

# F O C U S

THE FRIENDS OF THE GOUCHER COLLEGE LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

## Jane Austen Speaker Highlights Novelist's Rides

*Chawton House Chairman Sandy Lerner discusses Austen's symbolic use of carriages*  
by Jennifer Spieler Curry



Chawton House, 1967. Photograph from the Burke Jane Austen Collection, Special Collections, Goucher College Library.

Goucher's Alumnae/i House welcomed Sandy Lerner on September 12 to present her lecture entitled "Pen and Parsimony: Carriages In The Novels Of Jane Austen." An energetic audience filled Buchner Hall to hear Ms. Lerner speak about her work on the vehicles depicted by the 18th-century writer.

Ms. Lerner came to love Jane Austen while she was a student at Stanford University. During her rigorous program of computer science and mathematics, she discovered Austen to be a wonderful escape from her academic studies. She went on to found Internet technology firm Cisco Systems Inc. with her husband, Len Bosack, then branched off after selling Cisco to create a line of alternative cosmetics called Urban Decay.

Her continued devotion to Jane Austen led Ms. Lerner to purchase a 125-year lease on Chawton House, an Elizabethan manor house in England that once belonged to Austen's brother. She has since dedicated herself to renovating the building and surrounding land and acquiring a substantial literary collection. Currently, the Chawton Library houses a collection of more than 9,000 volumes and manuscripts pertaining to early English women's writing, most from Ms. Lerner's personal collection. When not in England, Ms. Lerner maintains an organic farm in northern Virginia, where she also raises endangered species of horses and cattle.

The main focus of Ms. Lerner's lecture centered on the carriage as a symbol of

wealth and social status in Jane Austen's time. From the work-related *waggon* to the elite, aristocratic *barouche*, Ms. Lerner examined how these vehicles helped establish rank and position in society both through cost (the cost of the vehicle, size and number of horses, and necessary staff), and through style (how the shape and size of the vehicle dictated whether it was for the city or country; and whether it was self-driven, servant-driven, or coachman-driven).

In addition to her lecture, Ms. Lerner viewed the library's Burke Jane Austen collection, where she requested copies of several Chawton House photos that were uncovered during preparations for her two-day visit. She also met with a computer science class and toured the Goucher stables.

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## FOL Board Members 2005-06

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## Julia Rogers Research Prize Winners Awarded

*Goucher students recognized for exceptional research papers*  
by Margaret Guccione



**Christina Abel '05, with Assistant Professor of English Angelo Robinson, who nominated her for the Julia Rogers Research Prize. Photo by Nancy Magnuson**

As part of National Library Week festivities, the winners of the 2005 Julia Rogers Research Prizes were announced at a ceremony in the library on April 13. The prizes were inaugurated in honor of Julia Rogers' 150th birthday, to honor outstanding research by Goucher students using library resources. Thanks to the generous support of the Friends, three prizes of \$250 were awarded for research papers or projects: one for a first- or second-year student, one for a junior or senior, and one for a graduate student.

Those at hand to offer congratulations to the winners included College Librarian Nancy Magnuson, Academic Dean Michael Curry, and President Sandy Ungar. One of our own Friends of the Goucher College Library presidents, Kenna Forsyth, was also present to award the monetary prizes.

The winners of the Julia Rogers Research Prizes, with the courses the papers were written for and nominating faculty members, are listed below.

### **First Year/Sophomore Prize**

“What’s It Going to Be Then, Eh?”

An Essay on Music and the Mind”

by Jaime Bogardy '08, for English 105, Academic Writing II

Nominated by Ailish Meisner

### **Junior/Senior Prize (tie)**

“Emerson: Visions of a Bubble” by Christina Abel '05

for English 250, American Literature I

Nominated by Angelo Robinson

“Between History and Narrative:

Moroccan Women’s Status and Stories”

by Anne Bardaglio '05, for Peace Studies 400, Independent Study

Nominated by Seble Dawit

### **Graduate Prize**

“Education and Human Capital: The Case of Colegio San Bernardino, Patzun, Chimaltenango, Guatemala”

by Diane Russell, M.Ed. program, for Education 606, Action Research/Special Project

Nominated by Gaye Brown and Tom Rhoades

## Library Worker Is 2005 Senior Class Speaker

*Michelle Lynch offers thoughts to graduating class*

Michelle Lynch, one of our own student workers for the last two years, was chosen last spring as the senior class speaker for Commencement. Michelle graduated this past May with a bachelor’s degree in international studies and dance.

In the May 4 issue of the *Quindecim*, Michelle commented on how surprised she was when her speech was selected, and how the best part of this oppor-

tunity was “being able to speak to so many people I love in an event that has personal weight for all of us.” Those interested in reading Michelle’s commencement speech or hearing it in MP3 format can find it at <http://www.goucher.edu/commencement>.

Well done, Michelle! The library staff wishes you luck and happiness in all your future endeavors.

## From the College Librarian

*By Nancy Magnuson*

A new special collections librarian has arrived at the Julia Rogers Library. Gail Rodgers McCormick began at Goucher on September 6 after spending nine years as vice president of research library and collections at the Historical Society of Washington, D.C. In her new position she is responsible for managing and promoting the college archives and special collections of the Julia Rogers Library, which include the Burke Jane Austen Collection, the Winslow and Corrin political collections, and the H. L. and Sara Haardt Mencken Collection. She will be working closely with faculty and students to incorporate these materials into classroom and research projects.

Gail replaces Sydney Roby '72, who served as special collections and preservation librarian from 1991 until this May, when she resigned to initiate a freelance business. Sydney worked closely with many members of the Friends and plans to continue to attend events.

We’re proud to announce the selection of Rachel Brownstein

as the 2005-06 Alberta and Henry Burke Scholar in Residence. Dr. Brownstein is a professor at The Graduate Center, CUNY, and the author of many books and articles about Jane Austen and other women writers. During her one-week residency in February 2006, she will be working with Goucher’s outstanding collection. She will also meet with students and faculty and deliver a public lecture.

Earlier this year, we selected Goucher graduating senior Patricia Weber as a Mears fellow. The fellowship, named in memory of library staff member Io DeGraw Mears, will aid Patty in her graduate studies in library science at the University of Maryland.

The library staff is working hard to prepare the library collection for our future move to the Athenaeum. One ongoing initiative is to weed the shelves of books that are no longer useful or relevant. Another recent project was to measure the library collection. We now can tell you that the current library collection numbers more than 300,000 volumes and occupies over six miles of shelves!

## Library Awarded Grant for Jewish Literature Discussion Series

*Events in the works for spring semester*

by James Huff

The Julia Rogers Library has received a grant to sponsor several public discussions under the topic "Jewish Literature: Identity and Imagination." The event will be featured as part of a larger reading and discussion series called "Let's Talk About It: Jewish Literature." The Towson Public Library and the Jewish Community Center of Greater Baltimore will be our partners for this project.

The discussion series will take place February through April of 2006 at the Towson Public Library, facilitated by Goucher modern languages professor Uta Larkey. She brings to this task an extensive background in Jewish Studies and experience with public discussions.

The theme for this series is "Between Two Worlds: Stories of Estrangement and Homecoming," and the books to be featured include *Lost in Translation: A Life in a New Language* by Eva Hoffman; *Mr. Sammler's Planet* by Saul Bellow; *Out of Egypt* by André Aciman; *The Centaur in the Garden* by Moacyr Scliar; and *Kaaterskill Falls* by Allegra Goodman. More details will be available as we draw closer to the time of the event. Everyone is invited to attend.

"Let's Talk About It: Jewish Literature," a reading and discussion series, has been made possible through a grant from Nextbook and the American Library Association.



## Library Website Update

by Margaret Guccione

The current Julia Rogers Library website is getting a facelift. After three very good years with our current design at [www.goucher.edu/library](http://www.goucher.edu/library), the library staff is looking to make it even better. During the fall semester, library staff will be helping to evaluate both the look and the functionality of the website, with the ultimate intent being to redesign elements that need some extra work.

Off-campus and off-hours access to library resources has become a critical need as Goucher students and faculty increasingly live and work in all parts of the world. Even

Goucher students on campus are doing serious work when the library is not open, and their access to resources is just as significant. The staff hopes to make the library website simpler to navigate and easier to understand. In addition, we want to make it easier for you to find the Friends' news!

Library staff will be soliciting suggestions for the new website from student and faculty focus groups during the fall, and we will also be working with Goucher's webmaster to integrate the new look with the college's own forthcoming new website.

## 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.

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# LibQual+ Offers Valuable Feedback

*Service ranks high, while space needs improvement*

by Jennifer Spieler Curry

Over the summer and throughout the fall semester, the librarians of the Julia Rogers Library have been in the process of analyzing the data received from the LibQual+ survey, which was e-mailed to Goucher's entire staff, faculty, administrative, and student population last spring. The survey, developed by the Association of Research Libraries, measures patrons' perceptions of several dimensions of library service.

After a five-year evolution, LibQual+ in its current form focuses on visitor perception of three main areas: effectiveness of service, the library as space, and information control. The feedback from the Goucher community offers multiple ways to track progress. The data can

be utilized in tracking library progress from year to year, in measuring how Goucher's library compares to other peer institutions, and even in recognizing the zones of tolerance patrons have when they visit the library.

Four hundred five members of the Goucher community completed the survey, and its preliminary findings were not all that surprising to the library staff. Areas that ranked highest were mainly in the arenas of service effectiveness, while the library being a "space that inspires study and learning," received the lowest marks. With the Athenaeum in the works, the library staff is confident that the feedback on the library space will improve.

Those who completed the survey were entered in a drawing for several prizes. Students Shana Lieberman and Mimi Smith-DeCoster won Apple iPod Shuffles, while student Rebecca Hauser and Professor of English Jeff Myers received \$50 gift certificates to Barnes and Noble.

Access Services Librarian Susan Ezell, who originated the idea for Goucher's involvement with LibQual+, hopes that the data generated from this feedback will be accessible through the Goucher library website over the fall semester.

## Mark Your Calendars

**November 16, 2005, 7:30 p.m.**, Merrick Lecture Hall  
Goucher alumna **Melissa Klapper '95** is the speaker for our annual fall event. She will discuss her new book, titled *Jewish Girls Coming of Age in America, 1860-1920*, which addresses the Jewish female adolescent experience at the turn of the century. Dr. Klapper currently works as an Assistant Professor of History at Rowan University in Glassboro, New Jersey.

Friends of the Goucher College Library  
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