

F O C U S

THE FRIENDS OF THE GOUCHER COLLEGE LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

Library Triumphs with John Cotton Dana Award

Goucher is only academic facility among nine libraries honored

By Jennifer Spieler

The Julia Rogers Library made headlines recently with the announcement that its staff had been chosen to receive a John Cotton Dana Library Public Relations Award, which highlights outstanding work on library promotion projects. The prize honors the library's efforts on its "25 Years of Jane Austen" campaign, created to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the extraordinary Jane Austen collection at Goucher, donated by Alberta and Henry Burke.

Of the nine libraries that received the John Cotton Dana Award, Goucher stands out as the only academic facility honored. Other winners include the Genesee District Library in Flint, Mich.; the Guernsey Memorial Library in Norwich, N.Y.; the Halifax Regional Library in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada; the Library System of Lancaster County in Pennsylvania; the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District; the Saint Paul (Minn.) Public Library; the Sarasota County (Fla.) Library System; and the Toronto Public Library in Canada. The prize is jointly sponsored by the Library Administration and Management Association of the American Library Association (ALA), and the H. W. Wilson Co.

The application process for this award is labor-intensive, and, thanks to a fund established by Friends board member Stella Yousem '54, the library was able to hire Malissa Ruffner '77 to coordinate the project. The application called for a needs assessment; a description of the planning process (including strategies, target groups, and goals for the project); information about how the plan was implemented; and information about



Staff members Thomasin LaMay (left), Jean Lindstrom, Barbara Snead, Tom Minnema, and Malissa Ruffner view the large marble notebook submitted as part of the application.

how the project was evaluated. Presentation also was a factor in the selection process. Staff members from the library and the Office of Communications decided to create a large marble composition notebook, resembling the ten that were compiled over the years by Alberta Burke, to showcase print pieces, photographs, and press releases from the campaign. The 11 x16 presentation notebook was hand-bound by Sydney Roby, special collections librarian. Materials contained in the notebook included the "Twenty-Five Years of Jane Austen" anniversary booklet, with an overview and timeline of the many ways in which Goucher has made good use of the collection, notices of related events, and letters from Joan Austen-Leigh, a direct descendant of Jane Austen and founder of the Jane Austen Society of North America. The marble notebook will stay with the ALA in Chicago for two years, during which it will be

available for interlibrary loan. The book then will be returned to the Julia Rogers Library. Library patrons may view a copy of the application materials later this spring.

The library team will receive the award at a ceremony in June during the ALA annual conference, to be held in Toronto. College librarian Nancy Magnuson is thrilled with the news and emphasizes that this honor would not have been possible without help and support from many at the college and beyond. She says, "In 1999, shortly before collection development librarian Barbara Simons retired, she reminded me that this twenty-fifth anniversary was coming. We first envisioned a modest publication to mark the event, but the stunning booklet that Goucher graphic designer Fawn Mordosky produced inspired us to come up with a larger plan and to work toward a John Cotton Dana entry."

SPRING 2003

Vol. 47, No. 1

FOL

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Library Space Promotes Contemporary Written Word

Goucher student makes room for writers

By Hannah Leatherbury '03

The Word For Word Corner: It's the name given to an old space made new in the Julia Rogers Library, and it's been on the tip of my tongue since last fall. As a senior English major, I've had a lengthy opportunity to evaluate my writing and that of my peers. However, I had started to wonder about several things: Will this undergraduate work survive when taken beyond the campus? Does creative writing fulfill its intent when shared with only a limited readership? How does a writer begin to publish her work?

I had encountered the "senior" question: What have I cultivated during the past four years? I feared that four years' worth of written material could be consolidated into thick manila folders that would serve only to crowd a closet in my next apartment.

When I sought a Strategic Innovations grant for the Word For Word project, my goal was to inform Goucher's creative writing community about off-campus literary events and networks by designating a space where such information could be shared. The Word For Word Corner, located in the library's reference room, is that space. In addition to gathering information about local literary events, I pursued funding that would enable students to attend the

PEN/Faulkner reading series at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C. The Word For Word grant pays for 15 students to attend readings given by renowned contemporary writers such as Louise Erdrich, Manil Suri, Claire Messud, Francisco Goldman, Ann Patchett, Richard Powers, and Jamaica Kincaid.

To maintain the Word For Word Corner, I post weekly listings to expose the Goucher community to off-campus literary opportunities; in turn, these will expose other literary communities to the talents and interests of Goucher writers who attend their events. I am listing the extensive collection of literary journals within the Julia Rogers Library and obtaining additional subscriptions to make the submissions process more comprehensible for Goucher writers. Also, I am gathering literary technique manuals, which include first works (authors' first publications) and uncorrected proofs of novels, to illustrate phases of the writing process. The project, although limited by the availability of funds—I sought \$2,900 for the project and received \$1,000—is progressing, thanks to the generous support of Facilities Management Services and the library staff.

On February 12, the Goucher community gathered for the Corner's grand opening.



Students attend the grand opening of the Word For Word Corner

Festivities included a formal presentation of available resources, the posting of the sign-up sheet for 15 students to attend Louise Erdrich's PEN/Faulkner reading, and informal readings by four students. Students suggested ways to enhance the Word for Word project, among them organizing a book swap, trips to local spoken-word events and the gravesite of Edgar Allan Poe, and future readings in the Corner.

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From the College Librarian

By Nancy Magnuson

The standout event of the past few months was hearing that the Julia Rogers Library had been chosen to receive a John Cotton Dana award for outstanding library public relations! Our "25 Years of Jane Austen" campaign and the Dana application process were very ambitious undertakings for our small library, and we are enormously proud of the attention this brings to Alberta and Henry Burke's wonderful gift to the college. On the heels of this success, we are accepting applications for the 2003-04 Burke Jane Austen Scholar-in-Residence program, which brings an Austen scholar to campus for a week. More information about the program is available at <http://www.goucher.edu/library/jasir.htm>.

Even as we plan for a new library, we have spent time in recent months rethinking some of our uses of space in the current building. In several cases we are making small-scale changes, such as the one described in this issue by Hannah Leatherbury, that will give a taste of what we will be better able to do in the future Athenaeum. Our first such project was to refurbish the area

that houses children's books and education curriculum materials. Now dubbed the "Teachers' Corner," it provides a more attractive and welcoming environment for students using those collections. The library staff held receptions for the education faculties to introduce the new space.

We are working to improve the music listening area, now in a new location. In its vacated space, the college will install the new Teaching, Learning, and Technology center, in which instructional technology staff will work with faculty and students who are developing course-related technology applications. Library and technology staff look forward to this opportunity for new partnerships in supporting the college's academic mission. In one collaborative effort, we are working to support digital publication of unique materials in our special collections and archives.

The Rare Book Room cases feature a special exhibit from the Virginia Woolf collection

of Friends board member Jean Geesey '85. I hope some of you will stop by to see this exhibit as well as our new spaces!

Finally, I'm delighted to note a surge of interest among Goucher graduates in librarianship as a career. I recently received a note from a 1998 alumna who is earning her master's degree in library and information science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; she writes, "Working at the library when I was an undergraduate was one of the best things that ever happened to me!" We also have had a record number of inquiries about the Mears fellowship for graduate studies in library science, awarded in honor of Io DeGraw Mears, who ran the library's circulation department from 1977 to 1996. For more information about the award, visit <http://www.goucher.edu/library/mearsfund.htm>. If you know of Goucher graduates who are considering becoming librarians, please share this information with them.

To Merge Or Not To Merge?

FOL questions and debates its independent status

By Jennifer Spieler

In the past several decades, the amount of money that the FOL brings in has increased steadily; this has prompted a debate about whether the FOL should remain an entity independent of Goucher College, or whether the college should assume some fiscal and legal responsibility for the group. These concerns led the Executive Committee to ask Goucher's general counsel, Laurie Burton-Graham, to discuss new laws and changes in the tax code that might affect how the FOL operates. To avoid a conflict of interest, Ms. Burton-Graham noted that she was merely highlighting issues to consider, not offering legal advice.

The issues discussed by Ms. Burton-Graham and the Executive Committee at the most recent board meeting include:

- Insurance coverage: The FOL has no insurance coverage for its board or for general liability. Should problems arise, this lack of coverage could expose the FOL to legal claims.
- Finances: As the FOL brings in more money, its finances—like those of any comparable nonprofit group—are subject to greater scrutiny.
- Taxes: Should the FOL bring in more than \$25,000 dollars a year, its filing requirements would change. The Executive Committee will explore which filings would be required.

The Executive Committee noted that FOL members should be apprised as debate continues on these issues. If the FOL were to dissolve its independent status, it would negotiate a Memo of Understanding with Goucher, meaning that the FOL would retain oversight of fundraising and decisions about how funds are spent, but the college would manage the funds and assume some legal responsibility for the organization. This issue remains under consideration, and the Executive Committee hopes to call a vote before the end of the spring semester.

Library Acquires Books from Journalist Tad Szulc

Former New York Times correspondent's estate makes donation to Goucher

By Jennifer Spieler

The Julia Rogers Library recently received a generous donation from the estate of *New York Times* journalist Tad Szulc, who died in May 2001. The gift consists of 48 boxes of books, most of them research materials that Mr. Szulc used.

As a foreign correspondent for the *Times*, Mr. Szulc covered several historic events, including the overthrow of Venezuela's dictator Marcos Perez Jimenez in 1958, the Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961, and the political upheaval in Czechoslovakia in 1968. He also wrote many books, among them biographies of Pope John Paul II and Fidel Castro, and *The Illusion of Peace: Foreign Policy in the Nixon Years*.

Mr. Szulc was born in Warsaw, Poland, and left to study in Switzerland and Brazil. He later became a reporter for the Associated Press in Rio de Janeiro, eventually making his way to New York to cover the United Nations for United Press International. He joined the staff of *The New York Times* in the 1950s.

The Julia Rogers Library can thank President Sandy Ungar, who was a friend and colleague of Mr. Szulc, for this connection with the Szulc family. Last year, President Ungar conducted an interview on National Public Radio's *Public Interest* with Helen Spalding, president of the Association of College and Research Libraries, about changes in academic libraries; Mr. Szulc's widow heard the program and called President Ungar to discuss the collection.

"Library Space..." continued from page 2

Although I will leave the Word For Word Corner behind when I graduate in May, I know that this space will be maintained and frequented by other Goucher writers. I hope that many years from now, during a reunion weekend, I will tour a renovated Julia Rogers Library, where the Kratz Center for Creative Writing will have a space that encompasses the Corner's current resources—and more.

To learn more about the PEN/Faulkner series, please visit:
<http://www.folger.edu/public/pfaulk/events.htm>

To make a suggestion about or donation to the Word For Word project, please contact Hannah Leatherbury at hleather@goucher.edu or 410-337-6098, or Margaret Guccione, information technology librarian and collaborator on this project, at mguccion@goucher.edu or 410-337-6370.

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)
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Setting The Stage: Dowell Collection Features Theatrical Gems

Former Goucher professor's acquisitions under examination

By Jennifer Spieler

I was hired by the library last semester to help organize and interpret the George Dowell collection, located in the Rare Book Room. Professor of speech and drama at Goucher from 1962-1975, George Dowell was an avid collector of theater programs and memorabilia. Materials donated to the college include theater and circus posters, stage renderings and costume designs from productions directed by Mr. Dowell, original manuscripts written by Mr. Dowell (17 plays and short stories, and 70 radio scripts), and more than 700 programs from professional theaters and educational institutions throughout the world.

One of the more fascinating and engaging components of this collection is its massive theater program list. Even with my background—I teach in the Theatre Department at Goucher—I am amazed by the scope of the productions Mr. Dowell saw during his lifetime. The

collection's gems include a program featuring Fred Astaire and his sister, Adele, in the show *Apple Blossoms*, a "Fight Censorship" flier from 1935 on the release of Clifford Odets' play *Waiting for Lefty*, a program from John Barrymore's performance in 1923 as Hamlet, and several programs featuring Helen Hayes and Ethel Barrymore performing with Mildred Dunnock '22. (The performance space in the Theatre Department bears Mildred Dunnock's name.)

The George Dowell collection is another component in the growing catalog of theatrical materials archived in the Rare Book Room, which also houses material from R. H. Gardner, former theater critic for *The Sun*. For more information about the Gardner and Dowell collections, please contact Sydney Roby at sroby@goucher.edu or 410-337-6347.

Upcoming Focus Events

Please mark your calendars

FOL Annual Meeting: 2 p.m.–4 p.m., April 25, in Merrick Lecture Hall

As part of the annual meeting, Michael Curry, Goucher's academic dean and professor of theatre, and Jeffrey Myers, associate professor of English at Goucher, will present a talk titled "Shakespeare: Stage And Page."

FOL Garden Party: 5 p.m. May 15

This event will be held at Jean and Sidney Silber's home. The cost per person is \$50.00, which is tax deductible. For invitations or to volunteer, please call 410-337-6362.

Late-breaking news!

We recently learned that Sara Gilger Barnes '46 is to receive a 2003 Outstanding Volunteer Award from the Maryland Library Association at its annual conference in May. The library staff nominated Ms. Barnes for this award in recognition of and with gratitude for her twelve years of volunteer service in the library, during which she has given more than 10,000 hours of assistance. Ms. Barnes is a longtime Friend of the Library and has been an honorary member since 1996.

Friends of the Goucher College Library
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