

The image shows a multi-level atrium of a modern library. The space is characterized by its clean, white architectural lines and extensive use of glass railings. On the ground floor, there are bookshelves with colorful spines in shades of red, orange, and blue. A sign above the bookshelves reads "Stack Level 1". In the foreground, there is a seating area with blue modular sofas and ottomans. The upper levels are visible through the glass railings, showing more of the library's interior. The overall atmosphere is bright and contemporary.

THE GOUCHER ATHENAEUM:
The College Library in a Changing World

September 9, 2009

Goucher's New Library



Nothing is more central to the intellectual life of a college than its library. But with all the changes in the way that today's students learn, research, and collaborate, the role of the library has evolved. The successful college library can no longer be a distant destination, a place apart from all other aspects of students' lives. Goucher's vision for its new Athenaeum is that it will be a central gathering place for the college community, with a state-of-the-art library at its core, its archives and special collections easily accessible, accompanied by a public forum, a community service center, an art gallery, a café, and exercise space. Here, students and others will gather day and night for intellectual, cultural, and social explorations. It will be a place where they can work, study, consult, discover, scheme, dream, and create together—a home for great thoughts and wild ideas, academic rigor and well-earned relaxation.

Sanford J. Ungar

Greening the Athenaeum



Environmental sustainability is a critical part of Goucher's Strategic Plan. The Athenaeum incorporates a number of sustainable design features—including green roofs, a rain garden, high-performance glass, recycled materials, and mechanical systems of optimal efficiency—and will be certified according to the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green-Building Rating System. The innovative energy-saving strategies used in the Athenaeum include displacement ventilation, an energy-recovery wheel for the HVAC system, integrated lighting management (including occupancy sensors and adjusted lighting based on available daylight), and solar panels for hot water heating. Altogether, these and other sustainable initiatives will result in a 40-percent annual energy savings compared to a conventionally designed building. Now at the midpoint of the LEED review, the project is on track for a Silver rating, as originally planned.

A History of Libraries at Goucher

By Scott Davis '10



Library in Glitner Hall, 1940s

The Goucher College Library was founded in 1890 as the Reading Room of the Woman's College of Baltimore, as the college was then known. Located in the rotunda of Goucher Hall, the original building on the Baltimore City campus, and under the direction of John Van Meter, it housed 12 journals and a few hundred books. The library soon grew and occupied a larger space in Goucher Hall and, later, the first two floors of Alfheim Hall, the remodeled dormitory. With the guidance of Eleanor Falley, the library continued to increase in size and prominence, eventually moving to Glitner Hall at 2300 North Charles, its last home on the old campus.

When construction began on Goucher's Towson campus, the library was an integral part of the design—President David A. Robertson chose it as the one building to be designed in detail for the 1938 architectural competition that would determine the plan for the new campus. With the winning design by Moore and Hutchins, construction began in 1950. The library was completed in the fall of 1952 and was named in honor of Miss Julia Rogers, who left her estate to Goucher upon her death in 1944. A formal dedication was held in 1953, with a two-day conference titled “The College Library in a Changing World.” The 180 participants, representing institutions in several states, discussed topics such as the relevance of a college library in the community.



Julia Rogers Library, 1959

The Julia Rogers Library was the first building at Goucher built specifically for the purpose of housing the library. It focused on user comfort, providing plenty of light and space and increased access to books; Sarah Dowlin Jones was a defining force for the continued excellence of the library. In 1967, a new wing, designed by Moore and Hutchins and named in honor of President Robertson, provided capacity for 225,000 volumes. In 1986, Cho, Wilks and Benn designed an award-winning renovation, reconfiguring interior space and improving usability.

When the library reached maximum capacity yet again, plans were made to expand it. In 2002, however, under the guidance of President Sanford Ungar, the Goucher Athenaeum emerged as an alternative to renovations and additions. The Athenaeum, designed by RMJM/Hillier and constructed by Whiting-Turner, honors Goucher's architectural heritage and its topography while providing a distinctive design in keeping with the college's bold strategic vision.

In its new home, the Goucher College Library will continue its long tradition, instilled by outstanding librarians, of providing student service in a stimulating intellectual environment.

Wednesday, September 9, 2009

12:30 library and Athenaeum tours

1:30 Welcome

NANCY MAGNUSON, College Librarian

“The Goucher Athenaeum: The College Library in a Changing World”

CARLA HAYDEN, Goucher College Board of Trustees;
Chief Executive Officer of the Enoch Pratt Free Library

KATHRYN ALLAMONG JACOB '72, Curator of
Manuscripts at the Schlesinger Library on the History
of Women in America at the Radcliffe Institute for
Advanced Studies, Harvard University

JAMES NEAL, Vice President for Information Services
and University Librarian at Columbia University

JOSEPH RIZZO, Principal and Library Specialist for
the RMJM Athenaeum project team

ROBERTA STEVENS, Outreach Projects and Partner-
ships Officer at Library of Congress and Project Manager
for the National Book Festival; President-elect of the
American Library Association

SANFORD J. UNGAR, President, Symposium Moderator

3:00 dessert reception

3:30 library and Athenaeum tours

Special thanks to those who have sponsored today's event:

Friends of the Goucher College Library

Innovative Interfaces

William B. Meyer, Inc.

Katherine Parker Scholl Library Fund

ProQuest

Exhibits



Music from the Black Crook
J. L. Peters & Bro., 1867
(Chrystelle Trump Bond Collection)

The Silber Gallery

“Visual Education: Selections from the Goucher College and Sidney and Jean Flah Silber ’54 Collections”

Special Collections & Archives

“An Exhibition of Treasures” and
“The James Wilson Bright Collection”

Library

Selections from the main collection

Music

Hyman Forum

Goucher Jazz Ensemble

Upper-level living room

Climate Clangoring by Andrew Bernstein and Gregory St. Pierre, an interactive sound installation reflecting on the construction process

College Librarians

John Van Meter, 1890-1893

Joseph Shefloe, 1893-1916

Harriet Almira Blogg, 1916-1917

Ethel Irene Burwell (acting), 1917-1919

Eleanor Falley, 1919-1948

Mary Elizabeth Miller, 1948-1952

Sarah Dowlin Jones, 1952-1981

Betty Ruth Kondayan, 1981-1987

Nancy Magnuson, 1987-present



This program is part of a series of events to celebrate the opening of the Athenaeum, Goucher’s new flagship building, and to launch the 125th anniversary of the college.



Library highlights

- 72,000 square feet (Athenaeum is 103,000 square feet)
- 300,000 volumes, with capacity for 450,000
- 126 computers
- 14 group-study and seminar rooms, classrooms, and other teaching spaces
- Tables and carrels for individual study
- Informal soft-seating areas for individual or group study
- Curriculum center for K-12 teaching resources
- Information Commons
- Center for Teaching, Learning, and Technology
- Digital arts classroom
- Special Collections & Archives
- Preservation lab

Friends of the Goucher College Library

The Friends of the Goucher College Library was founded in 1949 as an organization of alumnae/i, faculty, students, library staff, and others who enjoy a common bond: a desire to communicate the importance of the library within the intellectual setting of Goucher College. The purpose of the Friends is to generate goodwill and financial support for the Library and to promote the role of the Library within the college community. To accomplish these aims, the Friends presents a variety of programs and events, advocates for the library, and provides financial support for special purposes.

See more at www.goucher.edu/x33670.xml.