

LIBRARY HOSTS FIRST BURKE SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE LECTURE

by Iveta Hagelis

Last year, as a highlight to the campaign to celebrate 25 years of the Jane Austen Collection, the Goucher Library established the Burke Scholar-in-Residence program to honor the generosity of Alberta Hirshheimer Burke and her husband Henry who together amassed the wonderful materials now permanently housed in the Rare Book Room. The Burke Scholar-in-Residence stipend allows a respected senior scholar to spend a week at the library doing research in the collection. In addition to working with faculty and students while at Goucher, the scholar presents a lecture to the community-at-large on some aspect of Jane Austen research and scholarship. This very first lecture was a capstone event marking the end of a year-long celebration of the silver anniversary of the Burke's magnificent bequest to the College.

The first Burke Scholar-in-Residence is Dr. Mary Favret, professor of English at Indiana University. Professor Favret holds a Bachelor's Degree from Dartmouth College and a PhD from Stanford University. She is the author of *Romantic Correspondence: Women, Politics, and the Fiction of Letters* (Cambridge University Press, 1993) and the editor of *At the Limits of Romanticism, Essays in Cultural Feminist and Materialist Criticism* (Indiana University Press, 1994). She has published numerous essays on Mary Shelley, Mary Wollstonecraft and, of course, Jane Austen. The titles of her essays and talks attract attention because of their unique titles and the Goucher lecture was no exception. Favret's talk was entitled "Jane Austen and



Dr. Mary Favret, Goucher Library's first Burke Scholar-in-Residence. (Photo courtesy of Charles Phippen, Jr.)

Everyday War." The topic motivated many Baltimore area Janeites, 18th century enthusiasts and Friends to attend the special March 5th lecture.

Favret's main focus was on Austen's "art of the everyday" and its relationship to global warfare. This might at first seem impossible. After all, Austen's novels are all about the everyday, the ordinary, the commonplaces of life. How does this relate to the war that was continually raging between England and France during much of Austen's life? Favret argued that the very fabric of Austen's novels either parallel or reflect a world at war. She said, "Austen explores not how the everyday should fight against a world at war, nor do the depictions of the everyday help render intelligible the war. But, rather, she explores the manner in which war and the everyday long for each other."

Jane Austen talks about war, not through stories of men in battle, but through experiences on the home front. In *Emma*, for example, evil (in the form of disagreeable events like inclement weather or pride in feelings) wages battle against everyday comforts and threatens the security of that everyday little world in which Emma lives and dwells and has her meaning. Similarly, in *Northanger Abbey* General Tilney triggers unaccountable fears in Catherine Moreland. Throughout this spoof of a novel the narrator jokes about the young woman's imagination inclined to alarm. *Northanger Abbey* was written in dark years of wartime, in 1798 and 1803 when the "alarmists" reigned in government, years when the alarm of invasion reached a high pitch in England.

Finally, in *Persuasion*, Ann Elliot comes to represent the

SPRING 2002
Vol. 46, No. 1

FOL

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Author Richard Hall Discusses UFO Research

by Iveta Hagelis

On February 2, the FOL invited author Richard Hall to speak about his extensive work on UFO research. As author of *Uninvited Guests* (Aurora Press, 1988), editor of the landmark documentary report *The UFO Evidence* (NICAP, 1964), and leader/director of various professional UFO-related organizations, Hall has established himself as one of this country's leading experts on UFO phenomena.

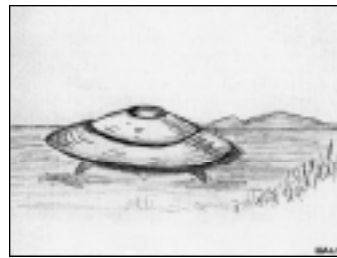
His new book, *The UFO Evidence Volume 2* (Scarecrow Press, 2001), is presented as an update to the 1964 report. In it Hall attempts to add 35 more years of evidence of new UFO sightings including those of humanoid UFO occupants and the significant increase of vehicular encounters and

confrontations. Sightings are arranged and cataloged by witness category: human observation, radar cases, and reports of electromagnetic effects. He also discusses a full range of topics including Air Force sightings, evidence of intelligent control of UFO's, and the interesting emergence of the abduction phenomenon.

Hall has spent his professional career investigating and writing about one of the most controversial subjects of our day. His goal is to investigate all serious sightings of unidentified flying objects and, using scientific methods, weed out the credible from the incredible. His life's work has been, and continues to be, to answer the compelling question: Are we alone in the universe?



College Librarian Nancy Magnuson with author Richard Hall.



Richard Hall's drawing of a July 19, 1965 UFO sighting in Vaucluse, N.S.W. Australia.

From the College Librarian

by Nancy Magnuson

Once again, I have staff transitions to report. On February 1, we were joined by Jim Huff as reference and instruction librarian. Jim came to us from Illinois State University, where he was reference librarian and subject bibliographer for psychology and philosophy. In addition to his MA in library and information science, he has a JD from the University of Iowa and spent several years as an administrative law judge.

A second transition is the upcoming retirement of Pat Bull, library operations manager. Pat has served in the library since 1987 and replacing her will be an enormous challenge! In addition to her responsibilities in the library, Pat has handled a great deal of work for the Friends. Overseeing correspondence and maintaining a current membership list are just two of

the many details she carries out for this organization.

In addition, Elizabeth Jedlicka '60 will retire from her position as catalog librarian on May 24. Betsy has had many identities at Goucher, as alumna, volunteer, staff member and parent. She promises to keep tabs on the library building project on her occasional walks around the campus loop road.

This summer, thanks to a gift from the Friends, we will hire Malissa Ruffner '77 for a temporary position in the archives organization project. Malissa will continue work she began as an intern during her graduate studies in library and information science.

Our major program event in recent months, held in March, was the first-ever Burke residency, described elsewhere in this issue. Mary Favret's residency was a wonderful experience that

deepened our understanding and appreciation of that superb collection. It is very unusual for a small college to support a residency of this kind, which typically takes place at large research institutions. We can all be very proud of Goucher's leadership in this area.

In February we hosted several Baltimore Shakespeare Festival performances of "Weird Sisters, an exploration of Women in Shakespeare," a program designed to travel to classrooms (seventh-grade through high-school) and school auditoriums. In April the Soper Room served as the videotaping site for several interviews to be included in the PBS series "Pioneer Living."

Planning activities are back underway for Goucher's new library – we will give you a fuller update on this exciting project in the next issue of Focus!

Library Hosts...

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cultivation of war or wartime routine within the everyday. Ann Elliot cultivates the mode of living everyday as if she were at war. Her whole existence revolved around a culture of nursing, loyalty and survival. Favret said, "*Persuasion* demonstrates one way the destruction of feeling demanded by war is procured by self-alienation and selfless caring for others. Alarm, endurance, and hope migrate into everyday life becoming so well understood, standing under everything one does, that one hardly knows how to account for them."

Curiously, Favret mentioned that while sifting through Alberta Burke's journals from the late 1930's to early 1940's she noticed many references to the fact that British soldiers and citizens turned to Jane Austen in wartime. Sales of *Pride and Prejudice*, for example, tripled between 1939 and 1940, more than any other classic novel, according to Favret. She agrees with critic Claudia Johnson who has stated that, "Soldiers turned to Austen not because she helped them forget the front but because she reminded them of it in ways that helped render their presence more intelligible." Favret pointed out that Austen's work is all about living in a confined place, a neighborhood, where the main characters are confronted by brutal and inevitable ordeals. Soldiers at war could relate to this.

So, in answer to the controversial question, Does Jane Austen really talk about war in her novels? Favret responded with a resounding, yes! She maintains that Austen's art of the commonplace belongs to the same chronicles of a world at war, because in Jane Austen's lifetime a world at war was literally an everyday occurrence. The everyday on the home front was a shadow of the everyday on the war front.

Goucher President Sanford Ungar Speaks to FOL

by Iveta Hagelis

Last October, Sanford Ungar took time out of his busy and demanding pre-inaugural schedule to meet with the FOL at the Alumnae/Alumni House. Ungar presented the group with an informal talk about his recent leadership of the Voice of America and also offered some personal views on the dilemma of America's changing role and image in the world in light of the terrorist attacks on the 11th of September. Finally, Goucher's new President shared with the FOL members his vision for the future of the Goucher Library – a subject near and dear to the hearts of all present.

The Voice of America (VOA), which Ungar directed

from June 1999 to June 2001, was founded in 1942. Over the years the organization's mandate has shifted from providing information to war-torn Germany to counteract Nazi propaganda, to stemming Communist propaganda during the Cold War, to providing reliable news to otherwise news-starved countries in the developing world. Today the Voice of America broadcasts over 900 hours of original programming in 53 languages to an audience of about 100 million listeners.

Areas of the world that the VOA is particularly focused on today include Africa and the Middle East. Getting Congress to appropriate adequate funds for the VOA has been, and continues to

be, a struggle because this largely unknown self-contained, unassuming entity lacks a strong domestic constituency.

From his experience at the Voice of America, and in light of the tragic events of September 11, Ungar believes deeply that America could do much to project a better image in the world. The most important way to achieve this, he believes, is for Americans to be more savvy and knowledgeable about the rest of the world. An institution like Goucher College can play an important part in this effort by internationalizing its curriculum, by encouraging its students to study abroad, and by increasing enrollment of foreign students. Ungar

is dedicated to this theme and plans to make it one of the major efforts of his presidency.

Ungar concluded his remarks by emphasizing the importance of the library in the Goucher community. The library is a dynamic institution – it must be able to keep up with changing needs, changing technologies, changing students. Without a good library, Ungar says, "We could not do our fundamental enterprise of preparing young people for a lifetime of learning." He discussed the need for strategic planning and supported the dream of Goucher building a new library. The Friends of the Library were enthusiastic to hear this exciting news!

Quote from Dr. Mary Favret

"Though I had heard of the Goucher collection, and checked your website in the past, I really did not appreciate what a treasure trove you have there. I come away with a deep respect for the Burkes. Her bulging, miraculous notebooks, with their devoted attention to references to and representations of Austen in the press, on stage – in short, in the popular culture of the mid-century – seem to anticipate uncannily the desires of the contemporary scholar. What she has in those books could not possibly be reassembled by the most diligent student of Austen today. The entire collection, but those notebooks especially, stand as testimony to the aim of those formidable Janeites."

— Mary Favret in a March 28, 2002 letter to Goucher Librarian Nancy Magnuson

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 Dulany 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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Halloween Visit to Philadelphia Libraries a Real Treat

by Beverly Winter



View of the Free Library of Philadelphia.

Philadelphia on a bright sunny day is enjoyable under any circumstances, and the joint venture of the Friends of the Goucher College Library and the Alumnae/i Tours Committee to the Rare Book Department of the Free Library of Philadelphia and the Library of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia was exceptional in every way. In addition to meeting Grip, the pet raven of Charles Dickens, who resides in a case in the Rare Book Department of the Free Library, we were pleased to be

greeted by Susan Rardin '59 and Susan McDougall who is the parent of a current Goucher student Evan McDougall. Next was a visit to the Academy across the square where several rare books were on display including an Audubon portfolio. The Academy has been an important research center since 1812.

The group's next library trip will be to two great libraries in Baltimore— the Enoch Pratt Free Library and the Peabody Library, with lunch at the Engineers Club. Please plan to join us!

More special funds

In the last issue of *Focus* we told you about some of the endowed funds that support special purposes at the library. Elsewhere in this issue you have heard about the Burke Jane Austen Fund, which was established with a bequest from Alberta '28 and Henry Burke to support ongoing activities related to the study of Jane Austen. Here are a few more.

Danforth Fund. This fund, named in honor of President Otto Kraushaar's granddaughter Linda Danforth, is for the purchase of children's books.

Mears Fund. The Io DeGraw Mears Fellowship Fund provides financial support to Goucher graduates who wish to pursue graduate studies in library science. It was funded by family and friends in memory of the library's circulation coordinator from 1977 to 1997.

Scholl Fund. The family of Katherine Parker Scholl '22 established the librarian's discretionary fund in her memory.

The Lacy Fund for resources in genetics was established by John W. Lacy in honor of his sister Ann Matthews Lacy, professor of biological sciences and geneticist at Goucher from 1959 to 1998, on the occasion of her retirement.

The Habermann Fund, for the purchase of materials in botany, was established by professor emerita of biological sciences Helen Habermann, in memory of her mother Katherine Habermann.

Perrault Fund. Established by Steve Perrault in memory of his wife, Lynn Eden Smith Perrault '71. The fund is for the purchase of library materials related to France, French language and literature, music, and cultural subjects in general.

The Sarah Dowlin Jones Fund supports the purchase of books for the library and was established by bequest from the estate of Dr. Jones, who was the college's librarian from 1953 to 1981.

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