

F O C U S

THE FRIENDS OF THE GOUCHER COLLEGE LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

A Conversation Between Writers

FOL presents its Fall 2003 program

by Cynthia Crawley

On November 12, Baltimore mystery writers Laura Lippman and Sujata Massey will read from their works. Afterward, they'll engage in a dialogue about writing, and audience members will have an opportunity to ask questions.

Laura Lippman, daughter of former Sun editorial writer Theo Lippman, has lived most of her life in Baltimore. After graduating from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism in the early 1980s, she worked at several out-of-state newspapers before landing a job with *The Evening Sun* in 1989. She stayed at the paper for several years and, after it ceased publication in 1995, worked as a reporter for *The Sun*. Since the publication of *Baltimore Blues* and *Charm City* in 1997, Lippman has written more than one book per year. Her eight Tess Monaghan books have either won or been nominated for every major mystery novel award, including the Edgar, Shamus, Macavity, Agatha, and Anthony awards. Lippman's ninth book, *Every Secret Thing*, was released September 3, 2003.

Sujata Massey came to Baltimore as a child with her Indian-born mother and German-born father. After graduating from The Johns Hopkins University in 1986, Massey joined the staff of *The Evening Sun*. After several years there, she married a naval officer and they spent two years in Japan before returning to Baltimore in 1993. The first of her six Rei Shimura books, *The*

Salaryman's Wife, was published in 1997. Massey drew on her experiences in Japan to create the characters and environment for the series. Several of these books have won or been nominated for the Agatha, Edgar, and Macavity awards.

Both women write repeatedly about familiar locales. In an interview with Jon Jordon for Books 'n' Bytes (a website devoted to mystery, science fiction and fantasy authors), Lippman noted that *Charm City* was based on Baltimore's response to getting the Ravens football team, and *In a Strange City* focused on the mysterious annual visit to Poe's gravesite. Similarly, Massey's books depict Japanese locations with which she's familiar. Her books include descriptions of Hayama, Miura-Gun, a seaside town where she used to live, and Shiroyama, a town in the Japanese Alps.

In addition, both writers have close ties to Goucher: Massey attended Goucher before transferring to Hopkins, and Lippman taught at Goucher during the Fall 2002 semester. Friends of the Goucher College Library invites you to attend a lively program with these two fascinating authors at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 12, 2003, in Merrick Lecture Hall on the campus of Goucher College. The authors will sign copies of their books after the reading and discussion.



Sujata Massey



Laura Lippman

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New Spaces Help Transform Julia Rogers Library

*Areas include library classroom, seminar room
for the Kratz Center*

By Jennifer Spieler Curry

The next time you visit the library, you might notice several new spaces that were created during the summer. Although plans to construct the Athenaeum are still in the works, the library has modified areas in its current space to provide visitors with a more visually pleasing working environment.

Randy Smith, research services librarian, and Margaret Guccione, information technology librarian, graciously gave me a tour of the new spaces. During the Spring 2003 semester, the library's staff diligently weeded through books, audio-visual materials, and periodicals so that renovations could proceed.

The space that once housed the music collection has been transformed into the Center for Teaching, Learning, and Technology. A wall has been erected to divide the space from the rest of the research room. Nearby is a "video island," a configuration of tables that will house monitors and VHS and DVD players. To mark these changes, the library's south wing, dedicated in 1968 in honor of former President David Robertson, will be known as the Robertson Research Suite.

The newly furnished music area has been shifted to a cozy corner in the back of the research room; it provides a more private space in which students can listen to their assigned musicians and composers. Across the way is the brand-new library classroom, a teaching space with fifteen computers and an overhead LCD projector, which will be used for instruction on library research skills.

The Soper Room and adjacent second floor spaces are being renovated to provide a new home

for the Kratz Center for Creative Writing. These renovations will create a reading room and two seminar rooms for public events, but the space will be open to students and visitors at other times. The computers from the upstairs commons area have been moved to the former microfilm area in the Robertson suite's periodicals section. The space will still contain eleven computers and printers, but the nearby library classroom will be open to students when not in use for classes, thereby providing users with more than twice as many computers as before.

Some smaller—but significant—changes also were made. The oversized collection has been reshelved to place its volumes with regular-sized volumes of similar call numbers. The library's atlas collection has been shifted from the back of the research area to a more prominent place near the Robertson entrance. Also, if you're a fan of the card catalog, you can find it near the wall of windows in the research room, which overlook the library's main entrance.

The library is grateful to all the campus agencies that collaborated on these modifications, including Facilities Management Services (FMS), Information Technology, and the Kratz Center; library staff extend extra thanks to FMS Project Manager Linda Barone. Due to the tremendous amount of support, the transformations were completed in less than two months, and students who returned to campus this semester were able to benefit from these new areas.

Presidents Welcome

By Kenna Forsyth & Beverly Winter

We look forward to presenting activities in the coming year that will help members and friends connect with the Goucher College library. Watch for an invitation to "A Conversation Between Writers," to be held November 12, 2003, in Merrick Lecture Hall.

In other news, a new concern has arisen for the Friends of the Goucher College Library: Due to the high cost of liability insurance, we have been exploring giving up our individual nonprofit status and

going under the umbrella of the college. Our funds would remain separate, but we would have liability protection. As soon as a final draft of the revised resolution and by-laws changes is ready, we hope to post it on the Goucher library website; we'll welcome your feedback.

We hope you will become a member of the Friends if you're not one already, and we invite you to join us November 12 for "A Conversation Between Writers."

Kratz Center Moves In

Library makes new home for writing center

By Jennifer Spieler Curry

As part of the renovations undertaken this summer, the Julia Rogers Library will serve as the home for the Kratz Center for Creative Writing. With Goucher professor and author Madison Smartt Bell as director and Goucher professor and poet Elizabeth Spires as associate director, the Kratz Center brings nationally recognized writers to Goucher for readings, lectures, and residencies.

The Kratz Center was launched in fall 1999, thanks to a \$1 million gift from Goucher alumna Eleanor Kratz Denoon '36. Although the center had no designated space at the time, the event was celebrated with a reading by author David Guterson, writer of *Snow Falling On Cedars* and *East Of The Mountains*. Since then, Goucher has brought several pre-eminent writers to campus, among them George Garrett, Reynolds Price, Seamus Heaney, Howard Norman, Richard Bausch, and Susan Shreve.

Goucher has fostered many creative writers throughout its history. Among the authors who attended Goucher as undergraduates are poet Eleanor Wilner '59, Janet Shaw '59 (author of the Kristen series of American Girl books), novelist and essayist Anne Lamott '75, and novelist Darcey Steinke '85 (who served as the Kratz

Center's first writer in residence during the Spring 2000 semester).

Since the center's launch, several new names have been added to that roster: Christine Stewart '99 received a Ruth Lilly Poetry Fellowship in 1998; Jenn Crowell '99 published her first novel, *Necessary Madness*, when she was a sophomore; John McManus '99 signed with Picador to publish a volume of his short stories in 2000; and David Spencer '03 published his first novel, *How I Became A Fisherman Named Pete*, in the spring of his senior year. However, Bell doesn't want the center to be viewed as a machine that will automatically help undergraduates publish books. "The odds against [having a book published while an undergraduate] are simply too high," he said. "For that majority, the value of a creative writing program, enhanced by resources such as the Kratz Center, is similar to the value of the traditional English major, and of a humanistic, liberal arts education in general."

This year, the Kratz Center welcomed writers Julia Alvarez and Edwidge Danticat for a joint reading October 23. For further details about this event or for more information about the Kratz Center at Goucher, please visit its website, www.goucher.edu/cwpromo/kratz.

From the College Librarian

By Nancy Magnuson

My first piece of news is the announcement of our new catalog librarian, Patricia Keogh. Trish began working at Goucher in June and has already made a difference in our ability to provide access to the many formats that make up our collection. She has a B.A. in Asian Studies from the University of Virginia and an M.A. in Communication Studies from St. Mary's University; her Master of Library Science degree is from the University of Texas at Austin. She was most recently employed at St. Mary's University in San Antonio.

In July, after many months of work in collaboration with the college webmaster, we unveiled our new library web page design. Please visit www.goucher.edu/library and let us know what you think.

The major building changes described elsewhere in this issue have inspired some general housekeeping and refurbishing initiatives. An unexpected wind-fall, for example, has enabled us to reupholster many of the chairs at our study tables and carrels. At the same time, we moved out many of the shabbier wooden chairs and carrels. We've also added some new art works from the Goucher College collection and from the college archives. The librarians are especially

enthusiastic about the library classroom, which was made possible with the support of the Katherine Parker Scholl Library Fund. The library staff is to be congratulated for the enormous amount of work that went into making all of our summer changes possible. Please stop by and ask for a tour—we'd love to show you the fresh face of the Julia Rogers Library.

Work on the Athenaeum is scheduled to begin next summer with the relocation of the campus road to clear space for our new home. The overall project will be accomplished in several stages, with the library as the first stage. Construction is due to begin in 2005.

We were saddened to hear of the death in September of Nell Passano '36. She was selected as an honorary Friend in appreciation for her donation to the library of her book collection, "Women of the South during the Civil War." This significant collection was the subject of a Friends symposium in 1995.

Finally, I'll mention a couple of recent moments of celebrity on behalf of the library. In May I traveled to Ocean City with Sally Barnes '46 and introduced her to an audience of several hundred librarians as she received the Maryland Library Association



College Librarian Nancy Magnuson accepts the John Cotton Dana Award from representatives of the HW Wilson Company, sponsors of the award. (photo courtesy Envision Digital Photography)

2003 Outstanding Library Volunteer award. In June, as part of the annual meeting of the American Library Association in Toronto, I formally accepted the library's John Cotton Dana Award (featured in the last issue of Focus). That event, an elegant tea, was attended by many

librarians from the United States and Canada and other library supporters. Goucher's enthusiastic cheering section included librarian-alumna (and Friend) Emily Bergman '75 and library architect Joe Rizzo, as well as a number of colleagues from other institutions.

Goucher Welcomes Austen Scholars

Professors from Princeton, Virginia Tech, to visit this year

By Jennifer Spieler Curry

Thanks to the generosity of the Burke Scholar-In-Residence Program and a fund established by Goucher alumna Stella Yousem, Goucher will welcome two Jane Austen scholars to the campus this year. In the fall, Professor of English Claudia L. Johnson from Princeton University will visit Goucher; Professor of English Peter W. Graham from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State

University will visit during the spring semester. Each will have access to the Burke and Winn collections of Austen material as part of the five-day residency. In addition, each will offer a public lecture about Austen and meet with students and faculty members.

Johnson is the Murray Professor of English Literature at Princeton University, where she has taught since 1994; she also has taught at

Continued "Austen Scholars" Pg 4

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 Dulany Valley Road, Baltimore, MD 21204.

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"Austen Scholars" from Pg 3

Marquette University, the University of Chicago, and Cornell University. She has edited several editions of Jane Austen's novels and *The Cambridge Companion to Mary Wollstonecraft*, and she is the author of several books, including *Jane Austen: Women, Politics, and The Novel*, and *Equivocal Beings: Politics, Gender, and Sentimentality in the 1790s*, which in 1995 was a finalist for the Modern Language Association's James Russell Lowell Prize for an outstanding book. She is currently writing a book, *Jane Austen's Cults and Cultures*, that focuses on how Austen has achieved icon-like status. In it, Johnson explores how the figure of Jane Austen "has mobilized profoundly meaningful ideas and feelings about history,

taste, class, nationality, and intimacy for diverse relationships."

Graham has taught at Virginia Tech since 1978. He is the author of a variety of works, most notably *Don Juan and Regency England*, which received a prize from the International Byron Society. He also is the co-editor of *The Portable Darwin*. Graham's latest work compares Jane Austen to naturalist Charles Darwin, showing how each, during his or her career, assumed the roles of naturalist and novelist.

Johnson will present her talk, "Jane Austen's Body," at 7:30 p.m. November 4 in Kelley Lecture Hall. For further information about the Austen scholar-in-residence program, please contact Nancy Magnuson at nmagnuso@goucher.edu.

Mears Fund benefits future librarians

by Nancy Magnuson

Four Goucher alumnae and alumni recently were awarded \$750 grants from the Mears Fund for graduate studies in library science. Justin Blum '01, a "passionate information wrangler," was a communications major and is attending the University of North Texas School of Library and Information Sciences. Itta Englander '03 majored in English and theatre and is attending the University of Maryland College of Information Studies; she intends to focus on work with children and children's literacy. Jessica Kem '98 will attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill,

School of Information and Library Science. A member of Phi Beta Kappa with honors in English, she minored in art. She also earned an M.A. in English from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Jared Stern '01 was a Spanish major with a history minor; he will attend Simmons Graduate School of Library and Information Science. He has a strong background in volunteer tutoring and plans to be a children's librarian.

For further information about the fund, please contact Nancy Magnuson, college librarian at nmagnuson@goucher.edu

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