumni House. This year's guest speaker will be Rhoda Dorsey who will present: "Goucher Seen Through the Magic of the Silver Screen in the 20s, 30s, and 40s."

Friends of the Goucher College Library  
Julia Rogers Library  
Goucher College  
1021 Dulaney Valley Road  
Baltimore, Maryland 21204-2794

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