

## Reinventing the School Library

*Education leaders and other community advisors gather at Goucher*

*by Susan Ezell, Trish Keogh, and Nancy Magnuson*

Elementary school libraries were the focus at Goucher College on December 10th, 2003, as approximately one hundred people gathered for "Reinventing the School Library: Community Partnership For Better Learning." Leading off the program was a presentation by architect Henry Myerberg, award-winning library designer and principal at New York City's Rockwell Group. Myerberg described the Library Initiative, a partnership between the New York City Department of Education and the Robin Hood Foundation, which combats low literacy skills in high-poverty neighborhoods by transforming existing school libraries into state-of-the-art learning centers.

Following the presentation, a panel of local education leaders suggested ways to improve library facilities and services in Baltimore area public schools. In addition to Myerberg, the panel included Carla Hayden, executive director of the Enoch Pratt Free Library and current president of the American Library Association; LaJerne Cornish, instructor of education at Goucher College; and Donald Manekin, a Baltimore developer and school advocate. Sanford J. Ungar, president of Goucher College, moderated the discussion and proudly mentioned the panelists' connections to Goucher: Myerberg's mother is Louise Naviasky Myerberg '52, Manekin is the father of Lauren '01 and Sophie '05, Cornish is an alumna as well as a faculty member, and Hayden is a member of the Board of Trustees.



*Panel members (from left): Donald Manekin, LaJerne Cornish, Carla Hayden and Henry Myerberg*

The panelists expressed their appreciation to Goucher for providing a forum to discuss new approaches to improving public elementary schools.

A number of people involved with school libraries were in attendance, including the chief library officials for the state, the city, and several county school and public library systems. Several architects were also present, including Charles Alexander, who described a library he designed for the Baltimore City schools. Traveling the farthest was Blanche Woolls, director of the School of Library and Information Service at San Jose State University and a leading expert on school library effectiveness. Among the many FOL members present were co-presidents Bev Winter and Kenna Forsyth, as well as Lynn Jones, who has been an active

library volunteer at Baltimore's Barclay elementary school.

Members of the audience were invited to close the evening with dinner and discussion. Conversations begun over the tables are expected to lead to action on behalf of Baltimore-area school libraries. For more about the evening, you can view pictures and school library-related information on the library webpage at <http://www.goucher.edu/library>. The site also links to research that demonstrates the compelling correlation between student achievement and effective school libraries.

The evening was funded by the Roszel C. Thomsen Lecture Fund and the Elizabeth B. and David Allen Robertson Lectureship Fund. Judge Thomsen was a former chair

**SPRING 2004**

Vol. 48, No. 2

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*Hannah Woodward '77 addresses the event panel.*

## Reinventing the School Library

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of the Baltimore City School Board, while Dr. Robertson was the president of Goucher who oversaw the building of the Julia Rogers Library and much of the move from Goucher's city campus to its current location. The program was a collaboration among the library, the undergraduate and graduate departments of education, the service-learning program, and the office of the president.

All attendees were encouraged to bring a new or gently used children's book for donation to the libraries of two Goucher College service-learning partners: the Margaret Brent and Dr. Bernard Harris, Sr. elementary schools. In an evening of making and renewing connections, it was also learned that the librarian at Dr. Bernard Harris is a Goucher

alumna—Hannah Gaylord Woodard '77. Woodard was present and expressed her gratitude that so many people were recognizing the importance of school libraries. Two boxes of books were presented to the principals of each school at a reception on February 10, 2004.

Future activities at these and other Baltimore schools are being planned by members of the Goucher community. Any Friends who would like to be involved may contact Nancy Magnuson at nmagnuso@goucher.edu or 410-337-6364.

## From the College Librarian

*By Nancy Magnuson*

In the first half of this academic year, the library was involved in a number of noteworthy events.

The Residency of our second Burke scholar-in-residence, Professor Claudia Johnson of Princeton, was a great success. Johnson met with faculty and students and presented a well-attended public lecture. This semester, we're looking forward to welcoming our "bonus" scholar, made possible by a fund established by Friends board member Stella Platnick Yousem. Professor Peter Graham of Virginia Tech will visit in March—his March 23rd lecture is co-sponsored by the Friends.

"Reinventing the School Library" was a great opportunity to work closely with other parts of the college. One long-term benefit was a closer relationship with Goucher education students, as we help prepare them to work

effectively with their school librarian when they enter the workforce. The Julia Rogers Library also plans to develop a closer relationship with the libraries of Goucher's service-learning partner schools.

Just before the semester started, the library's instruction staff presented several days of workshops to help Goucher faculty members become more aware of the rich resources of our electronic collections. The typical reaction from faculty was a combination of minor amazement and major satisfaction, regarding what can be had electronically through the library's subscription databases.

The first semester in our new library classroom has also been successful. The librarians are very happy to be teaching in a space that has been designed for their needs. Students also appreciate the added number of computers



*Professor Claudia Johnson (left) with Stella Platnick Yousem (right)*

available to them when the room is not reserved for classes. There have been many comments about the library's fresh look after our renovations last summer and touches like the new chess table in room 101.

We were very pleased at the recent news of two grant awards. An NEH preservation-planning grant and the CIC grant to attend their workshop, Transformation of the College Library, will give us some great tools in our planning for the Athenaeum and the future of library services at Goucher.

## Students See Goucher's Past Take Shape

*Course examines architectural designs for Goucher's Towson Campus*

By Rhoda Dorsey

This semester, the Goucher College Archives has welcomed students from Professor Ann McKee's seminar in Historic Preservation to examine the extensive collections dealing with the 1938 architectural competition for Goucher's Towson campus. President Robertson began planning for the new campus in 1936, establishing an advisory board of architects and a faculty planning committee, headed by Professor Clinton Winslow. A national competition was opened in the spring of 1938, with 150 architects responding. Out of this group, 50 were asked to submit designs. Ultimately, 35 ideas were finally considered, and the winners were announced that following October.

The Goucher Archives has a rich collection of papers from the competition, ranging from the minutes of the advisory committee to the announcement of the winners. Another feature of the collection includes pictures of the plans submitted at the time—an important record not only of Goucher's architectural history, but also of trends in institutional architecture. In recent months, the collection has been reorganized so that students may have access to not only the competition documents, but also ensuing campus plans, histories of individual buildings, and press coverage of Goucher's shift to the Towson site.



*Students view architectural documents in the rare book room.*

## Goucher Team Travels to California

*College selected to attend San Francisco workshop*

By Jennifer Spieler Curry

The library kicked off 2004 with some good news: Goucher College was selected as a participant in the Transformation of the College Library workshops, organized by the Council of Independent Colleges in cooperation with the Council on Library and Information Resources. As one of 60 institutions chosen from an application pool of over 200, Goucher's representatives joined members from Linfield College in Oregon, Earlham College in Indiana, and Allegheny College in Pennsylvania, among others, for a three-day workshop in San Francisco this past February.

The three-person team chosen to represent Goucher consisted of Vice President and Academic Dean Michael Curry, Associate Professor of English Mary Marchand, and College Librarian Nancy Magnuson. Magnuson, with architect Joe Rizzo, also

presented one of the workshop sessions: "The Library as a Physical Space for Learning: Designing Spaces for Information Literacy Activities."

Other issues addressed at the workshop included "Supporting Information Literacy through Institutional Policies and Procedures," "Key Considerations in Advancing an Information Literacy Program," and "Developing and Budgeting Library Collections for an Information-Rich Teaching Environment." Selection for the workshop also included a grant for travel and housing expenses.

## 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.

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## Hidden Treasure at Goucher

*18th century play to be part of new digital database*

By Nancy Magnuson

Recently, Alexander Street Press, a publisher from whom Goucher has purchased several electronic full-text databases in the humanities and social sciences, distributed a list of plays they had been unable to find. The plays were needed for *North American Women's Drama*, which will ultimately include the full texts of 1,500 plays from Colonial times to the present. Many of the works are rare or out of print. Almost a quarter of the collection consists of previously unpublished plays.

A review of the list showed *Angelica: Or, Quixote in Petticoats*, written by Charlotte Ramsay Lennox in 1758. Our rare book room contains a copy of this script, and we were able to provide it to the publishers. Goucher purchased the text in the 1920s as part of the early English imprints collection of Johns Hopkins professor James Wilson Bright. The Alexander Street Press website will credit the Goucher College library with providing this hidden treasure for its database.

### The Art of the Visionary

Please mark your calendars for the upcoming Friends meeting on May 13th at 1 p.m. Rebecca Hoffberger, director of the American Visionary Art Museum, will present a talk entitled "True Vision." The event will be held in Heubeck, room A, with refreshments afterwards in the lounge across the hall.

### Desegregation in Education: Selections from the Goucher College Archives

In commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education, the Rare Book Room will showcase an exhibit of books, documents, and photographs. March 1 – June 30, 004.

### Volunteers Needed

Sydney Roby, special collections and preservation librarian, is teaching book repair, and needs volunteers with good eyesight and hand skills to learn how to re-back books, mend pages, make boxes, and more. Classes meet for two hours once a week. She is looking for people who can commit to continuing in the bindery after the training is finished, which takes about six sessions. We also need careful and meticulous people to put documents away in the college archives. If you are interested and would like further information, please contact Sydney at (410) 337-6347, or by e-mail at [sroby@goucher.edu](mailto:sroby@goucher.edu).

CI245-3/04

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

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