

FOCUS

THE FRIENDS OF THE GOUCHER COLLEGE LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

Athenaeum Update

Construction begins on signature building

by Jennifer Spieler

On Friday, April 27, President Sanford J. Ungar, the Goucher community, board members, and trustees gathered with several important Maryland politicians to break ground on the Athenaeum. The keynote speech was given by Senator Barbara A. Mikulski, who has assisted this endeavor by securing close to \$1 million in federal funds for building and programming costs.

After the official ceremony, major construction work began. Linda Barone, Facilities Management Services project manager, has played an integral part in planning and executing the Athenaeum, which grew out of an earlier plan to renovate, expand, and re-imagine the Julia Rogers Library. When the idea shifted to creating an entirely new space, size became a consideration. The right balance of what would be in the space and how it would fit with the rest of the campus was essential. "One of the designs was up to 150,000 square feet, and this building is about 103,000," says Barone.

One component of the building that hasn't changed throughout the process has been a commitment to environmental sustainability. Barone says "We decided from the very beginning that the building was going to be LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified." The building will not only support a "green" roof to help minimize heat gain, but will also channel stormwater into a natural rain garden. Heat recovery wheels will assist with



The construction crew begins work on the Athenaeum. Photo by Bob McPeak

efficient heating and cooling, while more automated systems will be used inside the building, including "sensors that will drop the window shades automatically to block out the sun and sensors that turn off lights that are not being used," according to Barone.

A great deal of thought has been given to integrating the building with the rest of the campus. "At the front entrance it makes a courtyard with the Mary Fisher building, which, of course, was the first building on campus. So I think that's going to be another really nice, dynamic space where people can gather," says Barone. Once users come indoors, they will find a space composed of several sections, including a main atrium, the library, and an art gallery.

Work this summer has focused on excavating and constructing the foundation and finalizing the building's many interior details. Says Barone, "We figured out, and this is down to the detail, how many single-faced shelving units you need for all of the different kinds of books, and we made sure we have enough for all of those things and enough for some growth." Future growth will be possible by making the lowest level of the stacks expandable with compact shelving.

The mechanical room for the building has been dug, and caissons have been put in place. The overall timetable for the Athenaeum construction is two years, with everything to be completed by the time students return in Fall 2009. If you'd like to keep track of the building's progress, go to <http://webcam.goucher.edu>.

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The Cone Sister Comes to Life at Goucher

One-woman show inspired by BMA exhibit educates and entertains

By Jennifer Spieler



Vivienne Shub performing in *The Cone Sister*. Photo by Stan Barouh

The Friends of the Goucher Library were pleased to bring prominent Baltimore actress Vivienne Shub to campus on September 25 for a one-night showing of *The Cone Sister*.

Written by her sister, playwright Naomi Greenberg-Slovin, *The Cone Sister* centers around the

life of Etta Cone, who, with her sister Dr. Claribel Cone, amassed a post-impressionist and modern art collection of more than 3,000 objects, which are now featured prominently at the Baltimore Museum of Art.

The genesis of the play came after Ms. Greenberg-Slovin and Ms. Shub had a chance to tour the BMA exhibit. Greenberg-Slovin says, "It was just delightful. And we walked outside to the car, and it was just spinning in my head. I said, 'how would you like to do a play?'" An opportunity presented itself while Shub was performing in *The Cripple of Innishmaan* at the Everyman Theatre in 2006. Greenberg-Slovin mentioned to Vincent Lancisi, the theatre's artistic director, that she had created a one-woman show for her sister.

The piece was presented on nights when the Everyman Theatre was not featuring its scheduled shows.

This is not the first time the sisters have collaborated on a dramatic endeavor. They have also worked on a series of classes in drama and playwriting as part of the Renaissance Program at the College of Notre Dame.

Goucher's production came about after Shub and Nancy Magnuson met at a memorial service. When asked if she would consider reviving the piece for the Friends, Shub agreed, saying she felt it "would be perfect for drama and art students." The Dunnock Theatre in the Meyerhoff Art Center on Goucher's campus proved to be a well-suited venue for the piece. According to Greenberg-Slovin, "The play lends itself well to an intimate space."

The focus of the piece may seem surprising because Etta was considered the more reserved of the sisters. Clarabel had a prominent career in microbiology research. Their affiliation with Gertrude and Leo Stein

started Etta off into the art world. Etta purchased her first paintings from American Impressionist Theodore Robinson in 1898 and continued with many trips to Europe, including visits to Matisse's and Picasso's studios.

Emotionally, says Shub, portraying Etta Cone has been a wonderful experience. "The one who was always in the background and shy and hesitant, and trying really to see what prompted her ... The change in her personality is such an interesting thing to develop, and that was a wonderful part of it."

The Cone Sister is a tribute to both Greenberg-Slovin and Shub's desire to educate themselves and others about these two dynamic women during a fascinating period of history.

From the College Librarian

By Nancy Magnuson

As I write this, we are just a short time away from the return of our undergraduate students and the amazing energy they bring to the campus. Summers are very different without them, but they contain different kinds of activities.

Much of the library staff's summer time has been occupied with preparation for the coming academic year, as well as for our move to the Athenaeum. Our multi-year project to prepare the collection for the move is an activity that involves evaluating the condition and relevancy of all of the volumes. As we find

areas that need to be updated, repaired, or weeded, every member of the library staff is involved in some way.

There have been some high points this summer, notably the Chawton conference described in this issue. The conference location was beautiful, and I was proud of our librarians and faculty who participated. The library staff and student assistants back at home hosted library-based activities for the SuperKids camp—a six-week summer reading enrichment program. You can see some great pictures, taken by IT

librarian Margaret Guccione, on the library homepage.

Sanford J. Ungar's keynote address at the April Association of College and Research Libraries conference was very well received—I am still hearing positive comments from librarians who were part of the large audience.

We've selected our next Burke scholar-in-residence. Devoney Looser of the University of Missouri, who has published and spoken widely on early women writers, will spend the first week of March 2008 con-

ducting research in the Jane Austen Collection.

In addition to the Friends programs this fall, the library is working with Towson University and other community partners to present an October 30 Big Read program, based on Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*. The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts, in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and Arts Midwest. More details are available on the library website. I hope to see you at these events and here in the library!

Goucher Co-Sponsors International Conference on Collecting

College partners up with Chawton House Library

By Gail Rodgers McCormick, Special Collections Librarian and College Archivist



Victoria Van Hyning '06, Lisa Johnston of Sweet Briar College, Gail McCormick, and Professor of English Arnie Sanders. Photo by Nancy Magnuson.

What stimulates the collector to acquire works of art, literature, and popular culture? How do librarians, archivists, and curators preserve and promote research collections in their care? These and many other questions were explored at “Collectors and Collecting: Private Collections and their Role in Libraries,” co-sponsored by Goucher College, the University of Southampton, and Chawton House Library. The July conference was held at Chawton House Library in Hampshire, England.

The collaboration between Goucher and Chawton originated with the visit of entrepreneur and philanthropist Sandy Lerner in 2005. Her lecture, “Pen and Parsimony: Carriages in the Novels of Jane Austen” was enthusiastically received. Lerner’s longtime interest in Austen prompted her to purchase a 125-year lease on Chawton House, which once belonged to Austen’s brother, and finance its meticulous restoration. Her collection of books and manuscripts relating to early English women’s writing forms the foundation of the organization’s research collections.

In March 2006, Chawton House Librarian Helen Scott and Gillian Dow, University of Southampton research fellow, visited Goucher to begin planning a transatlantic conference

with Nancy Magnuson and Gail McCormick. The theme was established, keynote speakers identified, and a call for papers distributed on both sides of the Atlantic. Abstracts arrived from a wide international spectrum of scholars, librarians, and curators.

The conference opened on July 18 with an evening champagne reception sponsored by Christie’s of London. The program began the next day with welcoming remarks from representatives of the sponsoring institutions, including Goucher President Sanford J. Ungar. Robert Jackson, American collector and author, opened the program with “The Conundrum of Special Collections and Collectors: Cause and Effect,” which offered insight into what motivates collectors and how institutions can develop positive relationships with them.

The panels included a fascinating study of Goethe’s contemplative relationship with his collections, and a walk through the funny papers at Ohio State University’s Cartoon Research Library. Goucher Instruction Librarian Jim Huff presented his paper with the attention-grabbing title “The Collector as Sociopath.” The day closed with Professor James Raven, University of Essex, and “Bibliomania,” historiographical look at the attraction of book collecting.

Goucher College also was well-represented in the next day’s program. The panel “Collecting Jane Austen,” chaired by Nancy Magnuson, featured Assistant Professor of English Carol Pippen and former Goucher professor Laurie Kaplan with their lively presentation “Books, Bonnets and Bibelots: The Henry and Alberta Hirshheimer Burke Jane Austen Collection.” Gail McCormick chaired the panel “Private Collections in the College Environment,” in which Associate Professor of English Arnie Sanders and Victoria Van Hyning ’06, a current Oxford University student, presented “Collecting to

Teach and Teaching to Collect,” on the collaborative project to preserve and promote the James Wilson Bright Collection. Closing speaker Bruce Whiteman, head librarian, William Andrews Clark Memorial Library, UCLA, provided perspective on the American collecting heyday of the 1910s and 1920s in “With These Philistines We Have No Quarrel: William Andrews Clark, Jr. As Collector and Public Benefactor.”

For more detailed information about the conference program, please contact Nancy Magnuson at nmagnuso@goucher.edu.

Friends Update

By Cori Rich Tyner, '82

As we approach the end of 2007, we must note the many changes that have occurred here on campus. As you are aware, we are in the midst of finalizing the new library, which will be housed in the Athenaeum. The bulldozers have been busy this past summer, moving the earth and getting ready for the cement trucks. It is quite a well-orchestrated project and one that has involved many people. We can be very proud of all of our library staff for the countless hours they’ve spent planning for the future needs of the library and how those needs will be met in the new building. They also, with technology and facilities staff, have looked at many other university, college, and secondary school libraries to make sure that ours will have the latest technology and be community-friendly.

With all these changes, I want to make sure you realize that this project can only be completed with contributions from our wonderful members. Please consider our new library when making your end-of-the-year

gifts. Libraries are an important part of the college experience, and ours will be one that not only our students will be able to use, but also the outside community. We are extremely excited about this and hope you will be, too. Please look forward to more updates as the year progresses.

We have an exciting event coming up in November—Nancy Patz ’52 will give a talk as part of an evening to celebrate her library gift of materials related to the many children’s books she has written and illustrated, on November 29 in Kelley Lecture Hall at 7:30 pm. Please mark your calendars for this wonderful evening, which will surely attract a full house.

I encourage you to become an active member of the Friends, to stay in touch, and to become involved! We value your support and hope to see you for the Patz event in November!

Have a great fall,
Cori Rich Tyner '82
President

Dance Pioneer's Work Donated

Archives receive Estelle Dennis collection

By Chrystelle Trump Bond, Professor of Dance, and Gail McCormick, Special Collections Librarian and College Archivist

The Estelle Dennis Dance Theatre Collection, recently donated to Goucher, offers insight into both the evolution of dance trends and the cultural development of the city of Baltimore. Thanks to Gail McCormick and Chrystelle Trump Bond, the Goucher community will be able to use this material first hand. They received a Crosby Fund for Excellence in Teaching Grant to complete the collection's inventory and to design an independent study course, giving upper-classmen the opportunity to conduct primary research.

Estelle Owen Dennis was born in Roland Park in 1909 and

attended finishing school in New York City. Using money her parents had set aside for her debutante party, Dennis paid for dance lessons in New York while dancing with the Metropolitan Opera Ballet. By 1928, she was dancing with Ruth St. Denis and Ted Shawn in the famous Denishawn Dance Company.

In 1934 Dennis opened her Estelle Dennis Dance Theatre in a converted carriage house at 100 E. Monument St. in Baltimore. A year later, *New York Times* dance critic John Martin called Dennis's community theatre "one of the earliest if not actually the first" experi-

ment in the growing movement to broaden the influence of dance both to entertain and to educate. Dennis's program blended modern dance and ballet with ethnic music and dance traditions, creating an entirely new American style.

During World War II, Dennis Dance Theatre students frequently performed at local military bases and training centers under the auspices of the Red Cross. Dennis also brought an international sensibility to Baltimore. Some of the world's most famous dancers visited, including George Balanchine, Margot Fonteyn, Alexandra Danilova, and Antony Tudor.

The Dennis Collection includes unique photographs, newspaper clippings, correspondence, dance and theatre programs, and rare books. The collection will be available to students and other researchers interested in the influence of community dance pioneers Estelle Dennis and Louise Muse.

Leigh Alexander '08 is the first Goucher student to do an independent study using the Dennis Collection. She is creating a documentary expanding on the memories of her grandmother's dance experience at the Estelle Dennis Dance Theatre.

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

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